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### By GREG CREWS



HOOKER, Okla. — Even in a close game, on the road, against a bitter rival, the Texhoma Lady Devils couldn't be rattled.

The Lady Devils went 6-for-6 from the free throw line in the final 30 seconds to hold off the Hooker Lady Dogs, 37-31 on Tuesday.

"I was proud of them. That's something that we have to have going into the playoffs," Texhoma coach Davis Forsythe said. "Teams that win in the playoffs have to be able to get up there, ignore the crowd and sink free throws."

Texhoma (9-5) took the lead a little more than 2 minutes into the game and led the rest of the way, but with just 15 seconds left, the Lady Devils were holding on for dear life after Hooker freshman guard Shania Miller knocked down a 3-pointer to cut the lead to 33-31.

With 9 seconds left, Lyndi Berry calmly hit two free throws to put the Lady Devils up 35-31 and after stealing the ball from Hooker, Ann E. Freeman added some insurance as she hit both of her free throws with 5 seconds left.

The Lady Devils hit 14-of-18 (77.8 percent) from the foul line, while the Lady Dogs hit just 8-of-17 (47.1 percent).

"It's obvious they were huge," Hooker coach Ray Kennedy said of the free throws. "It wasn't very good for us."

Berry paced Texhoma with 11 points and three rebounds, while Brittany Beattie had eight points. Courtney Sheets finished with seven points and five rebounds, Freeman had seven points and Karina Acevedo and junior Shelbi Moore each added two.

Shayla Mathis led Hooker with 12 points and 12 rebounds. Jade Cathcart had nine points and three rebounds, Miller had six points and Jayme Walton and Brittney Bergner each had two points. Walton also had three assists and two steals.

Mathis, who scored all seven of Hooker's points in the first quarter, gave the Lady Dogs (6-8) a 4-2 lead with a pair of baskets inside the paint.

One possession later, however, Freeman put Texhoma up for good as she drove in for a layup, picked up a foul and converted a three-point play for a 5-4 lead.

By the end of the first quarter the Lady Devils led 12-7, but they never could shake Hooker, going into halftime with a 23-19 lead.

Texhoma managed just six points in the third quarter, but limited the Lady Dogs to just four as it went into the fourth quarter with a 29-23 lead.

Though Hooker wasn't able to complete its comeback in the fourth quarter, Kennedy viewed the game as a step forward.

"I feel like we played better than we did in our last two ballgames, and even though it is a loss we try to look at some of the positives that come out of it," he said. "Like I told the girls, it's time to go right now. There is no letting up this time of the season."

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