

The Eastern High School girls' basketball team managed to hang with North Harrison for a half Friday night, but in the end the Lady Cats size and athleticism proved to be too much.

North used an 11-0 run to start the second half that turned a slim 29-24 halftime leasing into a 40-24 advantage.

NH senior Cali Nolot said Head Coach Missy Voyles urged her team at halftime to relax and just play the game.

"We all knew that we had played sloppy (in the first half) and had a lot of nerves," Nolot said. "Coach told us to calm down and play the game the way we know how to play."

The way the Lady Cats play is to move the basketball, which they did much more effectively in the second half against the Lady Musketeers.

Nolot scored seven of her game-high 26 points during the sport included a three that started the run.

Lilly Hatton scored two of her 20 points during the spurt, as well.

Eastern finally got on the board in the third quarter with Isabell Claywell hit a runner in the lane,

Nolot answered with another basket and North Harrison led 42-25.

The Lady Musketeers tried to get back in the game by attacking the rim, which earned trips to the free throw line.

They hit seven out of eight during a stretch late in the third quarter, but never really was able to get back within striking distance.

The game was the first Mid Southern Conference game for both teams and while neither team could win the MSC, the loser would put themselves in a tough spot.

Nolot admitted that she didn't give much thought to the conference implications until the game was about to start.

"I had forgotten that Pekin is in our conference and then throw on top of it it's our first game and think that's part of the reason we were a little anxious in the first half."

Eastern led early as Veronica Judson drained two threes to put them up 6-5.

Two free throws by Rachel Stewart, who finished the game with 15 points, put EHS up 8-7.

The game would be tied a few more times throughout the first half, but that would be Eastern's last lead.

Hatton hit two free throws to put North back on top and Taylor Rennirt hit two baskets that stretched the NH lead to four, 13-9.

The Lady Cats got up by as much as nine midway through the second quarter, but the Lady

Musketeers found a way to claw back in.

A basket by Stewart trimmed the North Harrison lead to seven, 24-17 and Claywell scored a basket, then hit two free throws, trimming the margin to three, 24-21.

Clayell then stole the ball on North's next possession and was fouled again. She hit two more free throws to cut the Lady Cat lead to one, 24-23 with 2:15 remaining in the first half.

Stewart tied the score at 24-all by hitting one of two free throws, but Nolot drilled a three to end the run.

Eastern recovered from the loss, it's first in 16 games dating back to January of last season, with a lopsided win over Southwestern, 61-28.

They played Providence Tuesday (November 14), results were not known at press time and will travel to Borden Friday.

North Harrison found themselves in another tight battle Friday as they escaped Charlestown with a 39-36 win.

Nolot said she feels like her team has a lot of upside and they know they have some things out there they still want to accomplish.

"We have goals that we want to reach and we know we are nowhere near our potential yet," she said, "especially on defense. We want to be sound defensively and we aren't close yet."

As for Eastern, Nolot said she wouldn't be surprised to see them make another long tournament run.

Third-quarter surge lifts North Harrison over Eastern

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“They are really good,” Nolot said. “They have Stewart and those two freshman who are back (Claywell and Caylee Graves) and I think they could do it again!”

North Harrison played Crawford County (Nov. 14) and will travel to Scottsburg on Saturday.