

By Pastor Vince Carrig

Sports Writer

Tanya Metcalf burned up the net with 26 points, and a fierce press defense pulled her Lady Plainsmen away from a 25-24 contest onward to a 61-47 win in Maxwell Friday night.

Metcalf usually used her size advantage only to create space; she dotted the lane with jumpers she either swished or rolled down. From the foul line to the baseline, 11 field goals fell in as well as all four free throw shots Metcalf took.

Metcalf swung the game decidedly for Perkins County just after halftime, downing a “j” from the foul line and immediately back-pedaling to intercept an outlet pass at center court and setting up Mackenzie Hite for an open shot just inside the arc. Those two plays and quick four points weighted the scales to the Lady Plainsmen’s side at 34-28.

Perkins County’s Jessi Day also outscored all Lady Wildcats with 15. The ball Day shot in the first quarter from behind the arc touched nothing until half of it came out of the net. She swished another from just inside the arc, and got free to put away Brooke Poppe’s cross-court pass that made a loud hand slap in Day’s hand.

Metcalf tallied two jumpers and Day a “three” for a 7-0 Lady Plainsmen lead, but the local Lady Wildcats roared back with 10 points in a row.

Maxwell guard Maggie Burke, who scored in every quarter for 14, put the backboard to good use in the first quarter and hit a final shot with her foot on the arc to bring the Lady Wildcats to within two at 28-26 at the second quarter’s end.

The Lady Plainsmen effectively used a full-court press and trapping defense to influence interceptions. They surrendered less than 10 points all game while leaving the back end unguarded, but repeatedly had the ball returned from Maxwell on traveling calls, intercepted passes and dropped passes.

“We felt that with our speed we could win the turnover battle against Maxwell,” Lady Plainsmen Head Coach Chris Mestl said after the game. “The girls did a good job of making Maxwell handle the ball in the full court thus causing them turnovers throughout the evening.”

“We did a better job in the second half of pressuring the basketball everywhere on the court.”

Mackenzie Hite exchanged two of those interceptions for points, finishing one drive with a left-handed layup and advancing a long pass to Day for some more. Hite scored nine points.

Jenni Sis intercepted a pass in Perkins County's defensive lane and took the ball coast-to-coast for a left-handed breakaway bucket.

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Perkins Co. vs. Maxwell

Perkins County 9 19 16 17—61

Maxwell 10 16 9 12—47