

Test of team comes during Trinity Lutheran scrimmage for Lady Eagles

Written by Administrator

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Before the premier of their regular basketball season, the Austin Lady Eagles tested their new team with a scrimmage against the Trinity Lutheran Lady Cougars.

In the five-quarter match-up, the varsity squads played man-to-man, zone and press defense, respectively, during the first three quarters. The junior varsity took to the court in the fourth quarter, and the varsity followed with a free-for-all final quarter.

The non-stop clock read 12:00 when the scrimmage began, but it wasn't until 5:45 when senior Megan Smith put the Lady Eagles on the board with a shot behind the arc. A low-scoring quarter resulted from multiple unforced turnovers and several missed shots.

Beginning the second quarter, the opposing team sank a three-pointer, and Coach Jared Petersen called a time out for the Eagles. In response, Smith came up with a two-pointer. The Eagles kept up with the Cougars, but their defense struggled. Younger players showed talent but inexperience. The buzzer sounded with the score tied at 8 all.

Just as they opened the second period of play, the Cougars made a 3 less than 30 seconds after the opening. While Austin tried to match their shots, the Eagles had no luck from three-point territory. Trinity Lutheran outplayed the Eagles under the net, and the board read 18-11 at the end of the third quarter.

The junior varsity players got a chance to challenge the Cougars in the fourth quarter. The teams ended the period with a tie score of 7-7.

Bringing the defense that seemed to work best for the Lady Eagles in the final quarter, the team still struggled with countless unforced turnovers. Although showing individual skills, the Eagles could not find that magic formula to blend their talents together in a cohesive whole.

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The final period ended 10-8 in favor of the Cougars.

Holli Reynolds was leading scorer for Austin with 10 points. Smith collected 9; Kaitlyn Embrey 4; Holly Misamore 3; and Taylor Jeffries, Brenna Riley and Akaya Walker each with 2.

Smith, a three-year starter, noted following the scrimmage, "The talent is there, but knowledge of the plays is still lacking."