JAMES GIBBARD / Tulsa World

The Ropers square off against Webster in girls basketball Friday night as Rogers High School opens its new arena.

Rogers wins openers

The Ropers open their new arena with decisive victories.

By Dean Clark
World Correspondent

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

A new athletic era began at Rogers Friday night with the opening of a $4 million fieldhouse, officially named the Rogers Activity Center but already known as the RAC, and the debuts of new coaches for both the boys' and girls' teams.

Though the first basket in the arena was scored by the opponents, things went as well for Rogers as they could. Both teams opened up double-figure leads very quickly and coasted to lopsided victories.

The new arena replaces the one that opened when Rogers itself opened in 1939. The RAC has more than twice as many seats as its predecessor, 1,100 to about 500, a weight room, lockers in the dressing rooms, and a definite 21st-century atmosphere.

"It is one of the top facilities in the city and we are lucky to be in it," said Rogers athletic director Sean Brannon.

If the opening is an omen, basketball life will be good for the Ropers in the immediate future. Rogers won both junior varsity games in addition to the varsity blowouts — a 55-45 victory for the girls and a 78-56 runaway for the boys.

Rogers' Dejuante Gilstrap banked in a 3-point shot on the first possession of the boys' game and the Ropers steadily pulled away.

The lead got into double figures early in the second quarter, rose to 38-17 at intermission, and crested at 55-24 with three minutes left in the third quarter.

William Ray led the Rogers offense with 20 points. Gilstrap had 15 and Dominique Rowe had 12.

"This was a long time coming," said new head coach Keary King. "We were 4-19 last year so we were not used to games like this."

"It was a great relief to get a victory in my first game as a head coach," said King. "Getting a four game sweep on opening night is a great boost for out program."

Rogers 55, Webster 45 (girls): Webster's Alexa Booth scored the first varsity points in the new arena, but almost everything went right for Rogers after that.

Mya Whitney hit a 3-point shot with 6:22 left in the first quarter to give Rogers a lead that it never relinquished in either game the rest of the evening.

Girls

ROGERS 55, WEBSTER 45

Webster	8	5	17	15	— 45
Rogers	18	8	14	15	— 55

Webster: Robinson 15, Booth 14, Warner 8, Gougler 6..
Rogers: Whitney 19, Shando 9, Adams 8, D.Colbert 6, W.Colbert 4, Cox 4, Masters 3, Gordon 2.

Boys

ROGERS 78, WEBSTER 56

Webster	8	9	16	23	— 56
Rogers	16	22	21	19	— 78

Webster: H.Dew 15, Oversby 8, Campbell 7, K.Williams 5, Lane 4, Devers 4, W.Williams 4, Pierce 4.
Rogers: Ray 20, Gilstrap 15, Rowe 12, Garrett 8, Jackson 8, Pettis 7, Miles 4, Moment 1, Johnson 1.