Eagles hampered by injuries, illness

If it weren't for bad luck, the Eagle football team might have no luck at all.

First, a promising young running back and linebacker suffers a knee injury in the pre-season scrimmage.

Next, the senior center and anchor for the line goes down with a long-term illness.

Then the team's strongest, most experienced running back dislocates his elbow and is out for at least a month.

Top the injuries and illness off with a 60-14 loss to Bertrand Friday night.

"There's bad luck raining on us," said first-year coach Andy Seamann.

Brady struggled from the beginning against the Vikings.

Bertrand scored on the opening series of the game, barely touched on the way into the endzone from Viking territory.

Then on the kickoff, Brady fumbled the return and handed the ball back to Bertrand. Within seconds, the Vikings had scored again.

“Within 30 seconds we were down 14-0,” Seamann said.

That’s an incredible uphill battle against a team with 12 seniors and loads of experience.

“You just can’t start slow against a team like Bertrand,” Seamann said.

Bertrand scored again midway through the first quarter to go up 21-0 before Brady put together a scoring drive.

The Eagles pushed the length of the field and used a 46-yard pass from Zach Mann to Bryley Roper to set up a short touchdown run by Michael Nieman with 3:21 to go in the quarter.

Mann punched in the two-point conversion to make the score 21-8.

But Bertrand got in the endzone again before the quarter ended and then put two more touchdowns on the board before halftime, carrying a 40-8 advantage into the locker room.

Brady scored again on a run by Mann in the third quarter. The two-point conversion attempt failed and that was all Brady could get.

Mann finished with 92 yards passing connecting on 10-of-21 attempts. Neiman led the rushing attack with 57 yards.

“We made too many mistakes, had too many turnovers,” Seamann said. “The kids are trying to learn from their mistakes. All we can do is regroup and move on.”

The Eagles (0-2) will host Amherst (1-0) on Friday.

The Broncos defeated Loomis last week 20-19 and earned a No. 9 ranking by the Omaha World-Herald in the Class D-2 ratings.

“I know Amherst was the Class D wrestling champion last year,” Seamann said. “That means they have some pretty tough kids. But like I’ve told the kids, nothing worth accomplishing comes without trials. We just have to dig in and play football.”