

## Brady comeback falls short at Mullen

Written by Deb Egenberger  
Friday, 25 January 2013 15:02 -

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No one likes to lose, especially a highly competitive coach.

But Brady girls basketball coach Lance Arterburn says if he has to lose, he hopes it comes with a lesson.

Thursday's 46-43 loss to Mullen on the road had two or three lessons, Arterburn said.

"We learned we can come back when we're down, that we can't give up 35 turnovers and we have to stay focused every second," he said.

The Eagles struggled early, allowing Mullen to take a 24-14 lead at halftime.

"We stopped ourselves with turnovers," Arterburn said. "They didn't overpower us so I figure we must have been pretty amped up because we just couldn't find any flow offensively."

After falling behind by as many as 12 in the third period, the Eagles worked their way back into the game in the fourth quarter, taking a three-point lead with 40 seconds to play.

"I thought the game was over," Arterburn said.

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Then Brady got fouled and missed both free throws. Mullen grabbed the rebound and went the distance for a bucket.

Still up by one, Arterburn was confident until the inbounds pass under the Bronco basket landed in the hands of a Mullen player.

“They scored again and put us down by one but we still had 15 seconds left,” Arterburn said.

The Eagles got the ball inside the paint to sophomore Josie Palmer but the shot didn’t fall.

With only a couple of seconds left on the clock, Brady was forced to foul and Mullen finished off the game with a pair of made free throws.

“I think if we just could have gotten the ball across half court on that last inbounds play, we’d have been OK,” the coach said.

Valerie Most led the Eagles with 10 points in only their second loss of the season.

“We’ve just got to stay focused,” Arterburn said. “We can’t give up that many turnovers and especially not under their basket with only a few seconds to play.”

The Eagles redeemed themselves Friday night beating Stapleton-McPherson County 55-25.

They head into the Sandhills Conference tournament with a 13-2 record and the No. 1 seed.

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They will take on the winner of the SMC-Hyannis game at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday in Dunning.