After a sluggish start Monday night, the Brady boys used pressure defense and focused shooting to beat Hyannis 71-42 in the first round of the Sandhills Conference tournament at home.

Making 55% of their shots from the field with balanced scoring helped the Eagles put the most points on the board in a game so far this season.

“We had good shooting all the way around,” said coach Rich Britten. “In the second half when we upped the pressure and got a few steals, I don’t think we shot too many from the outside.”

But the Eagles didn’t dominate the entire game. Hyannis kept it close in the first quarter as Brady led 14-11 after one period.

“We looked like we were in slow motion,” Britten said.

The Eagles pulled away in the second period and kept the margin comfortable throughout the remainder of the game.

Junior Sawyer Burke led Brady with 17 points followed by Christian Arterburn with 16 and Tyler Egenberger at 10.

The Eagles (7-7) will face Sandhills/Thedford in the semi-finals at 5 p.m. Thursday in Brady.

“They’re a good team but certainly not unbeatable,” Britten said.

Brady carried momentum from Friday night’s 56-44 win over Stapleton-McPherson County into the tournament.

“I was a little worried about the SMC game,” Britten said. “I wasn’t sure there would be

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