

**L&T staff report**

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Balko Lady Bison's first-ever trip to the state tournament got off to a shaky start, but ended well for the girls in maroon. Balko downed Red Oak 49-45 in the Class B state quarterfinals, advancing to today's state semifinals against Corn Bible Academy.

Balko was down double digits early.

A case of nerves, no doubt.

Red Oak controlled most of the game. But the Lady Bison (25-3) took the lead for good with less than three minutes to play on a Jordie Jett basket, but left the door open a bit with a couple of late misses at the free throw line before Jett sealed it in the closing seconds.

Red Oak looked like it might run away with the contest in the early going, building a double-figure lead before the Balko comeback began behind sophomore standout Jaylee Mays and freshman Madison Dearmin.

Each finished with 14 points. Cheyenne Booth scored 13 to lead Red Oak.

• *Information from Coaches Aid*