

## Nooooo! Southwest Lady Rebels sneak past Lady Eagles in heartbreaker

Written by Administrator

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by JAKEB WATTS

Austin Sports Correspondent

On Thursday, January 8, the Austin Lady Eagles traveled to nearby Southwestern at Hanover to take on the Lady Rebels in roundball.

Starters for the Eagles were seniors Kaitlin Embrey and Holli Reynolds, sophomores Akaya Walker and Kami Owens and freshman Addison Brasher.

The Lady Eagles struggled hitting shots early on until Owens hit the team's first basket and scored Austin's first 3 points with 2:40 showing on the clock in the first quarter.

That shot changed the momentum for the Eagles, and they came alive, ending up leading at the half 23-21, thanks to a buzzer beater trey by Owens.

After emerging from the locker room, the Lady Eagles came to the floor ready for action. Both teams rallied back and forth through the final two periods of play.

The Eagles utilized good ball movement to get open shots but were hurt by having multiple players in foul trouble.

Austin kept the game close the entire night, especially during the last 8.9 seconds. The girls were down 47-46 with Walker at the charity stripe for 2 free throws.

Walker hit them both, and the Lady Eagles went to a full-court press to try and get a defensive stop. The Rebels got a shot off, which landed them at the stripe after being fouled.

That Rebel player made 1 free throw, which was enough to claim a 49-48 win over the visitors from Austin.

Owens and Reynolds had lit up the floor that evening from a scoring standpoint. Owens scored 16 points in all with 2 last-second three-pointers. Reynolds led the Eagles with 22 points.

The junior varsity Lady Eagles maintained a decent lead over the young Lady Rebels in the JV contest that preceded the varsity game. Coach Jill Zabel's use of her bench players allowed Austin to get the win over Southwestern 36-33. The JV squad was led by Elizabeth Lee in scoring, Lee contributing 14 points.