

Girls take Maxwell tourney championship

Written by Deb Egenberger

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Eagles keep composure against SMC.

MAXWELL—Lance Arterburn had a feeling.

The Brady girls basketball coach watched his team fall behind to Stapleton/McPherson County in the first quarter of the Maxwell Booster Tournament championship on Dec. 21.

He knew everyone in the stands was questioning why he didn't call a timeout.

"I was even getting the time-out signal from my wife across the gym," he said.

But he knew the Eagles were all right and would be a better team if forced to straighten things out on the court themselves.

Brady trailed the Cyclones 9-2 at the four-minute mark of the first quarter. When the period ended, the Eagles led 10-9 en route to a 56-31 championship victory.

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“It’s just one of those feelings,” Arterburn said. “We weren’t playing out of control and we weren’t making a lot of mistakes. I thought if we could just ride it out for a little bit, we’d be fine.”

And they were. The game was never in question after the first quarter.

“The kids did a nice job of keeping their composure,” Arterburn said.

In the first couple of minutes of the second period, SMC and Brady battled point for point.

But the Eagles broke the game open with a 17-2 run fueled by eight points in the paint by senior post player Jessica Schrad.

“The girls were doing a really good job of being patient on offense,” Arterburn said. “We weren’t getting the usual points on steals so we had to make the half-court work.”

By getting the ball inside to Schrad, the Eagles forged ahead leading 29-15 at halftime.

There was no question in the second half as Brady kept the Cyclones well out of reach.

Junior guard Maggie Burke led the Eagles with 14 points and Schrad added 10.

“I think we’ve had different leading scorers almost every night,” Arterburn said. “That’s a tribute to our girls. They understand that there is no component bigger than the team as a whole.”

The teamwork is evident in the assist column, the coach said.

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Against SMC, the Eagles recorded the most total assists this season with 15.

Juniors Megan Polt and Courtney Widick had six and four respectively.

“That says a lot when two of our girls who usually score a lot are dishing out assists,” Arterburn said.

After the five-day practice moratorium, the Eagles returned to the court at home in their own holiday tournament on Monday.

Brady moved to 6-1 on the season with a 54-21 win over

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