

Cathcart takes over in second quarter, Hooker wins

Tuesday, 11 February 2014 23:52

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By JASON EPP
Leader & Times

BEAVER Okla.—It took Hooker’s Kyra Cathcart a quarter to get going, and her Lady Bulldog teammates did a fine job in the meantime. But Cathcart took over in the second quarter, scoring 19 of the next 22 points for Hooker and the No.11 Lady Bulldogs left Beaver with a 53-37 win.

“We did a nice job of getting the ball into her (Kyra Cathcart) and executing,” Lady Bulldogs coach Ray Kennedy said. “She tweaked her knee about a week ago and she was a little tentative on it at first, but after she got comfortable she caught fire.”

Hooker led 14-5 a minute into the second quarter, thanks in part to a pair of threes by Naomi Rodriguez, when Cathcart finally got her first two points of the game at the free throw line with 6:25 left in the first half.

It was just the start for her. Hooker pushed their lead to 16 (27-11), and it was Cathcart accounting for all the scoring except for a three by Gissel Ugarte.

“Cathcart and Cervantes—we don’t have anyone who can guard them one-on-one,” Lady Dusters coach Casey Jones. “We started out with some junk-type defense and it worked for a while, but when we had to substitute in some younger players who haven’t done that we had to go back to straight stuff and they hurt us. “

Beaver’s Shalyn Farrington hit a three and Averil Lansden converted a three-point play in the final minutes of the half as the Lady Dusters cut the lead back to 11 by half, 29-18.

Cathcart was back at it to start the second half, scoring the first eight points for the Lady Bulldogs. Beaver matched them basket for basket as Kaitlin Kemp scored three straight times and Conner Sutton added a three to cut the lead to 10 (37-27) with two minutes left in the third.

“It’s been awhile since we played, and I thought we started the game sluggish, but we got better as the game went on,” Kennedy said. “We were really concentrating on Balderrama and we did a nice job on her. We expected them to respond on their floor and it being the last home game for their seniors, and they did.”

It was as close as Beaver would get, and a 3-pointer by Shania Miller made the score 40-27 heading into the fourth quarter.

Hooker then hit 9 of 12 free throws in the fourth to seal the win.

Late in the game four-year starter Jacinda Balderrama fouled out of her final home game having been held to just 7 points.

“Jacinda’s been a great player in our program, and hopefully she’s got some more games in the playoffs,” Jones said. “She’s gone from being a role player on some great teams as a freshman and a sophomore to being the one that we look to do stuff for us now.”

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Kyra Cathcart finished 9 of 14 from the field, and 7 of 9 from the free throw line for 25 points. Mariana Cervates added 9.

For Beaver it was Kaitlin Kemp with 10, and Conner Sutton with 6.

“Kaitlin has come along well this year, and become a pretty good player,” Jones said. “Kyndal (Sutton) and Madison (Cates) give us great hustle and have improved their ball-handling a lot.”

Hooker (18-2) will travel to Guymon Saturday. Beaver (15-8) will face Boise City Friday night in Texhoma in the first round of the district playoffs.

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