

Cyclones whirl past Brady in final game

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Stapleton-McPherson County used a basic man-to-man defense to paralyze Brady during the championship game of the Maxwell Booster Tournament, upsetting the Eagles 41-35 for the title.

“Nobody has played us man-to-man a whole game like SMC did,” said Eagle coach David Jacobs. “I guess I’m not surprised they did. If I were an opposing coach, I would have too. We didn’t handle it very well against South Loup the night before and we sure didn’t do a good job against it in the championship.”

SMC held Brady’s leading scorer, senior Zach Mann who averages 17 points a game, to just eight points including one three-pointer and five free throws.

“They did a nice job on him and the other guys who usually score weren’t getting shots to fall,” the coach said.

Brady led the Cyclones 8-7 after one period and were up a slim margin 19-18 at halftime.

“We play a lot of zone because the guys like to press and it just seems to work better for us,” Jacobs said. “Because of that, we work a lot on our zone offense too. I guess this game revealed one of our weaknesses. We know what we have to get better at because we know we’ll see more man-to-man down the road.”

SMC outscored Brady 17-10 in the third period and held on for the win, despite making only 8-of-20 free throws in the game.

Sophomore Troy Lusk led the Eagles with 10 points. Mann and Michael Neiman had seven rebounds each.

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Brady moved to 5-2 on the season heading into last weekend's home holiday tournament.

Results of those games were not available before the early holiday deadline for this weeks' edition of The Times.