

Eagle girls basketball team finishes regular season 18-3

Written by Deb Egenberger
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CURTIS—After the Brady girls defeated Loomis 55-40 in the sixth game of the regular season in December, Wolves coach Jim Rayburn warned Eagle coach Lance Arterburn, “We’ll be waiting for you.”

Arterburn said there’s no doubt Loomis will be gunning for the Eagles should both teams make it to this week’s final of the D2-9 sub-district in Gothenburg.

The matchup, if it comes to be, could be a good one as Brady has an 18-3 record with a No. 7 state rating by the Omaha World Herald and Loomis comes in at 16-3 and No. 8.

Brady finished the regular season with a 64-35 win Friday night over Medicine Valley.

Four players scored in double figures. Junior Valerie Most led the way with 13 points followed by senior Brittney Christophersen with 12 while Dakota Terry and Josie Palmer pitched in 10 each.

“That kind of balanced scoring makes us pretty tough to defend,” Arterburn said.

But every team the Eagles could face in the post season has some added incentive to defeat Brady, making a trip to state that much more difficult for the Eagles to achieve.

Bertrand, the first-round sub-district opponent, has built animosity toward the Eagles through volleyball, the coach said, and Loomis has been on the losing end in basketball for a long time.

If Brady should get past both of those teams in the sub-district, Wauneta-Palisade waits on the other side.

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“We’ve got a long history with Wa-Pa,” Arterburn said. “Most of it is in our favor.”

The Eagles will attack the post-season, though, with the most healthy players Arterburn has had all season.

“We’ve battled sickness and sprained ankles from the middle of the year on,” he said. “We’re healthy now and that has allowed us to get some mix of girls on the floor in the last couple of games that have clicked really well.”

But, Arterburn continued, the Eagle bench is deep enough with talented players that the combination of leading scorers changes nearly every game.

The girls are mentally focused on a trip back to Lincoln after the 20-2 team from last winter was knocked out in the sub-district.

“We’re just going to have to stay out of foul trouble and keep the intensity up,” Arterburn said. “It should be a fun couple of weeks ahead.”

Brady faced Bertrand in the first round of the D2-9 sub-district Tuesday night. Results were not available at press time.

An Eagle win would put them in the finals against the winner of the Loomis-Eustis-Farnam game, also played Tuesday.

The sub-district final is 7 p.m. Thursday in Gothenburg.