By Pastor Vince Carrig
Sports Writer

Lady Plainsmen almost pulled off an amazing comeback; down by as many as 15 points and 11 in the third quarter, Perkins County took a brief lead only to fall 39-35 to the Lady Raiders in Sidney Friday night.

Scoring star Karissa Segelke slipped behind the defense for a layup and drove for foul shots in the last 1:24 to pull the 4-2 Lady Raiders from behind for the victory.

Segelke saved her best for last, but almost half of her 13 points came in a first quarter where Sidney hammered Perkins County 14-4. She stripped a dribbler and returned a rebound for six points.

Bidding to overcome five turnovers before they ever scored and 10 in the first quarter alone, the Lady Plainsmen took advantage of Sidney's third quarter love affair with the three-point shot.

Perhaps trying to put the game out of reach, the Lady Raiders attempted and missed six consecutive long shots right after halftime.

Perkins County seniors Shania Metcalf and Michi Prante went to work on the team's 11-point halftime shortfall, with Prante following her own miss and Metcalf redirecting an inbound pass to drag the Lady Plainsmen within five points at 25-20 in the third quarter.

"After getting off to a slow start I called a timeout and really challenged the girls to view this particular moment as a fork-in-the-road," Lady Plainmen Head Coach Deanne Bishop said after the game. "Where did they want to take the rest of the game? They really took this challenge to heart, settled down and started to play a more-disciplined game." A flurry of three-pointers from Jessi Hoffert and Carlie Waitley allowed Perkins County to keep pace with Sidney; Prante then fed Metcalf for a three-point play with 4:47 left to almost even the score.

Prante gave her squad its first and only lead by manufacturing a four-point play for herself. The senior shooting guard dropped in a jump shot as Sidney's Madi Malzahn fouled her, then clamped down on the rebound of her bonus shot for two more and a 35-34 lead with 3:39 to go.

Swing forward Katelin Cole's back-door offensive rebound and Segelke's three points crushed Perkins County's comeback attempt however.

Struggling to break the Lady Raiders' defensive press and score, the Lady Plainsmen kept their hopes alive with tenacious defense. Both Metcalf and Prante locked onto defensive interceptions in the first quarter.

Ever rowdy and boisterous, tons of teens in the Sidney High School student section screamed loud and shrill to cause a Perkins County dribbling violation.

PC 38, Sidney 39

Perkins Co.	4	10	8	13–35
Sidney	14	11	5	9–39

Scoring leaders–Perkins County: Metcalf 5FG 1/3FT–11; Prante 4 0/1–8; Hoffert, J. 2 (1[x1])–7;

Sidney: Segelke 5 3/6–13; Cole 3 (1)–9; Heeren 2–6; Mahr 2 (1) 1/2–8.