By Pastor Vince Carrig
Sports Writer

The Plainsmen suffered their third-consecutive loss by three points or fewer Friday as the Longhorns edged them 48-45 Friday night in Kimball.

The 3-0 Longhorns sandwiched halftime with a triple-decker of three pointers to give them the edge they needed in an otherwise back-and-forth, even game.

Athletic forward Caleb Reuter exploded a shot from the right corner of the floor into the very bottom of the net, with the ball's backspin causing the net to flip just before halftime.

Taking a 27-23 lead into the big break, Longhorns guard Zach Rockhold-O'Brien bombed in two more from beyond and wide center Jake Reader flushed an inbounds pass for a 35-25 Kimball lead.

Three players scoring 13 points each proved a bad omen for the visiting Plainsmen; just when one cooled off, another got hot.

Reuter flew and twisted to the rack, scoring 10 points in the first half. Guard Zach Rockhold-O'Brien picked up for him in the third quarter, lacing in two of his three "threes" from beyond the arc. Reader propelled Kimball into the fourth quarter with three field goals and three free throws in the second half.

The Plainsmen took an early lead on center Blake Poppe's spin move off the left block and great pass down the right lane line to set up points for Caleb Breazeale and an 8-4 Perkins County lead.

Poppe followed those exploits with an impressive right hook shot to pull Perkins County out of the first quarter with a 10-9 lead.

After forward Reader stashed another inbounds pass, Perkins County's leading scorer, Quinton Hite, went to work.

Hite (12 points) rattled down a three pointer to cut the Longhorns' lead to nine points at 39-30, then found himself open for another one to lasso the Plainsmen within three points of the lead, 43-37 in the third quarter.

Poppe's soft hook shot from the right baseline cut the Kimball lead to a manageable four points (43-39), with four minutes left, but Reuter, Reader and Rockhold-O'Brien put the "W" in the storage shed by shooting 7-for-11 from the free throw line afterward.

Tim Johnson scored points just when the Plainsmen needed them, keeping comeback hopes alive. Two of his high-speed layups reduced the Longhorns' breathing room, cutting their lead to 21-19 and 41-34 at two different times in the game.

Reserves Bernie Bridge, Colton Stull and Austin Pile scored their only field goals of the game in the second quarter, boosting Kimball to an 18-point output and a 24-23 lead before Reuter's rotating shot.

Plainsmen swing forward Jake Sexson flashed down the court with a rebound that Johnson stole and through the right wing for fourth quarter points toward his total of seven for the game.

P.C. 45, Kimball 48

Perkins Co.	10	13	9	13—45
Kimball	9	18	14	7—48

Scoring leaders—Perkins County: Hite 3FG (2x3)—12; Poppe 4—8; Johnson 3 2/3FT—8; Sexson 3 1/2—7; Kimball: Reuter 3 (1) 4/8—13; Reader 5 3/4—13; Rockhold-O'Brien 1 (3)

2/4—13.