

## Lady Eagles take away game at Charlestown from hosts with 56-49 score

Written by Administrator

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A continually improving Austin Lady Eagles basketball team traveled to Charlestown on Wednesday night, December 4, to play the Charlestown Lady Pirates in yet another barn-burner of a game.

The ball was tipped to the Eagles at the first whistle. Charlestown scored the first basket after a minute of play, but the Lady Eagles answered with one of their signature marathon of three-pointers.

The Eagles ended the first quarter in a 12-11 lead, with all of the girls' shots coming behind the arc.

Brenna Riley opened the second quarter with a two-pointer, followed by several opportunities at the free throw line that gave the Eagles an early lead. Despite a slight struggle, the Eagles' repetitive line drives near the end of the quarter gave them a halftime lead of 27-22.

But the Lady Eagles didn't hold that lead for long as the second half started. Weak defense and missed shots under the basket plagued the Eagles. With nearly three minutes left to play in the third period, the Lady Pirates gained their first lead since the first shot of the game.

They continued to rack up points on the scoreboard, ending the quarter with a 36-32 lead over the Eagles.

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The final quarter generated a lot of heat as the battle was on. Riley took a seat on the bench after fouling out and sending Charlestown players to the charity stripe several times.

Back-and-forth shots made by the teams were followed closely by the boisterous crowd. Austin senior Megan Smith was sent to the line with 32.4 seconds left. Her basket tied the score at 45 all and sent the game into overtime.

The Lady Pirates were desperate to keep the Eagles basketless, but their attempts at defense led to five trips to the line for Eagles players. Those points and better play provided a solid lead for the visiting team, which took home a 56-49 win over their hosts.

Scoring for Austin that evening was led by Holli Reynolds, who got 17 points, 13 of which were earned at the free throw line.

Smith had a good night with 15 points to her credit. Kami Owens had 9; Riley, 6; Taylor Jeffries, 4; Kaitlyn Embrey, 3; and Akaya Walker, 2.

The Lady Eagles showed improvement at the free throw line that evening, getting 22 of 31 to fall.