

Dominant effort against Palestine . . .

Lady Eagles open district with win

The Fairfield high school Lady Eagles varsity basketball team played just one game last week, the District 20-AAA opener against the Palestine Lady Wildcats, and scored a decisive win.

Junior varsity cagers also played Palestine and the freshman team was idle.

A game early in the week against Hearne was called off by the Hearne coach.

"Defensively, we played with a lot of pressure and it paid off as the game went on," FHS head coach Stephen Heers says.

He also utilized the bench well to keep fresh legs on the court, which made a big difference late in the contest.

The Lady Eagles opened the game by taking a 15-9 first period lead and added 13 points in the second period to go ahead 30-17 at intermission.

Combining defensive pressure and fresh players from the bench, the Eagles tallied 18 points in the third period and 19 in the fourth, giving up nine and five, to win handily 67-31.

"The best thing we did is run the floor. We made them run, and when we set up we made them run repeatedly," Heers says.

The coach also made some substitutions of four players at a time, using his bench to good effect in wearing down the Lady Wildcats.

He points out that when the defense holds an opponent to less than 40 points the team should claim a win.

Leading the offensive effort with 17 points apiece were Kiresten Cox and Barvion Wyatt. They were joined in double digits by Joye McElroy, 10 points.

Also scoring were: Courtney Morton, 8; Olivia Gallegos, 6; Jermaca Brown, 3; Sarah Linton, 2; Mia Mayo, 2; and Jasmine Griffin, 2.

The Lady Eagles shot 65 percent from the free throw line, hitting 17 of 26 attempts.

"One bright spot is we were 65 percent from the free throw line. That may not sound like a bright spot, but it was," Heers says.

Fairfield has been plagued this season with cold free throw shooting, dropping well below 50 percent in games.

Perfect on five free throws was Miss Cox, while Miss McElroy made all four of her attempts.

The JV quintet took a slight 10-7 lead over Palestine in the first period, then got hot for 21 points in the second period to claim a 31-9 lead going into the half.

Fairfield tallied nine points in the third period and 11 in the fourth, giving up six and 11, to win easily 51-26.



FAIRFIELD SENIOR GUARD Joye McElroy keeps her eye on the basket, in spite of the efforts of a Palestine Lady Wildcats defender.

Reaching double digits were Keanna Cox, 13 points, Krystal Rischer, 11 points, and Francheska Daniels, 10 points.

Also scoring were: Sadie Schaefer, 6; Jayda Griffin, 2; Denise Washington, 2; Hannah Dodds, 2; Gabby Jackson, 2; Kassi Floyd, 2; and Christy Harper, 1.

The Lady Eagles were scheduled to host Brownsboro early this week, head to Athens on Friday and play at Westwood on Tuesday.

2 gridders are named all-decade

Two Freestone county football players, Nick Baker of Fairfield and Collin Barker of Wortham, have been named to the Super Centex All-Decade team.

Super Centex is a sports honor passed out by the Waco Herald-Tribune. The All-Decade team was announced in early January.

Baker, who graduated Fairfield high school in 2008, makes the list as the top punter of the decade.

During his senior season in 2007, he averaged 46.5 yards per punt and booted the ball 74 yards in one game.

Barker, an offensive lineman, graduated Wortham high school in 2001 and accepted a full football scholarship to University of California at Los Angeles.

The college football dream of the 6-9, 325-pound lineman ended in 2002 when he was "injured retired" by UCLA because of a chronic ankle injury. The "injured retired" status removed him from the football program but preserved his scholarship.

In 4 district games . . .

FJHS girls sweep Lady Wildcats

Fairfield junior high school Lady Eagles cagers swept the Palestine Wildcats in four games played last week.

The district games were at Palestine.

The eighth grade Lady Eagles took a slim 8-7 lead over the Wildcats in the first period and worked that margin to 14-10 by half-time.

Fairfield upped its output to 14 points in the third period and added six points in the final stanza, while shutting out Palestine, for a 34-10 win.

"We ran our offense very well against Palestine's zone defense," coach Brandy Lynch says. "My girls are really learning how to play off each other and move the ball around."

Scoring for the Lady Eagles were: Karonesha Lowery, 8; Peyton Pierce, 6; Tiara Tatum, 6; Kendell Emmons, 6; Bree Bossier, 4; Kayli Banks, 2; and Taylor Gray, 2.

Leading rebounders were Misses Bossier, Emmons and Tatum.

The FJHS eighth grade B squad tallied 21 points in beating Palestine.

Scoring were: Hayley Worley, 4; Megan Hodges, 4; Carla Shamblin, 4; and Kamry Whitehead, 4.

Best offensive player was Brienne Faughn, sure shooter was Miss Worley, and best ball handlers were Misses Hodges and Shamblin.

Fairfield seventh grade A cagers jumped out to a 17-4 lead over the Lady Wildcats in the first period and added 14 second period points to lead 31-4 at intermission.

The Lady Eagles slowed down for just four second half points en route to a 37-

9 victory.

"I was proud of the Lady Eagles for coming back strong after the Christmas break," coach Naffie Mooney says.

"I think the rest of the season will be exciting as we implement some new plays for the offense and different options on defense and the press," she adds.

Reaching double digits were Caitlyn Stone, 11 points, and Allie Edwards, 10 points.

Also scoring were: Keyosha Bass, 4; Sarie Hill, 4; Hannah Spradlin, 4; Jaida Smith, 2; and Amanda Autrand, 2.

Top rebounders were Misses Stone and Spradlin.

Rounding out the action was the seventh grade B team which went into the half tied 4-4, then blanked Palestine the second half for a 10-4 win.

"The girls really picked up their game. They're starting to read teams and learn how to make easy plays," coach Lia Frederick reports. "I hope they continue to grow like this through the season."

Scoring for Fairfield were: Abby Judd, 4;

Samantha Benford, 2; Ellen Ezell, 2; and Jessica Hill, 2.

Best rebounder was Alondra Gallardo, offensive and steal leader was Alexis Mason, defensive standout was Kayla Mitchell and

assist leader was Justice Oates.

The FJHS girls were scheduled to play Brownsboro early this week and host Athens on Thursday, Feb. 21.

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