

Monte scores 15 in 65-55 loss to Cloud

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By EARL WATT

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When looking at shot percentage, turnovers and rebounds, it is hard to see how the Lady Saints dropped their first conference game of the season to Cloud County, 65-55.

But free throws were the difference.

Seward made seven of just 10 attempts while the Lady Thunderbirds connected on 16 of 26 attempts.

That nine-point advantage at the charity stripe was huge.

The Lady Saints out-rebounded Cloud 48-45, and the turnover battle was even at 12 each, two critical stats that head coach Toby Wynn said concerned him in Jayhawk West competition.

But Seward has struggled at Cloud.

"It is a different gym," Wynn said prior to making the long bus ride to Concordia. "I think I've only taken two or three teams there and won. It's a tough place for us to play."

That home court advantage continued for the Lady T-Birds.

Cloud built a 36-29 halftime lead by making 13 of 31 shots from the field while the Lady Saints made 11 of 33.

But Cloud took advantage of 15 first half free throw attempts and made eight of them while the Lady Saints made five of six attempts from the line.

Cloud stretched the lead to 15 in the second half before the Lady Saints made a run that cut the Cloud advantage to six, but Seward couldn't get any closer in the second half.

Fabiana Monte led the Lady Saints with 15 points. Madison McLain kicked in 14.

Shanise Brooks posted a double double, scoring 10 points while dragging down 10 rebounds.

The loss dropped the Lady Saints out of a first-place tie in the Jayhawk West.

Seward (12-5, 3-1) will not play Wednesday and will return to the Green House Saturday to host Dodge City (7-11, 1-3). Tip-off is scheduled for 6 p.m.

Admission is free, courtesy The Dock at Billy's, and tickets are available at the restaurant.

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