

COS loses heartbreaker



By Josh Oates

COS' season came to an end in a tough loss to Foothill on Wednesday.

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By Josh Oates

Daily News

Thu Feb 26, 2009, 09:54 AM PST

Weed, Calif. -

The College of the Siskiyous Eagles Men's basketball team lost an overtime heartbreaker 101-98 to the Foothill College Owls Wednesday night in Weed.

A defining moment came in the final 13 seconds. Locked up at 74-74, COS' Alden Gibbs intercepted a Foothill pass, and was two steps into what would have been a one man fastbreak show for the lead, when contact with a Foothill player sent Gibbs to the floor.

Fans waited for the foul call, but the only whistle that blew was an out-of-bounds call awarding the ball to the Owls with one last shot.

"He grabbed my leg and stopped me from winning the game," a disappointed Gibbs commented after the game.

While the Owls failed to convert in regulation and the game headed to overtime, they did make the most of their overtime gift, jumping to a 13- point advantage with less than a minute left.

Foothill then hung on for dear life as the Eagles took their best shot at a miracle, eventually trimming the margin of defeat to three points.

The controversial missed call brings the Eagles' season to a close, and managed to overshadow a remarkable 43-point performance by Eagle freshman Brian Cummings.

In the first half, Jeffrey Williams sparked the Eagle attack, opening the game with back to back 3s to give COS the early advantage.

Both teams failed to muster much offense after the early buckets, with 10:19 left in the half it was a 14-13 ball game.

That's when Cummings went off, scoring 16 of his 19 first half points in the final 10 minutes to stake the Eagles to a 37-32 advantage at the end of the first half.

The second half opened identically to the first with Williams stroking back-to-back 3's to extend the COS advantage to seven.

With the teams locked up 59-59, COS got a four-point gift when Foothill was called for an "over-the-

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back" foul, sending Williams to the line.

The call didn't sit well with a Foothill player, and before the teams setup for the free throws, a technical foul was whistled on the visitors.

Cummings strolled to the line and nailed both technical free throws, and Williams followed with two more giving COS the four-point advantage.

But COS could not maintain it as Foothill hit a 6-0 run to regain the lead.

Gibbs then hit an "And 1" layup to tie, but missed the free throw making it a 67-67 game with 2:44 remaining.

Cummings regained his first half form on the next Eagle possession with a behind the back dribble that left his defender lying on the ground, opening up a jumper to give COS the two-point lead.

Foothill responded with buckets on consecutive possessions to regain the lead, but Cummings came up big hitting a layup with a foul.

Cummings stroked the freebie to give COS the 72-71 advantage with 51.2 seconds remaining.

The pesky Owls responded with a three to regain the lead, but COS' big-man Dijon Edwards tied things up with 13.8 seconds left, and that's when Gibbs was tackled and the Eagles prevented from getting the win.

Foothill made the most of the extra period, coming out of the gates with a 19-6 run to stake themselves to a 13-point lead with time winding down.

The Eagles refused to go quietly, cutting the deficit to 12 before Cummings hit a three.

Drew McNabb then intercepted an Owl pass and nailed another 3 to make it a 96-90 game with 19.6 seconds left.

Two Foothill freethrows put the deficit back at 8, but Cummings converted three free throws after he was nailed attempting from long distance to make it a 5-point game.

Foothill again hit both freebies, but Cummings hit a trey to keep the Eagles alive.

Time, however, was not on COS' side as the buzzer sounded, and a group of disappointed Eagles headed off their home-floor.

Cummings was clutch all night, going 12 of 14 from the line and hitting 19 points in the first half, 7 in the second half, and 17 in the overtime period.

Gibbs netted 18 in his final performance as an Eagle, and Weed alum Jeffrey Williams hit four 3s en route to a 14-point performance in his final COS game.

Prep Hoops: Weed, MS advance

After opening round victories, both the Weed Cougar and Mount Shasta varsity boys are moving on in the Northern Section playoffs.

On Tuesday night, the Cougars made the long journey to Quincy where they knocked off the Trojans 47-33.

Aaron Power-Bearden led the Cougars with 18, while Tanner Shelton contributed 15.

On Wednesday night, the Mt. Shasta Bears took out Central Valley 65-54 to advance to the Div. 4 quarterfinals where they will meet up with the No. 1 seed Corning Cardinals Friday night in Corning.

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