

The North Harrison Lady Cats won their season opener 70-29 over the visiting Lanesville Lady Eagles last Wednesday, but it didn't necessarily seem to be a done deal that the hosts would win by such a large margin.

The margin was within 10 points or less throughout the first half.

Kendra Lambert made it 13-3 at the 2:20 mark in the 1st quarter, when dropped in a three. Kayla Smith and Brooklynn Keinsley combined for a deuce and a trey respectively to get Lanesville to within 16-8 late in the quarter.

Again Keinsley and Smith combined for five points to get the Lady Eagles to within 18-13 with 5:44 left in the first half.

Smith kept the pressure up for Lanesville the rest of the first half, scoring a three, and a pair deuces the remainder of the half.

North Harrison clung to a 29-22 lead at the intermission.

Lanesville second year coach Maddie Richards was fairly pleased with how her team in the first half.

"We played well in the first half, we just got tired," said Richards.

In the second half, the Lady Cats slowly built up a lead over the rest of the game.

Erica Daly and Kayla Smith each scored a basket early in the second half to keep it close. The score was within five points at 31-26 with 5:57 in the 3rd quarter.

Alex Gott scored 11 points from the 1:27 mark in the 3rd quarter, to the 4:39 mark in the 4th period. She scored four two point goals, and hit a three ball in the stretch.

North Harrison coach Missy Voyles was aware that Gott could score like that.

"Alex (Gott) is a good set shooter," said Voyles. "And if she's open, and we get it to her, she gets on a roll."

Gott's team mates kept finding her open, so they made sure she got the ball when she could shoot it.

Gott ended up with 11 points, 4 rebounds, and 2 assists in the contest.

Plenty of her team mates got plenty of praise as well from Voyles. Kendra Lambert had 17 points, 4 rebounds, 5 assists, and 5 steals in what Voyles called "a solid game".

Hayley Renneker had 10 points, along with 10 rebounds and 5 assists. Fellow seniors Emily Giles had 12 points and 16 rebounds, and Rebekah Stephenson added 6 points, 2 assists, 5 steals, and no turnovers.

Freshman Jill Book contributed with 6 points and 2 rebounds.

Richards liked her team's defense at times, when they were in the right spots. What concerns her is the offensive production. She said that with only two players scoring in double figures (Kayla Smith led with 15 points and Brooklynn Keinsley added 10), they will need to get more production. "We've got to be more well rounded with the offense," she explained.

"As the year goes on, I would like to see more balanced scoring," she added.

What she said they needed was to be able to score 20 more points per game, spread out over several players.

In the 3rd quarter, Richards said, the team just "ran out of steam, and we were done."

