

By Pastor Vince Carrig

Sports Writer

Lady Irish sophomore guard Mandy O'Malley stripped three dribbles cleanly (two for scores) and St. Pat's beat Perkins County for the first time in five years with a 57-40 win in North Platte last Tuesday night.

O'Malley co-led her team with 14 points, sharing the honor with Shelby Alberry. Alberry showed enthusiasm for shooting when open, and made good on three-pointers to open each half.

With the huge exception of a 22-0 St. Pat's run that spanned even over halftime, the teams played nearly evenly. But ignoring that would match with asking Mary Todd Lincoln how she liked the Ford's Theater play.

"I think our girls got passive during the second and third quarters," Lady Plainsmen Head Coach Chris Mestl said after the game. "I believe if we play fast and aggressive ALL game we will be a much improved team. That is what we went out and focused on during the fourth quarter and we got better as a team."

Ringleader of the run, O'Malley dialed up a couple of three-pointers. She also ran in a half-court break during the spurt.

Undoubtedly glad to get the five-year-old "monkey" off their proverbial backs, cast members from last year's sub-district final kicked into gear, with Brianna Wieseler (13 points) showing a couple of unstoppable spin moves and Candice Shelton (10 points) making herself very

comfortable in the middle of the lane.

North Platte St. Pat's committed to an aggressive, full-court press defense during the run, and it paid dividends in the form of turnovers.

The Lady Plainsmen avoided an early rout after surrendering 10 of the first 12 points thanks to six points by team-high scorer Tanya Metcalf (13 points). The visitors wearing red almost evened the contest at 14-13.

The older Metcalf sister split two defenders and moved around another for a basket, and ran in a steal-and-score herself.

Tori Osler picked up eight points for the Lady Plainsmen due to her ability to work around the basket and power in bank shots and earn free throws. Osler stroked four of the five free throws offered her, including the completion of a three-point play.

Perkins County guard Kristin Beck (five points) knocked down a three-pointer and pulled up for a foul-line jumper after crossing over a defender.

Kim Cook scored her first varsity points, stepping into a Lady Plainsmen field goal from just inside the arc.

P. C.            10   3   8   19—40

St. Pat's       12   17   17   11—57

