

### By Christy Sheets

*Sports Writer*

Last week the Lady Cats faced opponents on both Thursday and Friday nights.

#### Wallace vs South Platte

On Thursday night the Lady Cats traveled to Big Springs to play South Platte. In the first quarter, the Lady Cats struggled to get started, but once they did the battle was on, and they took the lead. The lead allowed Coach Messersmith to give some of his younger players some valuable court time, and South Platte took advantage of this fact. South Platte battled back, and the quarter ended with the Lady Cats trailing by four, 11 to 15.

The second quarter saw a rally from the Wildcats. They began to make shots, and denied South Platte the opportunity to do the same. The Wildcats outscored South Platte by 10 in the second, and headed into the locker room in the lead 27 to 22.



The Lady Cats started the second half with a renewed energy and determination, but South Platte refused to let up. The third quarter ended with each team scoring seven points, 34 to 28.

The Cats were ready for the fourth quarter, and the Lady Cats scored first, but several late turnovers allowed South Platte to overtake the Cats. The Wildcats regained the lead with a three-point shot, but fouls allowed South Platte to regain the lead by one. Wallace tried to foul late to get possession of the ball, but time ran out. The Wildcats lost a heartbreaker by one point, 47 to 48.

Offensively, senior Chelsea Sowle led the Lady Cats with 18 points, followed by sophomore Christina Daniels with 11 points. Junior Sara Hubbard had eight points, and seniors Katelyn Melton and Anna Griffiths each had five points.

Leading the team with assists were Griffiths (three), sophomore Morgan Messersmith (two), and Daniels (one).

Leading the team with offensive rebounds were Melton (four), Sowle (three), Daniels (two), Griffiths (one), and Hubbard (one).

Defensively, Hubbard led the Cats with seven rebounds and one steal, followed closely by Sowle with seven rebounds, and Daniels with three rebounds and three steals. Melton had four rebounds and one steal, and Griffiths had three rebounds and one steal.

#### Wallace vs Paxton

Friday night, the Wildcats played host to the Paxton Tigers. The Lady Cats started the night hoping to seek revenge for their last minute loss the night before. The Cats played hard, and as the buzzer sounded to end the first quarter, they led a somewhat stunned Paxton team 14 to 11.

The Lady Cats continued to play with energy and strengthened their lead to double digits, but the Tigers came roaring back at the end of the quarter to pull within four of the Wildcats. The Lady Cats headed into the locker room at the half leading, 25 to 21.

After half, the Tigers were ready to build some momentum, but the Cats simply refused to just let this happen. The Cats fought hard, and managed to keep the Tigers away from the basket, while hitting several shots of their own. The Lady Cats outscored Paxton by nine, and were able

to increase their lead to 13. The third quarter ended with the Wildcats leading, 37 to 24.

The Lady Cats, determined to finish strong took the court with resolve. With every shot, momentum built, but the Tigers were tough and refused to go quietly into the night. Both teams scored numerous points in the final quarter, but it was the Lady Cats who continued to build on their momentum. As the final buzzer sounded the Wildcats defeated an always-tough Tiger team 55 to 40.

Offensively, Daniels led the Lady Cats with 25 points, followed by Sowle with 15 points. Griffiths had six points, Hubbard had five points, junior Paige Aylward had three points, and sophomore Hayley Storm had one point.

Leading the team in assists were Griffiths (four), Sowle (three), Daniels (two), Aylward (one), and Messersmith (one).

Leading the team with offensive rebounds were Sowle (five), Daniels (four), Griffiths (one), and Hubbard (one).

Defensively, Griffiths led the team with six rebounds and four steals, followed by Daniels with four rebounds and three steals. Sowle and Aylward each had five rebounds and one steal, Storm had two rebounds and one steal, Hubbard had two rebounds, and Messersmith had two steals.

### **Next Action**

The Lady Cats traveled to face Dundy County/Stratton on Tuesday, Jan. 15. On Thursday, Jan. 17, the Cats will play host to Arthur County. The Lady Cats will then play in the RPAC tournament at Wauneta, with first round starting on Saturday, Jan. 19.