

Lady Eagles victorious in semifinals

Colby High sophomore Morgan Bell adding to an already impressive season by leading the Lady Eagles to a 42-30 victory over Clearwater in the Class 4A sub-state semifinals on Thursday in Kingman.

In a game where the Kaus sisters, Katherine and Katrina, had to sit out for a big part of the first half with foul trouble, Bell stepped up big for her team in the first half. She scored seven of her 14 points in the first quarter. That strong start was enough to give Colby a 9-5 lead going into the second quarter. Bell came through again in the final seconds of the first half when she drained a running three-pointer at the buzzer that gave the Lady Eagles a 20-15 lead.

Colby's defense sharpened its claws in the second half, allowing the Lady Indians only three field goals for the rest of the game.

After falling behind early in the game, Clearwater went on a 7-0 run and led 12-9 during the second quarter. Colby sophomore Kayla Hockersmith ended the Lady Indians' spurt by nailing a three-pointer that tied the game at 12. Later on, Bell hit her sister, freshman Laura Bell, with a nice pass that led to an easy bucket inside. That gave Colby a 14-13 lead with less than 2 1/2 minutes left in the half. Then freshman Alexa Haas drilled a three to make it 17-13. Clearwater made next basket, but Morgan's buzzer beater provided the girls with a five-point halftime

lead. After spending a lot of the first half on the bench with two fouls each, the Kaus sisters made their presence felt in the second half. With Colby leading 22-15 early in the third, Katherine buried a three-pointer that gave Lady Eagles their first double-digit lead.

Colby's tenacious defense didn't let the Lady Indians score a single point in the third until about the 2:20 mark when Clearwater's Tricia Vogel scored inside to narrow the gap to 25-17. Even with the bucket, Vogel, the Lady Indians' leading scorer, was held in check by the girls' defense in the second half.

Katrina responded to Vogel's bucket by drilling a three-pointer that extended the Lady Eagles' lead to 28-17. The girls led 28-19 at the end of the period.

Junior Kelsey Shields pulled down an offensive rebound and stuck it back in to give the Colby a 30-19 lead early in the fourth. The Lady Indians scored the next four to cut the Colby's lead to 30-23. Katrina Kaus made two shots from close range to extend the lead back to 11. Colby went on to pick up a 42-30 victory.

Morgan Bell led the team with 14 points and Hockersmith and Katrina Kaus both added seven. Katherine Kaus scored five, Haas had three and Shields and Lauren Bell chipped in two each.

Colby held Clearwater to 21 percent on seven of 33 shooting.



NANCY D. BORST/Kingman Leader-Courier

The Lady Eagles advanced to the finals of the Class 4A sub-state basketball tournament with a 42-30 victory over Clearwater

on Wednesday night in Kingman. They will take on top-seeded Cheney in the championship at 6 p.m. Saturday at Kingman.

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