

By Phil Sandoval

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LAVERNE, OKLA. — Two has become a terrible number for the Hooker girls basketball team.

Not only did the Bulldogs season end on a two-point, 66-64 Regional Tournament loss to Morrison, but it was also two elements, that both fittingly occurred in the second quarter, according to head coach Ray Kennedy, to cause the defeat.

“We kind of got away from what we were suppose to be doing,” he said. “We had to stop penetration. We didn’t. That led to them getting to the basket.”

Dismissal of the game plan correlated to the second factor of the Bulldogs problem.

“They are really explosive,” Kennedy said of Morrison. “They can score points in bundles.”

The Lady Bearcats’ performance in the second period proved Kennedy’s point.

Morrison ripped off 10 straight points in three minutes to reduce a 20-8 advantage Hooker built in the first quarter down to six.

Shayla Mathis baled the Bulldogs out with a badly-needed three-point play to end the string.

The basket and free throw the junior threw in allowed Hooker to take a 30-23 lead at intermission when Morrison ended the half with a couple of successful attempts at the stripe.

After Hooker spent most of the third quarter matching scores with Morrison, the explosive nature of the Bearcats reappeared at the end of the stanza.

A Morrison, 3-pointer at the two-minute mark sparked a 9-0 run where an offensive put-back by Jennifer Myers as the buzzer sounded cut a 45-38 Hooker lead at the start of the spurt down to a skinny one-point advantage.

Sarah Patton gave the Bearcats their first lead of the game on the opening possession of the fourth quarter. She led Morrison with 16 points.

A second spree of 8 points later in the quarter opened a 58-49 lead.

It came with four minutes left and both in the bonus.

With free throws coming with every foul afterwards Hooker failed to use the advantage.

They were 4-of-10 in the final minutes.

Morrison was out-of-this-world. The Bobcats hit 10-of-15 attempts in the period.

Despite the difference, Hooker put themselves within a possession of winning.

Two Lucero Ugarte free throws with 11.8 seconds remaining narrowed Morrison's lead to 64-62. Unfortunately, having to foul to get the ball back at that point.

The Bobcats Kaylee De Von sank both free throws she was awarded on Kassi Bruner's personal.

Ugarte, who along with Mathis had 26 points each, scored the game's final basket as the horn sounded.