Written by By Bernie Dotson For the Sun
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The Farmington Lady Scorpions opened the scoring Feb. 3 against Gallup with a free throw shot, but that was the sole moment that the 5A foe led the Lady Bengals in the girls basketball game played at Gallup High School.

The Lady Bengals won the matchup 82-54, rebounding from losing two of their last three 5A games. Gallup (14-8, 3-3) beat Farmington Jan. 18 by the score of 59-54 in a game that developed into a nail-biter.

“I thought we played very hard,” Gallup head coach Todd McBroom said. “This was a very good effort on our part.”

The Lady Scorpions hit a free throw to jump out to a 1-0 lead. But Gallup ultimately went up 20-10 behind the scoring duo of junior guard Hanna Toledo and sophomore forward Laila Etsitty. Toledo played stellar defense on the other end, holding the Farmington guards to very few touches of the ball.

The Lady Bengals led the game 37-23 at halftime. “We fell behind early and it wasn’t easy trying to make a comeback,” Farmington head coach Brady Rivers said. “Give credit to a very good Gallup team.”

Gallup outscored Farmington (8-14, 1-5) in the third quarter and by the time the quarter ended the Lady Bengals were up by a substantial margin, having gone on a 26-8 run. Junior forward Ashley Antone scored eight points in the run and the Lady Scorpions had no answer for the versatile Antone.

Antone scored a game high 20 points. Toledo put down 13 points and Yazzie and Smith scored 11 points apiece. Sophomore forward Chloe Finch and junior guard Jordan Vasquez of Farmington each hit 16 points.

The game saw two technical fouls called on Farmington. One was against forward Philinda Nez for swinging an elbow on a rebound and another called against Rivers for objecting.

The Lady Bengals were coming off back-to-back losses against Aztec (52-40) and Kirtland (66-65). The Kirtland game went into overtime.

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