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Two-sport standout Huzzie delivers again in Duluth boys basketball win

By Will Hammock Jan 16, 2017



Will Huzzie

SNELLVILLE — One of the county's most productive football players has become a go-to player for Duluth's boys basketball team, too.

Will Huzzie continued his stellar play of late Monday afternoon in the On the Radar Hoops Showcase at Shiloh, helping the Wildcats to a 74-67 victory over Osborne. He had team highs of 26 points and 12 rebounds, including a key offensive rebound and three-point play in the fourth quarter that switched the momentum into Duluth's favor.

"(Huzzie's) been doing everything from scoring, rebounding, making the right decisions, playing defense, getting deflections," Duluth boys coach Cabral Huff said.

Huzzie made a name for himself during football season, when he ranked second in Gwinnett with six interceptions as a defensive back and had 44 catches for 632 yards and six touchdowns at wide receiver. The 6-foot-3 junior, a college prospect in both sports, played in a reserve role for first-year coach Huff after football season finished up, but earned a spot in the starting lineup by mid-December.

He's been at his best in recent games, going for 20 points and 12 rebounds in a win over North Gwinnett and hitting a game-winning 3-pointer against rival Peachtree Ridge.

"When I was coming off football, I thought I wasn't going to play at all," Huzzie said of this season. "I thought I was just going to be coming off the bench and doing what I have to do. I feel like I come in and play a big role now. I'm glad my teammates and coaches trust me to play a big role."

Adam Flagler scored 16 points (10 in the first quarter) along with five rebounds and two steals to back up Huzzie, while Lamont Smith (nine points, seven rebounds, three assists, two steals), Jalen Hodges (nine points, six rebounds) and D.J. Smith (nine points) also made important contributions.

The Wildcats (12-7) trailed on just three occasions, twice late in the third quarter and once in the fourth, but couldn't shake Osborne (7-11) until the game's latter stages.



"I didn't like the energy we had," Huff said. "We won the game, but that's not the way we want to play. We've got to get better at that, especially before Wednesday playing Peachtree Ridge at their place."

Osborne's Latrell Tate, who had a game-high 30 points, put his team up 53-52 with nearly three minutes gone in the fourth quarter before Duluth took control. On the ensuing possession after Tate's basket, Huzzie's putback and three-point play kick-started a 12-2 run that decided the outcome.

The Cardinals never recovered from the Duluth surge, which featured a three-point play from Flagler and six points from Smith. Smith had all nine of his points in the fourth quarter.

"Our poise was really good," Huff said of the final quarter. "We defended a little bit better, got a few stops and moved the basketball better on the offensive end."