

No. 9 rated Brady girls beat talented Bronco team 52-48

Written by Deb Egenberger
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The Brady girls shook off the rust in fine fashion Friday night as the Eagles got ahead and stayed ahead of the Wauneta-Palisade Broncos for a 52-48 win in the opening game of the season.

Coach Lance Arterburn said it wasn't a perfect performance but the girls did what they needed to do to get the victory.

"We missed a few too many easy shots along the way," Arterburn said. "And we missed some free throws in the final minute but the girls played hard and never quit."

After a 7-4 first quarter lead, Brady used a stingy press to stay ahead of the Broncos.

Arterburn said substituting five-for-five throughout the game allowed the Eagles to have fresh legs on the court all the time.

"Every three minutes or so we put a new set of five on the court," the coach said. "That seemed to work pretty well for us and I think we're only going to get better as the season goes on."

Brady pushed ahead 23-18 at halftime and held a slim 34-31 advantage heading into the final period.

With about three minutes left, the Eagles were up seven points and feeling good.

Then they missed five consecutive free throw attempts while allowing Bronco junior Abbie Fanning to sink a pair of three-pointers.

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“I never really felt like we were in danger of losing,” Arterburn said, “but we should have sealed the deal and didn’t.”

Nine of the 10 Brady varsity players put points on the board. Senior Dakota Terry led the way with 10 points, six of which came in the fourth quarter.

Three other Eagles had eight points each. They were sophomore Josie Palmer and juniors Madison Elliott and Valerie Most.

“Obviously, other teams aren’t going to be able to key on just one player,” Arterburn said. “I don’t think we’ll see any box-and-one defenses.”

The Eagles, which were pre-season ranked at No. 9 in Class D-2 by the Omaha World-Herald, will host 2-0 Paxton on Friday with a tipoff time set for 6:30 p.m.

“Paxton will play hard,” Arterburn said. “At times, I think you’ll see all three of our posts in the game at once. That seemed to work well against Wauneta-Palisade.”

The Eagles will then travel to Cody-Kilgore (0-2) on Saturday before hosting Class C-2 Southern Valley (1-1) on Tuesday in a girls-only game.