

?Lady Eagles get rumbled in Southwestern tourney

Written by Administrator

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? The Austin Lady Eagles enjoyed a busy week participating in the annual Rumble on the River holiday tournament held at Southwestern High School on January 2 and 3.

Austin won three straight games to advance to the championship game that Saturday night. Ultimately, however, the Lady Eagles were defeated by Fishers' Lady Tigers.

Austin's first game was played against the Columbus East Lady Olympians. The lady Eagles started from the field 0/3 to trail the Columbus team 8-0. Austin quickly came into it, however, and Ashley Dowling hit two treys to put the lady Eagles on top 27-24. Austin stopped any second chance points by grabbing defensive boards in the paint. At the half, Austin led 41-33.

In the second half, the Eagles struggled defensively and allowed Columbus East to grab a 58-57 lead. Chelsea Jones and Dowling worked their magic from three-point land to inch Austin ahead 63-60. Ultimately, the Lady Eagles snatched the win 73-65.

Scoring for Austin was led by Katy McIntosh with 21 points. Jones contributed 17 points, Michelle Goodin 15, Dowling 12 and Kelly Hollan and Shantel Gray 4 points each.

Game 2 of the tournament was also against a 4A school, the McCutcheon Lady Mavericks. Austin out-played and out-hustled the opponents in the opening quarter. Goodin lit up the boards, continuing to play first-rate ball to give Austin the boost it needed to get ahead.

McIntosh hammered one home from half-court at the buzzer to give Austin a 33-24 advantage at halftime.

The Lady Eagles continued to play smart basketball in the second half, never permitting the Lady Mavericks any closer than 5 points. Austin rallied and came out on top 64-58.

Scoring: Goodin 20; Jones 18; McIntosh 17 points and 11 assists; Gray 4; Dowling 3; and Hollan 2.

The Eagles' third game was facing regular season foe North Harrison. In the opening moments, Austin found itself behind 6-0. This seemed to fuel a fire. Dowling and Jones took turns sinking threes, tallying up 7 made treys in the first quarter alone.

Hollan played an all-around game, blocking shots and taking charges to help Austin defensively. After 16 minutes of action, Austin had stabilized a 45-25 lead. Jones led all scorers at the half with 18 points.

North Harrison came out of the locker room firing as the Lady Eagles weren't able to come through with crucial shots, and the Lady Cats only trailed by 6, 77-71. Hollan laid one in plus an old-fashioned three-point play to get the Cats out of striking distance.

In the end, Austin advanced to the championship game by the ending score of 85-79.

Scoring: Goodin 22; Jones 21; Dowling 16; McIntosh 12; Hollan 7; Gray 4; and Kayla Hickman 3.

In the championship game, the Lady Eagles took on the 4A Lady Tigers of Fishers in a tough match-up. Austin got off to a slow start and seemed to get beat at every turn. Fishers didn't miss a shot and left Austin trailing at the half 43-22.

Austin never caught a break in the second half and fell 77-48 to set their overall season record at 9-4. McIntosh and Jones were voted to the All-Tourney Team.

Scoring: McIntosh 16; Goodin 12; Jones 11; Dowling 7; and Hollan 2.