ESF Mighty Oaks basketball traveled to rival Paul Smith’s College on Sunday to take on the Bobcats.

The first 6 minutes of the first half saw the Oaks and Bobcats exchange leads multiple times until a 12-12 tie erupted into a 32-14 Paul Smiths run to end the half as ESF went cold from the field, shooting just 30% for the half.

The Mighty Oaks climbed back quickly from a 26-44 half time deficit as their defense forced 6 Bobcat turnovers in the first eight minutes of the 2nd frame, pushing the Oaks to a 60-59 lead.

Paul Smith's and ESF exchanged leads twice until the score was notched up at 71-71 with just under 2 minutes to play as both squads dug in on the defensive end. Down 71-73, with a minute left, ESF came up short on two layups that would have tied things up, as the Bobcats were able to seal things up from the free-throw line as the Oaks fell 73-79.

ESF was led by an inspired performance by junior Brett Zimmerman, who had a team high and season's best 18 points along with 8 rebounds. Freshman Sage Beemer chipped in 15 points and 7 rebounds and sophomore Danny MacElrath turned in another double-double with 13 points and 10 boards.

The Oaks will wrap up their inaugural varsity season at home (Christian Brothers Academy) on Senior Day against the visiting New School on Saturday. Tip is at 3pm.