

Austin Eagles take first win on Seymour Owls' home court in 85 years

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Traveling to the renowned Lloyd E. Scott Gymnasium at Seymour High School on Friday, February 21, the Austin Eagles planned to challenge the Seymour Owls.

What fans and players alike didn't realize was that the varsity team was stepping into history that evening.

After a hard-fought battle, the junior varsity Eagles suffered a 46-28 loss to the younger Owls, not a good start for the visiting team from down I-65.

And that's how the varsity Owls saw it, too, taking the first 15 points from Austin and causing the Eagle players and coaches no little heartburn from such an easy start for the home team.

Their streak was broken by Josh Turner who put a trey in the basket at 3:15 and Austin on the scoreboard 15-3. The Owls responded with a dunk, but the Eagles came alive and denied them any more baskets as they built up their score with two-pointers by Devin Richey and Josh Vires. Chris Mayfield added 2 more points from the free throw line to end the first quarter with Seymour in the lead 17-9.

While the Eagles struggled with rebounding, their offense took a turn for the better, and shots from all over the court slowly but surely brought the Eagles closer to the Owls' score. With 1:22 left in the first half, Hunter Spencer rebounded the ball and got an assist to Fleenor, who shortened the Owls' lead to 1 point, 30-29, and gave himself 14 total points in the second

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period. The Owls added 1 more point to their score, leaving the court at halftime in the lead 31-29. Fleenor came back on the court with a two-point basket to give the Eagles their first lead of the night at 35-34 after Stashke contributed at the free throw line. Their offensive under-the-basket play kept the Eagles in the game with the Owls, and the third buzzer rang with the Eagles behind by 1, 42-41.

Fleenor began the final quarter with a long shot and the lead 44-42. A successful trip to the charity stripe and 2 more three-pointers by Fleenor gave the Eagles a fair lead, but the Owls fought back within 2 points at 1:50 on the clock.

Austin kept it together and pulled through a 66-59 win, their first victory on the Owls' home court in 85 years.

Fleenor shot 5 successful three-pointers that night and ended the game as leading scorer with 31 points to his credit. Richey scored 17; Stashke had 8; Josh Turner 5, Mayfield 3, all from the free throw line, and Josh Vires 2.