

Golden Eagles rout Warriors in season opener



Ferndale's junior guard Ashley Lang led the team with 12 points in the Golden Eagles' 52-36 win over Edmonds-Woodway on Friday, Dec. 3. (Connor J. Benintendi/Ferndale Record)

By Connor J. Benintendi
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FERNDALE - The Golden Eagles opened their season with a notch in the win column.

Riding multiple double-digit offensive runs, suffocating defense and a balanced scoring attack, Ferndale was able to shut

down Edmonds-Woodway in dominating fashion.

After surrendering the first four points of the game to the Warriors, the Golden Eagles scored the next 15. The run spanned the final seven minutes of the first quarter and the beginning of the second.

Edmonds-Woodway wasn't getting anything

easy inside, and Ferndale effectively closed out on the Warriors' shooters. That 11-point lead carried over into a 22-11 halftime lead for the Golden Eagles.

By that point, Ferndale already had eight of their 11 players in the scoring column: unselfish basketball at its finest. Junior Ashley Lang led the team in scoring after

two periods with 9 points.

"I think seeing the post and seeing the outside shots were really big for us," Lang said. "Seeing those outside shots and then getting it inside was really working for us."

Edmonds-Woodway scored five straight to open the third, trimming Ferndale's lead to six. After a free

throw by junior guard Ellie Ochoa, sophomore guard Maleah Singson drilled her second 3-pointer of the game to extend the Golden Eagles' lead back to 10.

Many of Ferndale's scoring possessions were engineered by effective fast breaks. Edmonds-Woodway couldn't quite recover quick enough.

"We've been working really hard on our transition offense and looking for the open player," Singson said. "Getting our first game jitters out I think we played really well."

The end of the third quarter brought another scoring onslaught by Ferndale. In two minutes of game clock, the Golden Eagles mounted an 11-0 run to push their lead to 43-22.

Back-to-back 3-pointers by Lang and one by junior guard Cailyn Kessen made up the bulk of it. Edmonds-Woodway got one more 3-pointer before the end of the period, and Ferndale led by 18 heading into the fourth.

Ferndale's scoring slowed down in the fourth, putting in just nine points. However, they did enough defensively to hold the War-

riors to only 11 of their own. The Golden Eagles won it convincingly, 52-36.

Nine of Ferndale's 11 players finished the game with points, a testament to the team's passing. Lang led the Golden Eagles with 12 points, followed by Kessen with 10.

Singson dropped in 5 as Ochoa, junior forward Madysyn Butenschoen and sophomore guard Mallory Butenschoen also each had 5 points.

"We want to come together as a group and be like a family," said head coach Terri Yost. "I'm excited for this team, they're a great group of girls and they're fun to be around with high energy. They just get after it."

The Golden Eagles moved to 1-0 overall on the year and will play at Nooksack Valley (1-0) on Monday, Dec. 6.

Ferndale lost to Nooksack Valley on Monday, 86-73. They dropped to 1-1 overall following the loss, and will have a chance to get back in the win column on Tuesday, Dec. 7, when they travel to Mountlake Terrace. The results of that game were not yet available before publication.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Lynden Christian's senior guard **Libby Stump** scored 22 points while shooting perfect from the field (9/9 FG, 2/2 3-point FG) in the Lyncs' thrilling 59-58 season-opening loss to Snohomish. Stump added 8 rebounds, 2 assists and 2 steals to round out her outstanding performance.



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LYNDEN CHRISTIAN - BASKETBALL

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