

Eagle girls in a familiar spot

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Brady will play Broncos for trip to state tourney

Been there, done that, hoping to do it again.

That's how Brady girls basketball coach Lance Arterburn feels about playing Wauneta-Palisade in the D2-5 district final at Wallace Friday night.

This time, though, Arterburn certainly hopes it doesn't come down to a last-second shot.

When the two teams met on neutral ground in Wallace for the 2011 district final, now-senior Dakota Terry made a desperation shot from the top of the key with 1.7 seconds left to send the Eagles to the state tournament.

"That just gives Wa-Pa a little added motivation to beat us," Arterburn said. "I think they've been holding a little bit of a grudge."

Hopefully, the third time is not the charm for the Broncos, who are 17-6 on the season.

Brady has defeated Wauneta-Palisade twice already this season, once by four points and another by 16.

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That's no guarantee, though.

"Playing a team three times makes a coach a little nervous," Arterburn said. "They're playing pretty well right now. We're going to have to be consistent with every possession and jump on them early."

The Eagles will also have to shut down the hot shooting of Bronco guard Abbie Fanning and post Taylor Lee, the coach said.

"We're in for a challenge," Arterburn said. "We're definitely going to have to be ready to play."

While playing Wauneta-Palisade three times makes the Brady coach uneasy, it's just one more game on the road to Lincoln for the players.

"I'm pretty sure the girls won't lose sleep over it like I will," Arterburn said. "They know we have beat Wa-Pa before and they're confident we can do it again."



Brady got to the district final by defeating both Bertrand and a hot Eustis-Farnam team in the D2-9 sub-district in Gothenburg last week.

On Feb. 12, the Eagles played a close first half against Bertrand before dismantling the Vikings in the second half for a 61-40 victory.

"I think we wore them down a little," Arterburn said.

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Josie Palmer led Brady in scoring with 17 points while Terry added nine.

Against Eustis-Farnam on Thursday, the Eagles had an opposite kind of game, jumping out to an early lead and then holding on through a cold second half for a 49-42 victory.

“They just wouldn’t go away,” Arterburn said of the Knights.

Terry led the scoring with 11 points while Palmer had 10 and Madison Elliott had nine.

The Eagles improve to 20-3 on the season.

Tipoff for Friday’s district final game in Wallace is set for 7 p.m. The winner advances to next week’s Class D-2 state tournament in Lincoln.