

### By Christy Sheets

*Sports Writer*

On Friday night, Dec. 28, the Cats traveled to Grant to face the Plainsmen of Perkins County in their holiday tournament. The Lady Cats struggled to build momentum in the first quarter, appearing slightly sluggish and tired. The Plainsmen took every advantage, and the first quarter ended 6 to 15.

The second quarter saw the Wildcats wanting to put something together, but the ball just refused to fall, and the Plainsmen handled the ball with ease. As the buzzer sounded for the half the Lady Cats headed into the locker room trailing by 17, 12 to 29.



The Cats started the second half energized, and ready to play. The third quarter proved to be a battle, and the Wildcats began to build momentum. The Wildcats were able to gain eight points on their opponent closing the deficit to nine points, 31 to 40 still in favor of the Plainsmen.

The Cats were ready for the fourth quarter, but the Plainsmen were ready to defend their home court. Both teams played a hard fourth quarter, but in the end the Wildcats played harder. With just seconds remaining the Lady Cats were within three with possession of the ball.

Senior Katelyn Melton gets a shot off just before the buzzer, and drains a three to send the game into overtime. As the buzzer sounded at the end of the fourth quarter the teams were tied at 49.

In overtime the Cats scored first, but the Plainsmen quickly answered back. The Lady Cats fought hard, but got into foul trouble, and in the end the Plainsmen won a heartbreaker by just two points, 52 to 54.

Offensively, sophomore Christina Daniels led the Cats with 17 points followed by junior Sara Hubbard with 13 points, senior Chelsea Sowle with 12 points, and senior Katelyn Melton with 10 points.

Leading the team with offensive rebounds were senior Anna Griffiths (two), Melton (one), and Sowle (one). Leading the team with assists were Griffiths (six), Daniels (six), Hubbard (one) and junior Alexandria Lundvall (one).

Defensively, Daniels led the Cats with four rebounds and four steals followed by Sowle and Melton each with two rebounds and three steals. Hubbard had three rebounds and one block, Griffiths had two rebounds and two steals, Lundvall had one rebound and two steals, junior Paige Aylward and sophomore Hayley Storm each had one rebound.

### **Wallace vs. Cambridge**

On Saturday night, Dec. 29, the Wildcats traveled again to Grant this time to face Cambridge. The Lady Cats started the night ready for battle, perhaps wanting vindication for the prior night's loss. Wallace led Cambridge by one at the buzzer, 16-15.

The Lady Cats started the second quarter a little flat, and Cambridge continued to move the

ball and make shots, outscoring the Cats by nine. The Wildcats headed into the locker room trailing by eight, 23-31.

After half, the Lady Cats were ready to build on their lead, but their feet seemed a bit heavy, and their shots refused to fall. Cambridge outscored the Wildcats by five, which brought their lead to 13. The quarter ended with the Wildcats trailing 27 to 40.

The Lady Cats started to rebuild some momentum in the fourth quarter, but Cambridge refused to give up. The Cats cut their opponents' lead to 10, but it was too little too late. The Lady Cats lost on the road, 41 to 51.

Offensively, Daniels led the Cats with 14 points, followed closely by Sowle with 13 points. Griffiths had eight points, Hubbard had four points, and Melton had two points. Leading the team with offensive rebounds were Griffiths (three), Sowle (three), Hubbard (two), and Daniels (one). Leading the team with assists were Griffiths (two), Hubbard (two), Daniels (two), Sowle (one), and sophomore Morgan Messersmith (one).

Defensively, Daniels led the Cats with three rebounds and seven steals, followed by Melton with five rebounds and three steals. Hubbard had one rebound and three steals, Sowle had three rebounds, Griffiths had three steals, and Storm had one rebound.

### **Next Action**

On Friday, Jan. 4, the Wildcats will travel to Arthur County with play beginning at 4 p.m. (varsity only). On Saturday, Jan. 5, they will play host to Mullen with play beginning at 2 p.m.