

By Pastor Vince Carrig

Sports Writer

Perkins County guard Michi Prante stepped just into the paint and swished a late jump shot to boost her Lady Plainsmen to a 43-41 comeback win over Dundy County-Stratton in Benkelman Thursday night.

Prante's three fourth quarter free throws and team-high 13 points helped the visitors erase a 32-19 third quarter deficit. Prante stuck another jumper and senior forward Matisyn Humphrey propelled in a full arm extension putback while airborne in a 9-1 third quarter run that helped Perkins County gain traction.

"I was pleased that no one panicked when we executed our offensive sets early on but just couldn't get the ball to fall," Lady Plainsmen Head Coach Deanne Bishop said after the game. "We made a concentrated effort to focus on the game one-possession at-a-time and do a better job limiting them to just one shot per trip down the floor."

Freshman guard Brandie Ross' baby hook from the foul line and a Prante free throw gave the Lady Plainsmen a 39-38 lead with 2:06 left, Perkins County's first lead since 2-0 in the game's first minutes.

Junior forward Courtney McClenahan turned the disappointment of a missed Prante free throw into elation, reaching the bounding ball first and sending it through for a 41-38 lead just seconds later.

Humphrey tossed in another putback and put together nine points in the game; senior guard Jessi Hoffert hurled a second quarter and a fourth quarter shot in from "downtown" and piled up six points.

Shania Metcalf limited the Lady Tigers' damage with an astounding six snuffs, six rebounds and two steals, kicking in a set shot from the wheel for good measure.

Forward Colby Duvel's scoring allowed the Lady Tigers to pounce on a 15-point, 23-8 lead in the second quarter. The 5-foot-7 freshman hid at the back door to steal points and landed a turnaround jumper in the second quarter on her way to a game-high 16 points.

Dundy County-Stratton's Angela Crouse reached twice from the right corner of the floor and twice from the foul line in the first half as the Lady Plainsmen struggled, shooting just 2-for-21 in the first half and committing seven of their 23 turnovers in the second quarter.

PC 43, DCS 41

Perkins Co. 4 11 13 15-43

DCS 13 12 8 8-41

Scoring leaders—Perkins County: Prante 5FG 3/4FT—13; Humphrey 4 1/2—9; McClenahan 3 0/3—6; Ross 3 0/2—6; Hoffert (2[x3]) 0/2—6; Dundy County-Stratton: Duvel 5 6/12—16; Crouse 2 3/4—7; Kent, Natalie 3 0-1—6; Kent, Nicole 3—6.