

Miramonti's 19 not enough

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MARIETTA - Austin Miramonti led three Etowah players in double figures, but the Eagles fell to Harrison 65-58 on Saturday in the third game of the Atlanta High School Hoop Festival at the Cobb County Civic Center.

Miramonti connected on three 3-pointers and scored 13 of his 19 points in the second half, but it wasn't enough as the Hoyas (4-3) shot 59 percent from the floor and went 4-of-6 from the free-throw line in the final minute to seal the victory.

Miramonti added four rebounds, while Jeff Anderson finished with a double-double of 12 points and 10 rebounds. Anderson also had two steals and two 3-pointers.

Austin Salyers contributed 13 points, four assists and two steals for the Eagles. Damola Awe posted nine points and seven boards.

"I think we wore down a little bit in the second half," Etowah coach Don Hurlburt said. "We shot 17-for-25 from the foul line and we shot 13 3s in the second half. That's not our style to come down and shoot that many 3s.

"Our shot selection wasn't as good as it needed to be. We have to be more patient, but what I saw

out there was a great effort by our kids. We just have to get smarter with the ball, be smarter with our decisions, and we have to make our foul shots."

Etowah (3-7), which has lost two straight and four of its last six, trailed 14-13 at the end of the first quarter and 30-28 at halftime.

Reid Olsen's 3-pointer to start the second half ignited a 10-4 run for Etowah, which also got five points from Miramonti.

Trailing 38-34 with 4:44 left in the period, Harrison responded with back-to-back 3s from Elijah Lewis and Jamal Watson, and a putback from Marshall Guilmette, to spark an 18-2 run that put the Hoyas in front 52-40 with 6:43 remaining in the game.

A Miramonti 3 ended the spurt, and Salyers' layup with 42.5 seconds left pulled Etowah to within 62-48 with less than minute remaining. But Harrison made enough free throws in the end to clinch the win.

Harrison's Ryan Blumenthal, who recorded 20 points in the first half, led all scorers with 22 points. Guilmette contributed eight points, 10 rebounds and four assists, while Julian Lavender had six points, six rebounds and two assists.

Seven players scored five or more points for Harrison, which didn't attempt its first free throw until 4:50 was left in the game and finished 6-for-11 from the line.

"I think our execution throughout most of the game was poor," Harrison coach Robert Churchwell III said, "but, for a couple of spurts there in the third and in the fourth, we put everything together and we were able to build a 12-point lead. That kind of pushed us through for the rest of the game.

"Ryan was on fire (in the first half). He was catching and shooting and driving well to the basket. In the second half, he got some help. And, without a doubt, (Etowah) keyed on him some more in the second, which allowed some of our other guys to get open. It was a team effort."

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