

Brady boys lose in D2-9 first round

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Coyotes take Eagles out of their game

With a higher seed, more power points and a better record, the Brady boys felt confident they'd be playing for the D2-9 sub-district title last week and vying for a trip to the state tournament.

Anselmo-Merna had a little different idea.

"I don't know how they (the Coyotes) got to be a .500 team," said Brady coach David Jacobs. "They have a new coach this year. Maybe it took them a little while to gel."

Regardless, Brady suffered a heart-breaking 53-45 loss to Anselmo-Merna in the first round of last week's sub-district on Feb. 19.

Losing during the opening round isn't the way any coach wants his team to finish a basketball season.

"It's a disappointing way to go out," Jacobs said, "but it certainly wasn't a disappointing season."

The Eagles got off to a decent start against the Coyotes, Jacobs said, but two fouls called on Brady's scoring leader Zach Mann in the first two minutes of the game put a damper on the game plan.

"We had some kids come in and give us good minutes," Jacobs said, "but it just wasn't the same without Zach on the floor. I think it affected us mentally."

Still, the Eagles led the Coyotes by two at the end of the first quarter and were ahead 21-16 at

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halftime.

“It’s not that we were playing bad because we weren’t,” the coach said. “We just couldn’t catch a break, especially in the second half.”

Fouls continued to hamper the Eagles in the third quarter as both Mann and fellow senior Bryley Roper spent more time on the bench than on the floor.

Anselmo-Merna made a comeback in the third period that Brady couldn’t stop and it carried over into the fourth quarter.

“They just shot better than we did the entire game,” Jacobs said. “They have athletic players who did what they needed to do to beat us.”

Roper finished as the high scorer for Brady with 16 points while Mann added 12 points.

Jacobs commended freshman Nate Sitorius, who offered 10 points and pulled down 16 rebounds.

“Nate had one of his best games of the year,” Jacobs said. “It’s nice to see a young kid step up.”

Seven players will graduate from the Eagle team leaving a rebuilding season on the table for next year.

“You hate to see a group of seniors go out to a team we felt like we could have beaten,” the coach said. “But the fun of the season was really getting to this point.”

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The Eagles finish 15-8 on the season while the Coyotes (12-11) advanced to defeat Bertrand 60-55 in the sub-district final and face Wauneta-Palisade in the D2-5 district final.