



By Pastor Vince Carrig

Sports Writer

Lady Plainsmen guard Jessi Day started her senior season well by hitting her first three-point attempt and leading her team with 13 points in a 52-43 Perkins County victory over Maxwell Friday night in Grant.

Day later hit another three- pointer to go along with a three-point play in the second quarter to put her team ahead 20-13 at halftime.

Shania Metcalf shined at the foul line in her first start, running six of eight shots through after absorbing contact. Familiar with the territory, she also turned at the foul line and drained a

jumper in the second quarter to give Perkins County a 16-11 lead.

Maxwell did not go quietly, taking an 11-8 second quarter lead after surrendering the first six points of the game. Versatile senior Cassie Schuett led all scorers with 16 points, including two three-pointers and a game-high 14 rebounds.

The Lady Plainsmen received significant contributions from Tanya Metcalf, their rebounds leader (with eight), who floated a third quarter shot through from four feet away to give her team a 35-25 lead at the end of the third quarter. Tanya Metcalf mixed in a few free throws and an impressive snuff, finishing with nine points.

Michi Prante, the only other Perkins County player with multiple field goals, put back a loose offensive rebound and spotted up for a jumper in the wheel to finish with six points.

Starting point guard Kristin Beck kept the Lady Wildcats at a distance, stepping into a three-pointer and driving to the rack in third quarter action. A couple of free throws increased Beck's final total to nine points.

In a game watched closely, referees disqualified five players who reached the five-foul limit.

The Lady Plainsmen's defense frequently slowed Maxwell's offense to a probing pace, as Perkins County's unit sealed paths to the basket and prevented open shots. It held the Lady Wildcats to just 13 first-half points.

PC 52. Maxwell 43

Maxwell 4 9 12 18—43

Perkins Co. 6 14 15 17—52

Next Action

The Lady Plainsmen must travel to meet the 0-3 Kimball Lady Longhorns on Friday, who have lost to Sidney, Gering, and Douglas, Wyoming by nine points or more. They return to Grant to take on the Gothenburg Lady Swedes. Also a C1 team, Gothenburg lost to Hershey by 27 and Lexington by 32 this past weekend.

PC vs. Hershey

Daynlee Miller drained three consecutive three-point shots on successive third quarter trips up the floor to help pull her Hershey Panthers past the Lady Plainsmen, 42-30 Saturday afternoon in Grant.

The athletic and skilled sophomore guard Miller warmed up slowly, but eventually took control of the game with her ability to dribble through the Plainsmen defense and create open shots for both her teammates and herself. She finished with 23 points after not scoring in the first quarter.

The Lady Panthers pulled away for their second win in as many days after Perkins County lit them up for 14 of the game's first 17 points.

Tanya Metcalf stole a pass and dribbled the length of the floor to put the game's first score on the Lady Plainsmen's side. She later ripped an offensive rebound loose and did damage with foul shots.

After senior guard Jessi Day drained a three-pointer, stole a dribble for a score and banked one in, Perkins County looked ready to rout Hershey off the floor at 14-3.

The Lady Panthers, however, switched to a pressing and trapping defense that suffocated the time and space out of Perkins County ball handlers.

Hershey's pressure resulted in a parade of turnovers—37 in all—that opened the opportunity for a comeback and comfortable win.

Whistles for traveling, double dribbling, stepping out of bounds and not advancing the ball past half-court in less than 10 seconds frustrated the Lady Plainsmen offense into almost scoring less points in the last three quarters combined (16) than they did in the first quarter (14).

Hershey guard Sierra Young and forward Maegan Hiatt got to the basket with authority for Hershey, scoring eight points apiece.

Day connected for her second three pointer of the game in the third quarter to pull her Perkins County team to within one point of the lead at 20-19. She and Tanya Metcalf each finished with eight points.

Tanya Metcalf's third quarter free throw cut Hershey's lead to seven (33-26), but quick layups by Brooke Frederick and Hiatt returned the Lady Panthers to a double-digit cushion.

Turnovers continued to rear their ugly head and prevent the home team from mounting a late challenge.

Lady Plainsmen split opening games

Reserve sophomore guard Michi Prante put back a rebound and drove to swish a mid-range jumper for four points for Perkins County. Teammate Tori Osler used the glass and hit two free throws to arrive at the same total.

PC 30, Hershey 42

Hershey 5 15 13 9—42

Perkins Co. 14 2 7 7—30

Next Action

The girls travel to Kimball Friday night to face the Lady Longhorns and then host the Gothenburg Lady Swedes on Saturday.