

Lady Cats fight back in loss to Wellsville



Louisburg senior Emalee Overbay drives the lane during the Lady Cats' fifth-place game of the Top Gun Tournament on Saturday at Wellsville High School. The Lady Cats came up short in a 63-56 loss.

WELLSVILLE – For three quarters, the Louisburg girls basketball team was able to outscore Wellsville on Saturday during the fifth-place game of the Top Gun Tournament.

It was other quarter that had the Lady Cats digging out of a hole the entire contest.

Wellsville used a big first quarter to distance itself from the Lady Cats early and handed Louisburg a 63-56 loss at Wellsville High School.

The Eagles outscored Louisburg 20-2 in the first quarter and eventually built a 22-point lead early in the second quarter before the Lady Cats started to chip away at the lead.

“We let some different things distract us and we just weren't mentality prepared starting the game,” Louisburg coach Shawn Lowry said. “We talk a lot about this process for us and this is definitely something we will learn from and be better next time.”

The Lady Cats (6-6) scored the first basket of the game on Madisen Simpson layup, but Wellsville would go on a 24-0 run to take the commanding lead. Louisburg, however, spent the last 22 minutes of the game cutting into the Eagle lead.

Louisburg nearly pulled off the improbable comeback as it cut the lead to four points midway through the fourth quarter on a basket from Paige Buffington.

“It would have been easy for many after that first quarter to check it in for the day but this group has a great deal of pride in the way they play together,” Lowry said. “Our seniors do a very good job of leading and battling when they’re faced with adversity.”

The Lady Cats faced a lot of adversity as it had to try to overcome a 22-point deficit on their opponent’s floor. Louisburg started by stopping the Wellsville run early in the second quarter and started to hit shots themselves.

Simpson and Buffington hit shots from the outside and each connected on three 3-pointers and the Lady Cats had seven for the day. Simpson led Louisburg in scoring with 20 points to go along with three assists and Buffington added 15 in the loss.

Louisburg also battled under the basket for loose balls and rebounds. Sophomore Carson Buffington finished with a game-high 17 rebounds to go along with eight points, while freshman Haley Cain came off the bench to add seven boards.



Madisen Simpson averaged 19 points a game for the tournament and earned a spot on the all-tournament team.

After the Lady Cats cut the lead to four points, it became a free throw shooting contest as the Eagles held the ball in the final four minutes of the game, forcing Louisburg to foul. Wellsville scored their final 11 points from the free-throw line and was 31 for 46 for the game compared to just 12 for 20

