

Third quarter run sends Eagles to Blue and Red Classic finals

Saturday, 14 December 2013 12:59



By JEREMIAH WILSON

Leader & Times

The Hugoton Eagles trailed the Lakin Broncs by four at the half, but used an impressive third quarter run in which they outscored the Broncs 19-2 to carry the Eagles to the finals of the Blue and Red Classic in a 52-38 win.

Hugoton looked strong early, using a 6-1 run over the last 2:52 of the first quarter to grab a 14-8 lead after one.

Lakin still trailed at 16-11 in the the second before scoring the next six points to take a 17-16 lead. All six of those points came from the Broncs Robert Aparicio, who hit a pair of three pointers.

After Hugoton had tied the game at 17-17, Lakin outscored the Eagles 6-2 over the rest of the quarter to take a four point lead into halftime with the score of 23-19.

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Once the third quarter began, the momentum swung in a huge way.

Hugoton's Yates Sutton hit a three pointer just 14 seconds into the quarter, followed up by a three-point play by Jeison Rodriguez.

Just like that the Eagles had grabbed a 25-23 lead less than 40 seconds into the half.

The scoring for Hugoton did not stop there. After Lakin tied the game at 25-25, the Eagles scored the final 13 points of the quarter to take a 38-25 lead into the fourth.

Rodriguez scored seven of his team-high 13 points in the third quarter, and was a perfect 7-of-7 from the charity stripe on the night.

Rodriguez scored just five seconds into the fourth quarter to give Hugoton a 15-point lead, its biggest of the game.

With 6:01 remaining in the game, Lakin hit one of two free throws, to break a scoring drought of over seven minutes. The Eagles defense did not allow a Bronc field goal for over eight minutes.

Once Lakin did manage a field goal to get within 11 at 40-29, it looked as though they might make a comeback.

The Broncs scored the next five points to get within six with just under four minutes remaining.

Over the final three-plus minutes, Hugoton closed the game out with a 12-4 run to put Lakin away for good, and grab a trip to the finals.

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In addition to Rodriguez's 13, Kellen Watkins had nine points for the Eagles, and Parker Titus added seven. Reid Davis, Ross Davis and Alex Duarte all have five points a piece for Hugoton.

Hugoton played the Ulysses Tigers in the finals of the Blue and Red Classic at 8:15 p.m. Saturday in Hugoton. Check Monday's edition of the Leader & Times for full results.