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By SHAWN YORKS

The Guymon Daily Herald

TEXHOMA, Okla. — Hooker junior Kyra Cathcart scored 22 points to pace the Lady Bulldogs to a 47-43 win over No. 13 (1A) Texhoma on Friday night to keep Hooker's record unblemished, while handing the Lady Red Devils their first loss of the season.

Hooker (4-0) jumped ahead early behind Cathcart and Mariana Cervantes, who paced Hooker to a 9-3 lead. But Texhoma (2-1) would fight back behind Sarah Murphy and Randi Yates to make the score 12-9 at the end of the first.

“Anytime you can come into Texhoma’s house and get a win, it’s a big deal,” said Hooker head coach Ray Kennedy. “And anytime we play, it’s a battle. It’s always close. So just because we jumped ahead in the first half, we knew it was still going to be a battle. It always is.”

Hooker pulled out to a 29-20 halftime advantage, and led by as much as 12 in the second quarter. Cathcart and Braelyn Beattie exchanged baskets before Lexi Berry cut the Hooker lead back to three. Cathcart scored again and hit a free throw to make it a 6-point game, and another Cathcart basket followed by a Cervantes hoop made it an 8-point game.

Shania Miller made four straight free throws for Hooker and Rivera made it a 12-point game before Beattie drained a three at the buzzer to give Texhoma some momentum heading into halftime.

And that momentum carried Texhoma into the second half, as the Lady Red Devils outscored Hooker 15-6 in the third to tie it at 35 entering the final frame.

Berry and Tabra Elliott cut it to five and, after another Cathcart shot, Elliott and Murphy cut it to two. But Cathcart and two more free throws by Miller made it a 6 point game.

But Hooker missed a couple shots and Texhoma took advantage, with Kyanne Schroeder cutting it to two with a pair of baskets. Then after another miss by Hooker, Murphy missed two freebies. But Beattie stole the ball at mid-court and raced in for the tying basket as the third quarter came to an end.

Jessica Ugarte hit a 3-pointer to open the fourth and give Hooker the lead at 38-35, Schroeder cut it to one, But Hooker responded to a pair of Texhoma misses with a pair of Cathcart baskets for a 43-37 lead.

An exchange of turnovers and missed shots ended with baskets by Murphy and a steal and hoop by Beattie to cut it back to 43-41.

Another exchange of turnovers ended with a Taysi Peterson basket to tie it at 43 with 1:14 left in the game. But Hooker's Miller hit three of four free throws down the stretch and Texhoma turned the ball over twice in the final 24 seconds to give Hooker the win.

“It’s a great win for us,” Kennedy added.

Texhoma head coach Britton Gabriele said the game was a learning experience for his team.

“Close ones, you can always learn something from it,” Gabriele said. “Little things and making too many mistakes will lose you ballgames.

“We got beat up on the boards tonight and one thing that hurt us was free throws.”

But the second half rally was typical for Texhoma vs. Hooker.

“We came out in the second half and I thought we looked really good coming back from that deficit,” Gabriele said. “I give our girls credit for that. But just too many turnovers hurt us down the stretch.”

Cathcart scored 22, Cervantes 11, Miller 9, Ugarte 4 for Hooker.

Beattie put in 13, Elliott 10, Murphy 9, Schroeder 6, Berry 3 and Peterson 2 for Texhoma.

Texhoma has Keyes at home on Monday while Hooker visits Turpin before heading to Hugoton, Kan. for the Blue & Red Classic next weekend.

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