

Defending champ Olpe dominates Troy in Class 1A-I quarterfinal opener

By Brett Marshall

DODGE CITY – Olpe’s Eagles made it abundantly clear early that they aren’t quite ready to yield the Class 1A-I state championship trophy.

In the opening quarterfinal game of Class 1A-I at United Wireless Arena, the Eagles broke out to an early 10-0 lead and never looked in the rear-view mirror in what became a 51-21 triumph that advances them to the Friday semifinals against the Osborne-Macksville winner at 2 p.m.

Senior Derek Hoelting, who seemingly feels quite at home in United Wireless Arena, led the way with a double-double of 18 points and 12 rebounds. He was the lone double-figure scorer for Coach Chris Schmidt.

“Credit our defense, it’s been the big thing for us all year,” Schmidt said afterward. “We just try and not let anybody get comfortable on offense. When we do that, we’re usually in pretty good shape.”

Troy struggled mightily all game against the stifling Eagle defense, connecting on just 4-of-38 field goals for a chilly 10.5 percent. The Trojans hit 11-of-14 free throws. Olpe, meanwhile, hit 22-of-49 field goals for 44.9 percent.

The rebounding battle went the same way, Olpe leading 35-22 on the boards. Assists were 11-1 in favor of the Eagles and Troy committed 16 turnovers to 10 for Olpe. Jerrit Norris was a bright spot on the boards for the Trojans, matching Hoelting’s dozen caroms.

Troy, the No. 8 seed, sees its season end with a 16-8 record while Olpe improves to 23-1.

It didn’t take the Eagles long to establish dominance over the Trojans.

With Hoelting leading the way, Olpe jumped out to a 10-0 lead and was on top 12-2 at the first quarter break. Troy managed just a pair of free throws by Griffin Weber.

The next eight minutes were not that much different as Olpe went on another scoring run, finishing off the first half with a 15-2 advantage that sent them into the locker room up 27-6. Through 16 minutes, the Trojans still were without a field goal.

Hoelting, a 6-0 senior, was the big gun, finishing the first half with 15 points, including a pair of 3-point downtown jumpers.

As cold as the weather was outside United Wireless, the Trojans were even icier. They attempted 18 shots and made none. Olpe, meanwhile, wasn’t heating it up either, connecting on 42.3 percent on 11-of-26 field goals. Troy was guilty of eight turnovers to six for the Eagles. The rebounding edge was just as dominant for Olpe as the scoreboard showed, with a 22-7 bulge on the boards.

OLPE 51, TROY 21

TROY 2 4 9 6 -- 21

OLPE 12 15 8 16 -- 51

TROY (16-8) – Weber 0-13, 2-2 2, Benitz 1-4 0-0 2, Norris 1-7 4-6 6, Anderson 1-7 2-2 5, Hartman 1-6 1-2 4, Judd 0-1 0-0 0, Etherton 0-0 2-2 2. Totals 4-38 11-14 21.

OLPE (23-1) – Bailey 3-8 0-0 6, Der. Hoelting 7-9 2-3 18, D. Redeker 3-12 0-1 6, T. Skalsky 1-1 0-0 2, Foraker 1-2 0-0 2, B. Redeker 1-1 1-2 3, Dex. Hoelting 0-1 0-0 0, Heins 1-3 1-2 4, B. Skalsky 4-10 0-0 8, E. Redeker 1-1 0-0 2, Cole 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 22-49 4-8 51.

3-point goals—Troy 2-14 (Weber 0-5, Benitz 0-1, Anderson 1-5, Hartman 1-2, Judd 0-1), Olpe 3-13 (Bailey 0-4, Der. Hoelting 2-3, D. Redeker 0-4, Foraker 0-1, Heins 1-2). Rebounds—Troy 22 (Norris 12), Olpe 35 (Der. Hoelting 12). Assists—Troy 1 (Weber), Olpe 11 (D. Redeker 7). Fouls—Troy 11 Olpe 13. Fouled out—None.