

By Pastor Vince Carrig

Sports Writer

Guard Darbi Klinkhammer stole a pass and ran half the court to the hoop to seal a 40-36 victory for the Lady Longhorns over Perkins County in Kimball Friday night.

Despite scoring just three points in the fourth quarter, Kimball clenched the 37-31 lead it took into the final eight minutes. Deliberate in their offensive sets, the Lady Longhorns defended well enough to influence five Lady Plainsmen missed shots and two turnovers in the final 5:03.

The Lady Plainsmen scored just one point in the final 5:03, a Tanya Metcalf free throw inside the final minute.

Guard Shelby Dickerson connected on just one shot for the entire game, but it gave Kimball the separation it panted after for 22 minutes. Dickerson loaded up from two feet behind the right side of the arc and hit an open three-pointer to put the Lady Longhorns ahead 35-31 in the third quarter.

Disaster then struck for Perkins County, when an inbounds pass from the offensive baseline to the right side of the basket found forward Hannah Stull, who jumped and lumped the Lady Plainsmen behind the largest lead Kimball would have in the game, 37-31.

Despite a foul-line bank shot and press-breaking layup from Lady Plainsmen high-scorer Shania Metcalf to start the fourth quarter (pulling Perkins County to just two points behind at 37-35), a comeback proved too tall of an order.

The Lady Plainsmen had last seen a tie game when forward Shalee Pollard put home a straying offensive rebound and turned the scoreboard to 28-28 with 10:29 left.

Perkins County took its last lead at 12-10 on Jessi Day's bank shot from the left side of the rim. That seemed like ancient history and the Lady Longhorns quickly tied the game afterward.

Klinkhammer and post player Tori Reader both led Kimball with 11 points. The guard struck for her team's other three pointer in the second quarter. Reader drummed in five of six foul shots and moved fluidly in the paint for two field goals.

Tanya Metcalf and Day pumped in seven points apiece for the traveling Lady Plainsmen. Day ran out in transition consistently and got two field goals that way. Tanya Metcalf scored on two close shots and one from just inside the foul line.

The transition game disappointed Perkins County in Kimball, with outlet pass receivers showing difficulty in pulling the pass in or controlling their forward momentum to make an accurate shot.

Sophomore guard Michi Prante started the game and helped the Lady Plainsmen offense with two seeing-eye passes for first quarter assists. Prante (two points) landed a shot from just inside the arc and attracted four rebounds in the second quarter alone.

Two more players scored for Kimball than the Lady Plainsmen (eight to six). More than just a statistic, reserves Whitney Lockwood and Shelby Vogel scored to help Kimball build its critical 37-31 lead in the third quarter with their only points of the game.

Lockwood broke a 28-28 tie by stealing a dribble and turning it in for points.

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