

# Badgers slow to get back into form following holiday break

By CLAY WHITTINGTON  
Staff Writer

Like most of us, the Badgers returned to work after the Christmas break a little off their game.

Despite being a step slower, and perhaps a pound or two heavier thanks to some holiday home cooking, Lampasas was back into the swing of things by the time the Cameron Chamber Christmas Classic Basketball Tournament wrapped up Tuesday.

The Badgers dropped their first pair of games in the two-day tourney before making it to the consolation championship game, where they fell by four points to Brenham.

"Taking [six] days off with my guys is not good, and that's basically what it came down to," head coach Scott Harrelson said.

Lampasas certainly did not look rusty in the opening quarter of the tournament when it built a 23-9 lead against 16<sup>th</sup>-ranked 2A Hearne, but fatigue set in after the first eight minutes, and the Eagles pulled to within six points by halftime.

After intermission, the Badgers were outscored 26-17 and lost by three points, 56-53.

"We jumped out on them, and then we started to shoot ourselves in the foot and ran out of gas," Harrelson said. "Ultimately, at the end of the game, we had three or four chances to win the game, and we didn't. We didn't finish."

Heath Hopson led the way for Lampasas, scoring a game-high 29 points to go with 10 rebounds, nine steals and five blocks.

But even the 6-4 guard looked out of sync at times, especially in the



PHOTOS BY RICHARD AKRIDGE  
**Senior Jordy Carnes (center) wrestles for a loose ball during Lampasas' opening-round loss to Hearne at the Cameron Yoe Tournament Monday.**

second round against Bellville.

At the free-throw line, Hopson accounted for eight of the Badgers' 17 missed free throws, including five misses in the fourth quarter, as the Brahmas pulled out a 67-63 victory.

Even with the miscues, Hopson had an outstanding game, posting 26 points, 12 rebounds, eight

steals, eight blocks and three assists.

The Badgers led by six points after the first half and controlled the contest through three quarters, but Bellville exploded for 28 points in the final eight minutes.

Losing Hopson to fouls with three minutes remaining in the game certainly did not help the situation. Shortly after Hopson fouled out, fellow starter Warren Scott was whistled for his final foul.

On Tuesday, Lampasas returned to the court for another double-header of action, starting off against McLennan County.

With Hopson resting for a large portion of the game in hopes of being fresh for the tournament's final round, Harrelson received offensive contributions from almost everyone in uniform as the Badgers cruised to a 68-47 victory. Senior Scott scored 12 points, and Jordy Carnes finished with 10. Reserve guard Jonathan VanLiew helped fill the stat sheet with six assists, four rebounds and four steals.

Hopson grabbed 18 rebounds in limited action.

"Our defense was excellent," Harrelson said. "We started to look like the team we were [before the break]."

Prior to the holiday, the Badgers were on a three-game winning streak and won their last two contests by a combined 90 points.

The win sent Lampasas to the consolation championship game, where it faced off against a talented Brenham squad.

Again, the Badgers had opportunities in the game's waning moments to grab a victory but could not capitalize and fell 46-42.

"We had the ball in the middle of the key, down by two, and we got a



**Guard Heath Hopson (4) goes to the rim against Hearne. Hopson finished the game with 29 points, 10 rebounds, nine steals and five blocks.**

## Home games tonight

The Badgers varsity team plays Dripping Springs tonight at 7 p.m. with subvarsity games starting at 5:15 p.m.



**Eight is more than enough**  
Nick Henniger, 13, recently killed this eight-point buck in Bend, with the guidance of his Grandpa, R.J. Henniger.



**Eduardo Davila slices his way through a sea of Eagle defenders Monday.**

# Hot-shot Bishop leads LHS to success at KSA Tournament in Orlando

By CLAY WHITTINGTON  
Staff Writer

The Lady Badgers' trip to Walt Disney World got off to a rocky start, but it ended with a bang.

Like the regular fireworks displays at the Magic Kingdom, Lampasas had to wait patiently for its grand finale to come after dropping the opening-round game of the KSA Tournament in Orlando to Harlan, Ky., 47-42.

But the end result was worth the wait, as the Lady Badgers rolled through the remainder of their competition to win the consolation championship.

Due to a minor injury, junior post Lauren Barlow missed the entire first half of the Harlan contest before rejoining her teammates after the break.

As if missing a key starter was not bad enough, head coach Stuart Beckwith also missed the first half, as he accompanied Barlow to the

hospital.

In addition to the unforeseen absences, the Lady Badgers had difficulty overcoming turnovers and blew a seven-point lead en route to defeat.

"We really lost our cool down the stretch," Beckwith said.

In the second round, Lampasas ran into New Jersey's Orange High and unlike their first-round let-up, the Lady Badgers built a double-digit advantage and maintained their composure to earn a 45-36 victory.

Paced by Barlow's 20 points and junior Sarah Bishop's 18-point outburst, Lampasas hit key free throws to ensure the win and advance to the consolation championship contest.

Pitted against Castlewood from Virginia, the Lady Badgers received another impressive offensive game from Bishop, who led the team in scoring for a second time in three games. She

posted 20 points.

"She played the best three consecutive games of the year, hitting inside shots, outside shots and her free throws," Beckwith said. "She played good defense, too."

Lampasas built a 13-point lead before showing signs of cracking; however, unlike their game against Harlan, the Lady Badgers refused to succumb to the pressure and pulled out a two-point victory at 71-69.

"They were one of the best teams we've played all year," Beckwith said.

Bishop's performances earned her a spot on the all-tournament team after she was selected by the tournament committee as the Lady Badgers' MVP.

Now Lampasas must shift its focus from tournament play to district play, as a Tuesday evening trip to rival Hutto looms on the schedule.



**Starter Warren Scott prepares to release a shot as a defender guards him closely during the Cameron Yoe Tournament.**



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