By Pastor Vince Carrig
Sports Writer

Lady Plainsman forward Matisyn Humphrey hammered down 10 free throws and Perkins County's 17-6 second quarter notched them a 44-36 win over the Ogallala Lady Indians last Thursday night (Dec. 20) in Grant.

Humphrey poured in four consecutive free throws in a decisive second quarter where senior teammates Michi Prante rustled up a steal for five of her 10 points and Shania Metcalf spun in the lane and swirled down a shot for four of her 10 points.

Humphrey drilled in a pass after a patient Perkins County set and a pair of charity tosses to assert the Lady Plainsmen's dominance at 40-28 with 3:02 left.

I thought our girls did a good job in terms of lowering their number of turnovers, and that leads to more attempts on the goal; tonight we officially had 54 shots taken, which was our high for the season," Lady Plainsmen Head Coach Deanne Bishop said after the game.

Senior Jessica Paloucek led all scorers with 13 points, and a first quarter three-ball and jumper from the paint built a 9-8 lead for her visiting Lady Indians.

Humphrey, however, turned a push on the sideline into scoreboard credit and Prante popped in a mid-range jumper for an 8-0 run that distanced Perkins County from the Lady Indians for the rest of the game.

More free throws from Humphrey (10-of-12 [83%]) and one of two of senior guard Jessi Hoffert's shots from downtown put up a 29-15 Lady Plainsmen lead in the first minute of the third quarter.

Perkins County ran their lead to 13 points when Metcalf burst through the lane for a short score and Humphrey pumped in two more from the stripe at 5:17 of the third quarter.

Ogallala senior forward Kayleigh Berg erupted for eight of her 10 points in the third quarter,

redeeming a steal for points and sending four of six free throws through the net to bring the Lady Indians to within just six points of the lead (31-25) in the final minute of the third quarter.

Sophomore guard Maaika Mestl cleaned up the Lady Indians' side of the scoreboard with two three-pointers in the fourth quarter.

A foul-filled game saw Ogallala center Ciara Voycheske disqualify herself while everyone else had 6:33 to play; teammates Berg and Jessica Paloucek neared the exit door for a team that put Perkins County in the "double bonus" in both halves of play.

Lady Indians Head Coach Chris Mestl returned to Pritchett Court for the first time since leaving the Perkins County team over the summer, a team which Coach Bishop helped him guide.

"It's not a whole lot different than it was for the last 10 years where he had his girls on one side of the court and I had mine on my side and we both did whatever we could to make the other one frustrated and miserable and that's pretty much what it was tonight," Coach Bishop said. "It's nice [to win], but he was very gracious, and I just look forward to coaching against him for years to come. He's going to build a great program there in Ogallala."

Next Action

The 2-5 Perkins County girls drew 1-4 Wallace in the first game of the Perkins County Holiday Tournament on Friday at 7:15 p.m. Wallace got its only win against 1-7 Maxwell but also gave 1-7 Medicine Valley its only win. Should the Lady Plainsmen win, the winner between 0-8 Cambridge and 6-2 Sandhills-Thedford would await them at 5:30 on Saturday.

PC 44, Ogallala 36

Ogallala	9	6	10	11—36
Perkins Co.	8	17	8	11—44

Leading scorers—Perkins County: Humphrey 1 FG 10/12FT—12; Metcalf 5—10; Prante 3 4/5—10; Hoffert (2[x3]) 1/2—7; Ogallala: Paloucek, Jessica 4 (1) 2/3—13; Berg 3 4/6—10; Mestl (2)—6.