

By EARL WATT

- Daily Leader

The Saints were minutes away from moving to 14-0 and scoring a major victory over a ranked College of Southern Idaho squad.

But an Eagle run midway through the second half erased the Saints lead, and Seward could never regain the lead in an 84-79 loss in the final game of the Pizza Hut Classic Saturday night at the Greenhouse.



Seward attempted a late rally to overcome a 10-point deficit in the final two minutes.

Latiq Agard connected on three of four free throws and made two field goals to pull the Saints within three, but the Eagles went four of six from the line in the final 30 seconds to secure the win.

“We had it down to three at nine seconds,” Seward coach Brian Zollinger said. “If we force a turnover, we would have had a shot.”

They got a little cushion and we got ourselves in a hole. We’re a young team. We’ll learn.”

Agard led the Saints with 24 points. Antonio Smith and Marcus James each scored 15. Thijin Moses added 14.

Saints drop first game of season to CSI

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Seward was outrebounded 45-35 by the Eagles but forced Southern Idaho to turn the ball over 23 times while committing 15 turnovers of their own.

The Eagles became the first team of the year to shoot 50 percent against the Saints defense.

Seward went 12 of 23 from the free throw line for 52 percent while the Eagles shot 21 of 28 free throws for 75 percent.

"I thought it was good college basketball game," Zollinger said. "It was two good teams and a lot of good athletes out there. We made some critical mistakes, but that's what happens when you play good people sometimes."

Seward made a game of it in the first half after rallying from an 11- point deficit. Seward finished the first half on a 23-8 run to take a

41-37 lead.

Seward (13-1) is off until January.