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DELPHOS — Jefferson's girls basketball team had had a week to simmer over its last game, a 48-22 loss to Lincolnview in the Chatt Insurance Holiday Tournament at Parkway, when they returned to the court Saturday night versus Edgerton at Jefferson High School.

The Lady Wildcats had a much better effort this time but were outscored 16-4 in the fourth period to fall 46-38 in non-league action.

Fourth quarter dooms Lady Wildcats

Written by Jim Metcalfe Monday, January 07, 2013 5:04 PM - Last Updated Wednesday, February 27, 2013 3:58 PM

The Wildcats (4-8) led 34-30 at the start of the fourth but then their proclivity to have that one bad period came to the fore. Junior Katie Goergens (9 counters) fouled out at 7:33 for Delphos. The Lady Bulldogs (9-2) rode Hannah Griffin (13 markers) and her nine points in the period, including the lob from Lindsey Wheeler (3 assists, 4 steals) for a layup at 5:01 to take the lead for good at 39-37 in the midst of a 9-0 spurt. They claimed a 44-37 edge on a triple by Griffin — the game's only trifecta — at the 4-minute mark. The Lady 'Cats only scored four points in the stanza — a toss by junior Rileigh Stockwell (7:04), her basket at 5:40 and a freebie by sophomore Brooke Culp at 3:44.

"We've had that problem all year about playing good for three quarters and then having that one bad quarter. We were hanging in but that 3 by Griffin was huge; that broke our backs," Jefferson mentor Dave Hoffman said. "We struggled with turnovers all game but we had them far too often in stretches; we held them down but couldn't take advantage because we turned it over too many times."

Both teams had trouble with turnovers throughout the game — 26 by the Red and White and 24 by the visitors. They combined for 15 in the first period alone, as well as combining for 8-of-23 shooting. Jefferson scored the first 10 points — with four each from Stockwell and Goergens — and Stockwell's two singles at 3:20 gave them a 12-4 edge. The Bulldogs tallied the last six of the period, including a 14-footer from the right side by Laurel Schroeder at 1:13, to get within 12-10.

The Wildcats broke their drought with a free toss by junior Gabby Pimpas at 6:56 and Goergens added a fielder for a 15-10 edge. The Bulldogs answered with an 8-2 spurt to take its first lead at 2:34 on two singles by Mallorea Landel but it was short-lived. The hosts rallied with a 5-1 closing span, including a layup off a steal at the horn by Pimpas, for a 22-19 halftime bulge.

The third period saw four lead changes and one tie as neither team could get more than a 5-point lead — 28-23 on a single by Pimpas at 5:02. The Red and White scored the last six markers of the canto, including a free toss by junior Brooke Hesseing (5 markers) with 11.3 ticks to go, for a 34-30 margin.

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In sum, Edgerton downed 17-of-47 shots (1-of-10 trios) for 36.2 percent and 11-of-18 at charity (61.1%); secured 34 misses (13 offensive) as Kennedy Flower (11 counters) led with six; and added 20 fouls.

Jefferson netted 12-of-34 (0-of-6 beyond the arc) for 35.3 percent and 14-of-27 from 15 feet (51.9%); seized 28 caroms (8 offensive) as Stockwell led with eight and Pimpas five; and added 17 fouls. They visit Miller City 6 p.m. Tuesday.

"We had a lot better effort tonight; we played with a lot of energy, especially on defense," Hoffman added. "Last year, (Devin) Stark scored 14 on us; tonight, we held her to six. Offensively, we just seem to get in too big of a hurry at times shooting the ball; that has been a struggle for us, too, and we just need to slow down and not go too fast."

In junior varsity action, Edgerton moved to 10-1 with a 30-20 win.

Hannah Herman led the Lady Bulldogs with seven, while junior Jasmine McDougall and sophomore Heather Pohlman led the Lady Wildcats (3-8) with four each.