

By SHAWN YORKS

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HUGOTON — Turnovers. The bane of Guymon head coach Rennie Nickell's existence in the first three games of the young basketball season. They had been a problem the first two games, but the Lady Tigers had overcome them to win.

But not against state-ranked Hugoton's Lady Eagles, who took advantage of Guymon's 40-plus turnovers (unofficially) to take care of the Lady Tigers 69-44 on Thursday in the first round of the Blue and Red Classic.

"We were in the game most of the time which I thought we were pretty fortunate to be in," Nickell said. "You turn the ball over 27 times in the first half, and we're down 8. We allowed them double digit offensive rebounds. I think our kids, for the first time, gave up a little bit tonight."

Hugoton never trailed, and led 15-7 after the first period and 28-20 at the half after Guymon (2-1 overall) made a quick run thanks to Olivia Armstrong. But the Lady Eagles would lead 45-34 at the end of the third and pull out to the 25-point win.

Hein led Guymon with 18 points.

"If it wasn't for Sydney we probably would have been in a lot of trouble tonight," Nickell said.

Armstrong added 9, Yajaira Rodriguez 7, Kennedy Melton 4, Brooke Arledge 3, Denesse Longoria 2 and Hannah Watson 1.

Katie Heger paced Hugoton with 18 points, Amy Scott 16, Melissa Fabela 13, Estefani Amrndariz 9, Megan Cornelson 6, Ana Peña 3, Sarah Johnson and Taylor Fiss 2 for the Eagles.