

Eagles knock off Broncos, 50-44

Written by Austin Benson

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Heading into its season opener against Wauneta-Palisade Brady coach Lance Arterburn knew it would be a battle.

Fortunately, the Eagles outlasted the Broncos thanks to a defensive effort that allowed just three points in the third quarter and Brady shooting 7-of-8 from the free throw line in the fourth quarter in their 50-44 win.

“We were happy to get a first-game win,” Arterburn said. “The Broncos had a jamboree game (earlier in the week) and they compete hard.”

Both teams were just about identical in the first half as Brady took the 28-27 lead into the locker room after Wa-Pa hit a three as time expired.

“We did some good things on both the offensive and defensive side of the ball,” Arterburn said. “As a coach you hate having a four-point lead and give up a three before halftime.”

However, points would be hard to come by in the third quarter as the two teams combined for 10.

Brady had shut out the Broncos the entire quarter, but once again Wa-Pa hit a three as the horn sounded keeping the Broncos in the game, 35-30.

“The good news is we held them to three third-quarter points but we have to work on not giving up points at the end of quarters,” Arterburn said. “Those are huge for momentum.”

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Brady extended its lead with 15 fourth-quarter points and sank clutch free throws down the stretch, Arterburn said.

Valerie Most stepped to line six times and converted each while Madison Elliott made five second-half free throws.

Offensively, the Eagles were led by Most with 18 points, including 12 in the first half. Elliott added 13 points.

Defensively, Autumn Hild drew the assignment of defending Bronco Abbie Fanning and limited her to one made field goal.

"I am very happy how she played against Fanning," Arterburn said. "It was a team effort, but she was on her the most."

Brady will take its 1-0 record on the road Friday to Perkins County.

This week of preparation will focus on how we play with a lead, Arterburn said.

"We want to go up and down but with a lead our girls have to control themselves," Arterburn said. "We have to learn to take better shots down the stretch."

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