

Eagles fall to Pettisville for 2nd time

By DAVID GREEN

Two nice wins; one troublesome loss.

Fayette's varsity girls defeated NWOAA champion Delta, 69-61, and took down another larger foe from that league Saturday with a 46-37 win at Evergreen.

But at home Thursday, the Eagles couldn't stay on top of BCC-leading Pettisville and the Blackbirds finished the night with a 36-31 victory.

"It was really a great high school basketball game," said Fayette coach Scoop Miller. "It was a nice crowd and both teams played hard."

The teams stayed within three points of one another for most of the night and eventually the Eagles had to foul in hopes of gaining ground. The Blackbirds canned eight of 12 to keep their advantage.

"We didn't get to the line enough and we didn't put them through," Miller said about Fayette's two-for-eight showing. "That doesn't get the job done."

The Eagles did a better job under

the boards compared to the earlier meeting with Pettisville, he said, and just a couple of missed bunnies could have led to a different outcome.

The Blackbirds (21-1) find a way to win, Miller said, and he hopes Fayette (18-4) will have a third chance against them in the tournament.

DELTA—Fayette started off a tough week with a 69-61 win

PETTISVILLE 36 - FAYETTE 31						
Keefe 2/0/1/4	Seiler 3(1)/1/4/8	Griffiths 1/1/3	Fruchey 5(1)/0/11	Machacek 1(1)/0/3	K. Bates 0/0/2/0	M. Bates 1/0/2
Totals 13(3)/2/8/31						
FAYETTE	6	9	6	10	-31	
PETTISVILLE	11	10	7	8	-36	
FAYETTE 69 - DELTA 61						
Keefe 2/4/8/8	Seiler 6(1)/8/8/21	Griffiths 3(3)/8/8/17	Machacek 3(2)/0/8	Fruchey 1/4/4/6	K. Bates 2/2/6	M. Bates 1/1/2/3
Totals 18(6)/27/32/69						
FAYETTE	14	19	15	21	-69	
DELTA	9	17	16	19	-61	
FAYETTE 46 - EVERGREEN 37						
Keefe 0/1/2/1	Seiler 3(1)/4/7/11	Griffiths 5(2)/2/2/14	Machacek 3(3)/2/4/11	Fruchey 3/0/6	M. Bates 0/1/2/1	Wheeler 1/0
Totals 15(6)/10/17/46						
FAYETTE	11	13	9	13	-46	
EVERGREEN	11	7	15	4	-37	

FAYETTE JV GIRLS

After playing even-up in the first quarter, Fayette's JV girls moved to a 10-point fourth-quarter lead last week against Hilltop, but a pair of three-point shots from the Cadets tightened the contest.

The Eagles held on for a 39-34 win and will face the same team next week at home.

Rylee Ruger finished with 18 points after sinking 14 of 20 free

throws. Kaitlin Brubaker added nine points.

Ruger also collected nine rebounds, made two steals and gave an assist. Courtney Cuff brought in five rebounds. Alexis Ball and Brubaker each made three steals.

The Eagles had chances to defeat Liberty Center last week, said coach Barb Figgins, but they faced an extra challenge when they were down to

only four players to finish the game. The Tigers claimed a 37-30 win.

"It was a close game and we were up by two with two minutes to play," Figgins said. "We gave up a couple easy lay-ups and missed eight free throws."

Alexis Mapes scored eight points and Ruger added seven. Ball scored six. Ruger also finished with eight rebounds.

Paige Keefer led under the boards with seven rebounds and Kaitlin Bates collected four. Kaela Seiler gave nine assists and went eight for eight from the line—the same as Taylor Griffiths.

EVERGREEN—Fayette was in a tie with Evergreen with about three minutes to play, but a three-point shot by Hannah Machacek against her former teammates put the Eagles on top for good.

Steals and key free throws gave Fayette a 46-37 win.

The Vikings were on the short end of a 30-16 rebounding tally and only had a pair in the first half, Coach Miller said.

"We didn't give them a lot of looks," he said.

Seiler gave seven assists and grabbed eight rebounds. Griffith finished with a pair of blocks.

