

By Pastor Vince Carrig

Sports Writer

Big man Logan Bischoff hung in mid-air for contact, then contorted to knock shots down and guard Jacob Maris spun up some "threes" for a 19-3 run that turned a neck-and-neck, 38-38 chess match into a 67-48 Broncos blowout win over the Plainsmen in Wauneta Friday night.

Bischoff set up three "and one" three-point plays for himself in the second half by hanging on through fouls, scoring, and heading to the line to lead all scorers with 18 points.

The guard Maris trampled Perkins County's hopes of a road win with high-arching "threes" that gave Wauneta the lead permanently at 41-38 and by piling on another one to make the score 50-40 as the fourth quarter began.

The Plainsmen sprinted out of the gate with a 7-2 lead thanks to a triple and back-door layup from Elliot Carlson.

An off-hand layup from Alex Johnston built an 11-4 Plainsmen lead; Blake Poppe backed down a defender and hit two foul shots to make it 14-9, and Taylor Boldt's two free throws whipped Perkins County into stride and ahead 16-9.

But Bischoff reined in the Plainsmen from there: after his right-handed shot off the left side of the backboard gave Wauneta a 26-25 lead, the teams looked to be headed for a photo finish.

Plainsmen guard Jake Sexson's pair of third quarter triples could not fence in Broncos gone wild though, with guard Reese West skying to the rack for a layup and free throws, reserve forward Bo Fanning cleaning up missed shots, and swing forward Jack McGraw reaching from beyond the arc and at the foul line.

Quinton Hite's wide-open "three" sprung Perkins County to a 29-27 lead right after halftime. Hite hit from both sides of the arc again and led his team with 12 points.

As the wheels came off the Plainsmen's cart in the third and fourth quarters, their woes included four foul shots that rattled out or rolled off, a lob pass to no one, a dribbler's foot on the sideline, and West's out-of-control drive that created contact and got him sent to the line.

Foul trouble plagued Perkins County as well; they watched Johnston exit after reaching his limit and prayed Poppe to remain in the game as he approached his foul allotment.

Perkins County junior reserve Brendon Barry washed the top of the backboard with a long, high, wide-angle shot that found the net as the final buzzer sounded.

Next Action

Next action: The Plainsmen met Sutherland again in the SPVA Tournament's first round on Tuesday night at Mid Plains Community College in North Platte, with coverage in next week's issue. The 8-2 North Platte St. Pat's Irish and 7-3 Hershey Panthers stand in the way of Perkins County winning the first place plaque, consolation and championship games on Friday and Saturday.

Perkins Co. 48, Wau/Pau 67

Perkins Co. 14 12 14 8-48

Wau/Pal. 9 18 20 20-67

Leading scorers-Perkins County: Hite 3 FG (2[x3])-12; Sexson 1 (2)-8; Boldt 2 3/6FG-7; Carlson 1 (1) 1/3-6;

Wauneta-Palisade: Bischoff 6 6/8-18; Maris (4)-12; McGraw 2 (1) 4/8-11; Pollman 1 (1) 4/4-9.