

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Giants fall by 6 in exciting back-and-forth battle with TCU

By Rachel Miller
Editor

The Le Sueur-Henderson girls basketball game against Tri-City United last Thursday had almost everything necessary for an exciting and memorable game: a come-from-behind rally to take the lead, a back-and-forth points battle, and the gumption to never give up and battle to the very last second.

Unfortunately, TCU emerged the victor in a close 69-63 battle, but the momentum the Giants amassed in the second half had the crowd on the edge of their seats.

At one point in the first half, the Titans held a 10-point lead over the Giants, and with a 28-20 lead with 6:23 in the first half, it was looking like TCU was going to run away with the game.

But the Giants made it clear, if TCU wanted the win, they were going to have to fight hard to earn it. As the first half clock ticked down, the Giants began chipping away at the lead, and they trailed by three, 35-32, at the half.

The Giants emerged from the locker room with renewed spirit. Olivia Fritz sunk a three-pointer to tie the game, 35-35, and for the next eight minutes on the clock, the two teams vied for the lead. The Giants would sink a basket to lead by two, then TCU would answer with a basket of their own.

The Giants tied and took a lead three separate times, but around the eight minute mark, the Titans finally reclaimed the lead.

The Titans were up by nine

points with roughly three minutes left in the game, 63-54, but the Giants continued to fight until the very last second and netted a basket and a free throw in the last 20 seconds of the game to bring it to 69-63.

Morgan Goettlicher lead the Giants in scoring with 17 points, followed closely by Fritz with 14 points, 12 of which were from the three-point zone. Karragen Straub also made the double digit zone with 10 points.

Rounding out the scoring effort for the Giants were Samantha Wilbright with eight points, Lauren Gregersen and Zoe Thomson with five each, and Kyla Samora with four points.

MAPLE RIVER FELLS GIANTS

The Giants followed the loss to TCU up with a 58-47 loss to Maple River on Saturday.

Goettlicher lead the Giants in scoring, with 12 points, followed by Samora with 11 points, Gregersen with 10, Straub with six, Wilbright with five and Fritz with three points.

The Giants have a busy schedule this week as they will play two MRC matchups and a non-conference game to conclude the regular season.

The Giants welcomed Southwest Christian on Tuesday (results unavailable by press time), head to Belle Plaine on Friday, and welcome Cleveland on Monday to finish the regular season.

Although the standings are not yet finalized, the Giants will begin the Section 2A playoffs on Monday, Feb. 24.



PHOTOS BY RACHEL MILLER

Zoe Thomson shoots and scores a basket for the Giants. Thomson netted five points in the Giants' close game against Tri-City United last Thursday at home. The Giants battled back from a 10-point, first-half deficit to tie the game and engaged in a back-and-forth points battle for the lead in the first part of the second half.



Although they may both be 6 feet tall, Morgan Goettlicher managed to leap and shoot over the extended arm of TCU's Kaia Krocak to score.



Junior Karragen Straub scored 10 points for the Giants against TCU last Thursday.