

By Pastor Vince Carrig

Sports Writer

Jake Sexson and Quinton Hite exploded for 14 points between them in the third quarter, and the Plainsmen blew open a 20-19 game at halftime for a 50-36 win over Maxwell in the Holiday Tournament's opening round.

Hite stripped Wildcats-Ben Sukraw's dribble for a breakaway layup, then scooped in another layup on the very next play to open a 30-21 lead for the Plainsmen.

Sexson banked a couple of shots and reached with his foot on the arc as he poured in eight points in the third quarter, which Perkins County won by 10 points.

Three Plainsmen scorers achieved double figures: Hite with 12, Sexson 11 and Alex Johnston 10 points.

Johnston also swiped a steal for points, and his second quarter points energized Perkins County's transition game and helped overcome a three-point deficit.

Twisting, turning, and springing to the basket, Maxwell's tallest forward Ben Sukraw outscored all with 15 points. Sukraw penetrated to the basket early, then remained around the arc in a nine-point third quarter where he hit from both sides of the three-point line.

Power forward Brandon Groseth took control of a putback and also bounced a free throw off the glass to give the Wildcats a 15-11 lead.

Neither team looked exactly like the contestants in Perkins County's 26-point blowout win earlier in the year, especially Maxwell on their early 11-0 run.

Blake Poppe and Colton White both escaped for wide-open Plainsmen baskets in the fourth quarter.

Perkins Co. vs Maxwell

Maxwell 9 10 4 13—36

Perkins Co. 11 9 14 16—50

Leading scorers—Perkins County: Hite 2FG (2[x3]) 2/2FT—12; Sexson 4 (1)—11; Johnston 4 2/4—10;

Maxwell: Sukraw 6 (1)—15; Groseth 3 5/6—11.