



By SHAWN YORKS

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BEAVER — It took awhile for the Guymon High School Lady Tigers basketball team to get things moving Tuesday night in the Duster Dome. It was, after all, the first game of the season.

And the first game under new head coach Rennie Nickell.

But once the run and gun Lady Tigers got their bearings, they were hard to stop in a 46-40 win over Beaver's Lady Dusters.

The Lady Tigers got double digit scoring from Yajaira Rodriguez (14 points) and Denesse Longoria (11 points).

“I was proud of the girls tonight, they put a lot of effort in it,” Nickell said. “I preach to them all the time: We’re going to start off on them slow. We’re going to be that much more in shape than everybody else that, if we can stay close, the fourth quarter should be ours.”

And that’s exactly what happened Tuesday in Beaver.

Guymon (1-0) trailed 20-17 entering the second half, but started to wear Beaver out in the third quarter. Down 30-28, Guymon opened the fourth quarter with a 9-0 run to take a 37-30 lead, and never trailed again.

Longoria opened the final frame with a trey, and followed that up with a 2-pointer to put Guymon ahead by three. Rodriguez hit two freebies to make it 35-30, then hit a basket to go ahead 37-30.

Beaver got its shooting legs back and made a quick run to cut it to 2 at 38-36. Jacinda Balderrama got two straight steals, scoring off one and dishing into Avery Lansden for the other to make it 37-35.

After Jahaira Marquez hit a free throw to pull it back to a 3-point game, Balderrama hit a freebie to make it 38-36.

Balderrama got two more steals, but the Lady Dusters were not able to capitalize, missing two straight shots before Guymon’s Rodriguez, Brooke Arledge and Sydney Hein connected as Beaver went cold over a 2-minute span late in the fourth quarter.

Beaver started the game in solid fashion behind Balderramas Jacinda and Giselle to take an 8-6 lead after the first quarter.

The Lady Dusters couldn't shake Guymon, who tied it with a pair of free throws by Marquez, and took the lead off a trey by Hein.

Then Farrington answered with a 3-pointer to tie it, Marquez put Guymon up by a deuce, but Farrington tied it. A free throw by Kyndal Sutton and another basket by Farrington put the Dusters up by three at the half.

Farrington led Beaver with 15 points and Balderrama added 8.

In addition to the 14 from Rodriguez and 11 from Longoria, Marquez added 9 for Guymon, Hein 7, Arledge 3 and Olivia Armstrong 2.

Even though the Lady Tigers got the win, Nickell said there is still things for the ladies to work on.

"I think we've got a long way to go," the coach said. "We had too many turnovers tonight, we had 20-plus turnovers and still won the game.

"We're going to have to have other players step up."

Next up for Guymon is a trip north to Liberal next Tuesday, followed by the Blue and Red Classic in Hugoton. The ladies play at home for the first time on Dec. 20 against Lamar, Colo.

Beaver travels just up the road to Forgan on Friday.