• Fayette faces Montpelier tonight (Wednesday) in Bryan and the winner takes on either Wayne Trace or Continental at 8 p.m. Friday.



FAYETTE'S Hannah Machacek tries to pass through a pair of Evergreen defenders Saturday night. The Eagle junior helped carry the team to a win against her former teammates, said coach Scoop Miller.

DALE BATES/Observer photo



FROM THE OUTSIDE—Fayette's Koby Biddix puts up a three-pointer during a recent contest. The distance ace scored four three-point shots Saturday at Evergreen.

DALE BATES/Observer photo

Boys tripped by P'ville

By DAVID GREEN

Fayette's varsity boys sailed past Evergreen Saturday night in a non-league contest, but the night before against BBC foe Pettisville, the Eagles couldn't hold on to a third-quarter lead.

The Blackbirds just kept on scoring from the free throw line to pull off a 49-44 win. Pettisville canned a remarkable 17 of 20 free throws in the final quarter.

"We started off doing a good job of getting the ball inside to Jerad Seiler and Tristen Bates," coach Todd Mitchell said, "and they kicked it back out when Pettisville was doubling down on them."

But the perimeter shots weren't falling, just like the first time the two teams met this season. Fayette ended up hitting only three of 17 tries from three-point range, and that allowed the Blackbirds to pack it in even more underneath.

The lead changed five times during the close contest until Pettisville

finally got on top for good once their free throws started building.

Seiler finished the game with four blocked shots and Bates made three.

EVERGREEN—At Evergreen on Saturday, Fayette broke free from a tight first quarter to lead 23-12 at halftime and finish on top, 50-24. The Vikings were limited to single-digit scoring in each quarter.

Evergreen's Oswald sank a desperation long shot—almost the entire court—as time expired in the

third quarter, but the Eagles didn't allow the momentum to swing, Mitchell said.

Koby Biddix led all scorers with 16 points with four three-point shots.

Boys' tourney starts March 4

Fayette opens tournament play at 8 p.m. Wednesday, March 4, against Holgate in the Bryan High School gymnasium. Hicksville and Edon play in the earlier game.

The two winners from that night will face each other at 8 p.m. Friday. The other sectional final, played at 6:15 that night, will feature Edgerton against the winner of the Continental/Ayersville game.

Pettisville is playing at Paulding High School.

PETTISVILLE 49 - FAYETTE 44							
Bost 3(2)/1/2/9	Biddix 3/0/6	Lantz 1/1/2/3	Seiler 4/3/5/11	Bates 4/2/2/10	Smith 1(1)/1/3/4	Colegrove 0/1/2/1	Totals 16(3)/9/16/44
FAYETTE	8	12	12	12	-44		
PETTISVILLE	15	8	5	21	-49		
FAYETTE 50 - EVERGREEN 24							
Bost 3(3)/0/9	Lantz 1/0/2	Biddix 6(4)/0/16	Seiler 2/0/4	Bates 4/1/1/9	Burkholder 1/0/2	Colegrove 3/0/6	Hunter 1/0/2
Totals 21(7)/1/1/50							
FAYETTE	10	13	11	16	-50		
EVERGREEN	8	13	11	16	-24		

JV BOYS—It took a big fourth quarter to get the job done, but Fayette's JV boys came from behind Monday to stop Hilltop, 57-45, and claim the BCC title.

The Cadets were on top 39-36 to start the final quarter, but 12-for-17 success at the free throw line gave Fayette the win. Five different Eagles went to the line that quarter to score.

Garett Reinking and Casen Burkholder each finished the game with 13 points and Karrsen Schaffner added 11.

The Eagles had an easier time Friday at Pettisville, winning 45-19.

"We played really well and got scoring from a lot of kids," coach Matt Maginn said. "We pressed pretty much the whole game and it

took them out of their rhythm."

Tharyn Colegrove led scoring with nine points in two quarters, and Schaffner did a good job taking over at point guard, Maginn said. He also cited Travis Wagner for a good job coming off the bench and working hard against the Pettisville press.