

Brady girls fall in first round at SHC

Written by Deb Egenberger

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Eagles move to 8-8 on the year.

Three free throws in the third quarter was all Brady girls could muster against the Sandhills-Thedford Knights in the first round of the Sandhills Conference tournament at Arthur Monday night.

Coach Darren Tobey considers it fairly lucky the Eagles managed those, considering the team went 8-of-27 from the line for the entire game.

The Knights took advantage of Brady's misfortune, handing the Eagles a 44-36 early-exit loss.

"I don't feel like we brought our best game to the floor," Tobey said. "In fact, even though we've gotten a few wins, we haven't played well since the Maxwell game (on Jan. 5)."

Brady led the Knights in the first quarter, finishing the period up 13-12. At halftime, the Eagles trailed 23-22.

"There just wasn't as much hustle on the floor as these girls are capable of," Tobey said. "Everyone knows our offense is based on our defense and when that's not going anywhere,

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we're going to struggle.

Without hitting a single field goal in the third quarter, Brady headed into the final period down 32-25.

Courtney Widick hit a jump shot and Megan Polt managed a layup and free throw to bring the Eagles within striking distance with about three minutes to play.

"Then we missed six consecutive free throws," Tobey said.

When the team shoots 53% on the year, it's frustrating to see them miss so many, he said.

Widick finished with 14 points to lead the effort and Jessica Schrad added 11.

"It's just really frustrating when you know they can do so much more," Tobey said.

After a 48-33 loss to state-ranked and unbeaten Stapleton-McPherson County Friday night and an ugly 44-11 victory over winless Arnold on Saturday, the Eagles move to 8-8 on the season.

"We're going to regroup and go back to work," Tobey said of the week-long break the girls now have. "We have three games left before sub-district. That's when we want to be playing our best ball but we can't wait until then to get started."

The next time the girls hit the hardwood will be at Wallace on Tuesday when they take on the 11-3 Wildcats.

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“It’s not going to get any easier,” Tobey said.