

Eagle girls win tournament

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Brady at top of power points

The Brady girls hit the top spot in the Nebraska School Activities Association's list of power points in Class D-2 last week with a 7-1 record after defeating Stapleton-McPherson County in the Maxwell Booster Tournament championship.

The No. 1 position isn't an unfamiliar one to coach Lance Arterburn. His girls reached that point once last year, only to get bumped out of a state wild card at the end of the season.

"It's nice to be at the top but we're only about a third of the way through the year," Arterburn said. "We're not going to count our chickens just yet. We know what can happen."

Power points are assigned by the NSAA according to wins and losses, as well as strength of opponents.

At the end of the season, not only do the winners of each district make it into the state tournament but so do two of the remaining teams with the highest number of power points.

Those points change with every game and every opponent's game.

"What we really want to do is win out and be No. 1 in the points at the end of the year," Arterburn said. "Then we are guaranteed a spot at state."

But there are at least 12 games left for the Eagles to get through first.

"The girls are playing well," the coach said.

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Brady hammered SMC on Dec. 21 in the Maxwell tournament championship 57-27 by using pressure defense that created turnovers the girls translated into points.

The Eagles started the game with a 12-0 run and finished the first quarter with a 13-2 lead.

The second period was much the same as Brady began with a 15-0 run to end the first half up 32-5.

Arterburn said the game allowed him to give regular players with nagging injuries and illness a chance to rest while getting younger kids in the game.

"It was a good win for us after letting South Loup stick so close the night before," the coach said.

Sophomore Josie Palmer was the leading scorer with 15 points while senior Dakota Terry added 12 and junior Valerie Most pitched in nine.

Brady was back in action over the weekend at the Eagles' home holiday tournament but games were scheduled after The Times' early deadline.

Look for results in next week's paper.