

Eagle girls start season 1-1

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Brady defeats Cody-Kilgore.

It was a tell-tale opening weekend for the Brady girls basketball team.

The Eagles learned their intense defense results in easy baskets and that 50% or less from the free throw line isn't always going to be enough.

They also found they can't ease up on a good team.

The Eagles start the season with a 1-1 record after falling at Paxton 50-46 Friday night and defeating Cody-Kilgore 42-31 at home Saturday.

"It's all a learning process," said Brady coach Darren Tobey.

The Eagles jumped on Paxton early in the first quarter with an all-out, full-court defense. They led 15-4 at the end of the period.

But a mental lapse in the second quarter allowed the Tigers to get back in the game.

Brady started the period with six straight turnovers that let Paxton tie the score midway through the quarter.

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At halftime, the score was knotted again at 22-22.

“I think the girls were satisfied with being ahead at the end of the first quarter,” Tobey said. “We let them back in the game instead of putting it out of reach before halftime and it came back to hurt us.”

Frustrated by a slower tempo dictated by Paxton, the Eagles also got into foul trouble.

With six minutes to go in the game, three Eagle starters watched from the bench with four fouls.

“We got caught not moving our feet on defense and resorted to using our hands,” Tobey said of the fouling. “We know that’s something we can work on.”

Paxton tied the score once again at 45-45 with four minutes to play. The Tigers took a the lead with about two minutes to play and Brady couldn’t catch up.

Free throws were a detriment, Tobey said. The Eagles shot just 9-of-25 from the line for just 36%.

“We know we can be better than that,” he said.

Senior Megan Pfeifer was the leading scorer with 18 points. Sophomore Courtney Widick chipped in 13.

Brady brought back the same suffocating defense against Cody-Kilgore but the Cowboys’ height made a difference.

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“They were all about 5-foot-9 and athletic,” Tobey said. “We had to work pretty hard against them.”

Brady led 14-10 at the end of the first quarter but trailed 18-17 at halftime.

“It was tight the whole way,” Tobey said, “until the fourth quarter.”

Down 25-24 heading into the final period, Brady turned up the heat on defense.

“We got a little more aggressive and it turned into easy buckets again,” Tobey said. “We also limited our turnovers.”

Sophomore Megan Polt led the Eagles in scoring with 11 points followed by Widick with 10.

Brady travels to Trenton on Thursday to play 5-0 Hitchcock County before hosting 2-2 Loomis on Saturday.

“These are going to be a couple of really tough games,” Tobey said. “They should show us what we’re made of.”

Junior varsity action begins Saturday at 4 p.m.