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Dexter Lady Bearcats fall to Phoenix

DECEMBER 01ST 2012 BY JIM REIKER

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Farmington, MO - The Dexter Lady Bearcats finished second in the 48th Farmington Invitational Tournament on Saturday night with a 57-45 loss to state ranked Miller Career Academy.

The final score of the game was not reflective of the overall contest that took place between these two teams. Miller Career Academy is the opponent that has handed the Lady 'Cats two losses last year which marks them as someone the Bearcats must learn to overcome.

"I just think that Miller Career's pressure just got to us toward the end of the game," commented Chad Allen, head coach of the Lady Bearcats. "They're not only tall and big, but they're also quick. They bump you around a lot constantly, cutting off passing lanes, and putting pressure on that just got to us in the end."

"We just didn't execute very well offensively late in the game," noted Allen.

The Bearcats did perform extremely well the majority of the game. Brittany Harris opened the scoring for the Lady Cats to give them an early lead in the first quarter. The teams then traded scoring with Hannah Noe, Katelynn Frazier and Paige Patterson all scoring for LBB. Two free throws and a basket by Alison Jarrell and another basket by Noe put the Cats down by one at the end of the first quarter 15-14.

The lead "see-sawed" back and forth during the second quarter with Harris, Mollie Whitehead, Erika Cobb and Noe all scoring for the Lady Cats to give them a 27-24 halftime lead.

The Lady Phoenix opened the third quarter on a 9-2 run before Katelynn Frazier and Hannah Noe shutdown Miller's offensive attack. A three pointer by Alison Jarrell and a basket by Paige Patterson turned things around for the Lady 'Cats and gave Dexter a 38-37 lead going into quarter number four.

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Unfortunately for the Lady Cats they were outscored by the Lady Phoenix 20-7 in the 4th and took the loss. The Lady Cats were led in scoring by Katelynn Frazier with 9 points, followed by Hannah Noe with 8. Alison Jarrell and Erika Cobb both chipped in 7 points a piece.

"I think we were only down by 4-points with 58 seconds left in the game," Allen said. "We were gonna install a different trap defense and come up with a quick trap and steal. Unfortunately, I was out of timeouts and got nailed for a technical."

Miller Career made both free throws and opened up the lead in the final minute of the game.

"In reality, the game was a lot closer than the 11 point difference shows in the final score," added Chad Allen.

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"We played

them so much better this year than we did last year," explained Allen. "We definitely made a game out of it."

"Last year, they got in control and stayed in control in both games they beat us," said Allen. "Tonight, we improved and looked a lot better. Defensively, we improved and looked a lot better tonight. Offensively, it was just a struggle tonight because Miller's defense is so good."

"Both teams had to work hard for all the points that they got and they just executed a lot better toward the end than we did," added Allen. "We are gonna have to learn to pull out those tough games in the end."

The Lady Bearcats schedule has intensified greatly this year as they will travel to play Missouri teams like Republic and Webster Groves. They are also traveling outside the area to play Carbondale IL and next week will be at Paragould High School in the The Ronald McDonald Shootout.

"Adding that Paragould AR Tournament next week will definitely help us come playoff time," noted the coach. "That tournament is just as tough if not tougher than the Farmington tournament."

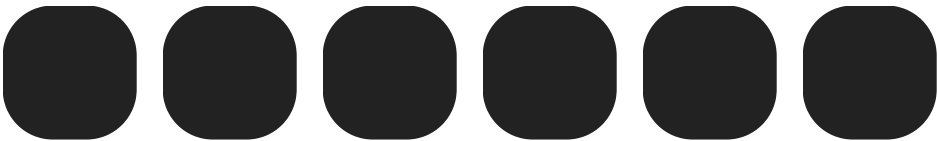
The Bearcats will play back-to-back nights starting Thursday night through Saturday in the tournament. Dexter will take on 4A powerhouse Valley View High School. Valley View played deep into the Arkansas playoff system last year and are returning several good players from that team.

"I'm definitely excited about this year," said Coach Allen. "I think we will improve as the year goes on and we work out a few kinks in the offense and improve throughout the year."

LAST UPDATED ON DECEMBER 01ST 2012 BY UNKNOWN

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