

Paoli's Lady Rams get best of Austin Lady Eagles in November 16 game

Written by George Browning
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On Friday evening, the Paoli Lady Rams traveled to Austin High School to challenge the Lady Eagles in the Eagles' second game of the season. After suffering a defeat the previous year, the Eagles were eager to defend their territory.

Austin gained first possession of the game. After Jessie Davidson opened up the game with the first shot, the Eagles did not let the Rams score until halfway through the period. Unlike the Eagles, however, the Rams were successful behind the arc as the minutes passed, leaving the Eagles trailing 14-10 after the first quarter.

Just 30 short seconds into the second quarter, the Eagles gained a 15-13 lead. The Rams answered with 8 more points before the ladies could make another point. The Eagles couldn't buy a basket until the last couple of minutes of the first half when they, despite Paoli's towering height, made some swift charges and improved their defense. The final score at the half read 27-23 in Paoli's favor, a much better effort on the Eagles' part than last year when they trailed by 20.

The Lady Eagles did not score until over three minutes had elapsed in the second half. The third quarter challenged Austin with numerous turnovers and competitors' offense. However, the Eagles managed a close score of 38-35 after the eight minutes.

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The final quarter brought passions to an extreme. The crowd and team displayed energy that led the Eagles to as close as a one-point difference. Senior leader Kamry Howard encouraged the team at the free throw line by shouting, "We've got to keep up our intensity!"

The Eagles fought a hard battle, but the Rams fought back well. Last-minute desperate, no-good threes and overruling offense from the Rams left the final score 51-42 in the Eagles' first defeat of the season, making their record 1-1.

Davidson led the team with 17 points. Howard finished with 11; Brenna Oeffinger 9; Taylor Jeffries and Kourtney Mace, 2 each; and Brenna Riley 1.

Coach Jared Petersen commented, "Paoli is really good. They're ranked no. 5 in the state and they've got everybody back. Considering we were down by 20 last year, I knew we'd have our hands full, and we definitely improved. With Paoli having a 6-3 player, we really just focused on staying out of foul trouble and rebounding. We knew we needed to play exceptionally well to win."

The junior varsity was victorious over Paoli, taking their win by a nail-biting 35-32 in overtime. Their record is now 2-0.