

Providence Pioneers dominate Austin Eagles 55-38 in recent game

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Austin fans were disappointed to see their beloved Eagles drop their second consecutive basketball game on Friday, December 3, at Rigel Gym to the visiting Providence Pioneers.

Blessed with experienced players and a little more height than the Eagles, the Pioneers blasted the Eagles 55-38 to put the Eagles 1-2 on the season.

Coach Mike Deaton said he felt the Eagles "...played a lot better together than in the West Washington game, but we have to get better on defense and quit getting into such a hurry to shoot." The two teams played fairly evenly through the first three quarters. In the first period, the Pioneers led by 1 point, 13-12, over the home team. At halftime, the margin was larger, 29-22, but the Eagles showed a lot of heart, though many of their shots that failed to make it through the hoop were fairly easy inside shots. The boys recorded 7 treys that night, 4 of which came from the hands of senior Travis Pate. It was that good outside shooting that kept the Eagles in the game, the Eagles outscoring their visitors 12-8 in the third and getting within 1 point of grabbing the lead. Unfortunately, that never happened. The Pioneers slowly built a lead of about 8 points and then began to slow down the game, holding the ball as long as they could. In an effort to regain control, the Eagles fouled. Pioneers went to the free throw line 13 times in the final period, making good on 9 of those shots to increase their score while the Eagles made only 4 shots.

Pate led the Eagles with 18 points, while Steven Branaman got 6, Andrew Clark and Ben Baker 5 points each and Kameron Draper 4 points.