

Lady Musketeers beat Southwestern, improve to 1-1

Written by George Browning

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The Eastern High School basketball team lost five seniors from last year's 21-3 team. Two members of that team are now playing college ball and most expected Head Coach Mike McBride and the Lady Musketeers to go through a rebuilding year.

Through two games, the jury is still out on what this season will hold for the Lady Musketeers. Eastern is 1-1, which includes a six-point, 54-48 loss at Mitchell, but recovered to beat Southwestern Hanover Saturday night, 58-48.

McBride said Saturday's win over the Lady Rebels was big from the standpoint of "It's always nice to go on the road and get a win, no matter who you are playing," he said. "Particularly when it's a team with a new coach, a team we hadn't played before and didn't know a whole lot about. Playing their first game of the season for a new coach they were excited and were trying to get that win."

Eastern was led by three players in double figures, two of which had double-doubles.

Donnelle Rogers led the way with 18 points, 10 rebounds and five assists. Teammate Krista Roberts also poured in 18 points and grabbed 11 boards.

Eastern's other player in double figures was Brooke Rodewig, who had 12 points.

"It was a complete game from Donnelle," he said. "She can do a variety of things on the floor. She is going to play great defense. She rebounds the ball well and now she is much more comfortable assuming that leadership role."

McBride said his team chemistry is good in areas and still needs work in others.

"We had three girls in double figures, but as far as chemistry, it's just a matter of us playing together more and limiting turnovers," McBride said. "We just need to get a better idea where everybody is going to be from moment-to-moment."

In the Lady Musketeers season-opening loss at Mitchell, Roberts led the way with 23 points and Rodewig added nine.

Eastern (1-1) has a busy weekend of basketball.

They will host Borden in the season opener and then travels to Providence for a Saturday night showdown.

Moving forward, McBride said it is a must that his team take better care of the basketball.

"We have to cutdown on turnovers," he said. "We had 25 against Southwestern. A lot of those were unforced. We had 21 at Mitchell, so that's a big area we have to shore up. We shot free throws much better. Free throws killed us against Mitchell. We were 18 of 36 from the line and got beat by six. Against Southwestern we were 15 of 22, so we are good enough shooters we can take care of that. Limiting fouls and taking care of the basketball are the two biggest areas right now."