

Eagle girls tame Wildcats, Wolves

Written by Deb Egenberger
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Defense key to wins at Maxwell, Arthur.

Stifling defense in the second half led to easy buckets for the Brady girls in their last two games.

It also helped prove coach Darren Tobey's weekly point: Defense can win ball games.

The Eagles held Maxwell scoreless in the third quarter and allowed only six points in the fourth to win 51-26 on Jan. 5.

Giving up only one free throw in the third period to Arthur County on Saturday offered similar results as the Eagles beat the Wolves 63-20.

"We're playing great defense, especially in the second half," Tobey said. "Now I'd like to see them come out with the same intensity right out of the gate."

At Maxwell, the Eagles had to battle nearly every play of the first half, leading 24-20 heading into the locker room.

A smothering full-court press in the third period flustered Maxwell, leaving them without a successful shot until almost halfway through the fourth quarter.

"I think we could be one of the best defensive teams in the state if we could sustain that kind of power for a whole game," Tobey said.

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Capitalizing on several turnovers, Brady sophomore Megan Polt led the Eagles in scoring against Maxwell with 22 points. Senior Shaunna Scarrow added 10 points.

Results were similar at Arthur. The girls wore down the Wolves' six players with quickness on the defensive end of the floor and successful shooting.

The Eagles jumped out to an early lead and never gave the Wolves an opportunity to get back in the game.

Brady was up 19-9 after the first quarter and headed to the break leading 33-11.

Arthur County had only three field goals on the night with 14 free throws.

Brady sophomore Courtney Widick set a new school record for three-point shots made in a game. She had four three-pointers in the first half and sank the record-breaker in the fourth quarter.

Widick shared the previous record of four with senior Megan Pfeifer, a mark both set last season.

Widick and classmate Megan Polt each finished with 17 points. Pfeifer pitched in 11 points.

The Eagles move to 6-5 on the season.

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"This is a big time for us," Tobey said. "We've got a couple opponents this week that are better teams than their records show."

Brady travels to Hayes Center (2-7) on Friday and will host Callaway (3-6) on Saturday.

"We're starting to run the floor more and accomplish the things we set out to do," Tobey said. "We're almost where we need to be to get where we want to go."