

Nay Ah Shing and Bug-O-Nay-Ge-Shig

Elementary boys' and girls' basketball games Feb. 15, 2017

Highlights: Maiingan's vs Silver Eagles

Our schools played two 20 minute halves with continuous running clock time. Coaches agreed not to play a full court pressure game. So the offensive team who has possession of the ball is able to set up and begin being guarded by the defensive team when the ball crosses over the half court line.

Our 11 boys played a very good defensive game. I'm proud on how well they switched back and forth between man-to-man defense and their zone defense. Offensively, the boys struggled with running their motion offensive plays together. However, they did a wonderful job of passing the ball from player to player looking for just the right opportunity to take a shot. There was a lot of free lancing taking place during this time and it seemed to work for them since this is what our motion offense encourages. We had tons of great shots and rebound chances to making baskets, however, many of the shots made resulted in the ball bouncing around the rim and then out again. The final score ended 4 for Maiingans and 7 for the Silver Eagles. The boys played well together, gave it their all, and shook hands with the other team holding their heads held high showing dignity and honor. Well done boys!

Our 8 girls played in a very exciting game. The Lady Silver Eagles came out and scored first and then were soon on the scoreboard once again. Our Lady Maiingans took about six minutes of the first half before they were able to put there game jitters behind them and settle down. I noticed they struggled with the girl-to-girl defense and switched them into our zone defense for the rest of the game. This is when they began to shine. The girls were able to put fantastic front court pressure on the Silver Eagles distance shooters and picked up the majority of the rebounds under the basket. Offensively, we began scoring with great passes to our inside players. The girls kept their wits about them and began reading the court with perfection by picking up numerous pass interceptions. Before we knew it, the regulation game ended in a tie of 10 to 10 sending us into a 10 minute overtime game. I continued rotating our girls in and out of the game to help keep their legs strong since we were not used to practicing on a full sized basketball court. Our girls showed great determination and heart and never gave up. The Silver Eagles again came out in overtime play and scored first. We soon answered and tied with 12 all. Both teams presented good defensive skills and it looked like we were to end in a tie once again. Then it happened, Maiingans took possession of the ball and raced down court. The fans began counting down 10, 9, 8 seconds left on the clock. We passed the ball and then struggled to find another open player. The fans continued counting 3, 2, and then the pass was made and a foul was committed in the process. The clock was stopped at 1.25 seconds remaining. Lady Maiingans found themselves in their first free throw situation of the game. A one-and-one chance to score with a tie game of 12 to 12. The referee's helped situate the players in their proper positions. The excitement was in the air when our player was handed the ball. I was very pleased when I watched our shooter adjust her footing so she wouldn't cross over the free throw line; just like we practiced. She took her time, took her shot, held her breath and sunk her basket. The second shot went up, bounded off the rim landing in the hands of a Lady Silver Eagle then the buzzer sounded leaving the final score Lady Maiingans 13 and Lady Silver Eagles 12.

I am proud to say every boy and girl played, and every boy and girl played up to their potential. Each of our athletes represented Nay Ah Shing School in very positive and honorable ways.

Coach,

Dominick Polito