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Leader & Times

The West Warriors eighth graders took on the Hugoton Eagles Tuesday. West's A team fell 56-24, and the Warriors B team was victorious 16-12 to split the two games.



The A team game was a high-scoring, fast-paced contest. Unfortunately for West fans, Hugoton was the team scoring the majority of the points.

From the tip, it seemed as though the Eagles were scoring at will. Within about 75 seconds, Hugoton had quickly jumped out to a 9-2 lead. Later in the quarter, the Warriors had cut the lead to four at 9-5 after a three-point play, but the Eagles finished the quarter just as strongly as they had started it, going on an 8-1 run to end the first with a 17-6 lead.

Hugoton's edge in size enabled them to control the boards and get second chance opportunities, while their full-court press threw the West offense out of sync.

The Warriors gave a strong showing in the second, but the Eagles kept pace with West every step of the way. West could only knock two-points off the deficit in the quarter, and trailed 29-20 at the half.

Despite the effort made by the Warriors to end the first half, they came out lifeless in the second, and Hugoton more than tripled their lead as a result.

Warriors split pair at home with Eagles

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West did not score in the third quarter, and the Eagles put up 18 points in the quarter to extend their lead to 47-20 heading to the fourth.

The Warriors did manage a basket a couple of minutes into the final quarter to put an end to Hugoton's 20-0 run to open the second half.

When it was all said and done, the Eagles had outscored West 27-4 in the second half to get the 56-24 win.

On a positive note for the Warriors, Ali Lucero had a strong showing. She was relentlessly attacking the basket throughout the game , and getting to the free throw line.

The B team game between the two schools was much closer, with neither team ever gaining a clear advantage.

The two teams traded the lead early on, with the Warriors trailing by one, 6-5 at the half.

West grabbed the lead in the third quarter, and did not relinquish it the rest of the way, although they never led by more than 4.

In the end, it was the Warriors that got the 16-12 win.

Caitlin Nutt had an outstanding game for West, hitting a pair of three pointers, and getting to the line on three consecutive possessions at one point in the second half.

The seventh grade teams were in action in Hugoton as well Tuesday.

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The Warriors won both of those games, with the A team getting a 31-21 win, and the B team winning 17-1.

Monday, the West seventh graders will be at home to take on the Dodge City Cardinals, and the eighth graders will be in Dodge City to face the Cardinals.