

By Christy Sheets

Sports Writer

On Tuesday night the Lady Cats travelled to Benkelman to face Dundy County/Stratton. Dundy County started the match strong, pressing the Lady Cats and forcing them to turn over the ball. At the end of the first quarter Dundy County/Stratton led five to 18.

The second quarter saw the Lady Cats with a renewed momentum. The Cats began to break the press, but struggled to contain the Dundy County shooter. The Lady Cats headed into the locker room trailing, 15 to 36.



Having found a renewed energy, it was Dundy County with the momentum to start the second half. The Lady Cats struggled to get their shots to fall, and Dundy outscored them by eight. The third quarter ended with the Lady Cats trailing, 19 to 48.

The Cats were ready for the fourth quarter, and played tough. Unfortunately, so was Dundy County. At the sound of the buzzer, at the end of the fourth quarter, Dundy County was ahead, 24 to 52.

Offensively, sophomore Christina Daniels led the Cats with 11 points, followed closely by senior Chelsea Sowle with 10 points. Sophomore Morgan Messersmith had two points, and junior Paige Aylward had one point.

Leading the team with assists were senior Katelyn Melton (three), junior Sara Hubbard (one), and sophomore Hayley Storm (one).

Leading the team with offensive rebounds were Daniels (four), Messersmith (three), Sowle (two), Melton (one), and junior Alexandria Lundvall (one).

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



Wallace vs Arthur Co.

Thursday, the Wildcats played host to Arthur County. The Lady Cats were out to avenge Tuesday night's loss, and their aggressive play dominated the first half. At the end of the first quarter, Wallace led 11 to four.

The Lady Cats continued to play with energy and determination. Arthur County tried to come back, but the cats refused to let up. The Wildcats headed into the locker room at the half leading

27 to 13.

After half, Arthur County was ready to regain control of the game, but the Lady Cats kept building on their momentum. The Cats outscored the Wolves by five, and strengthening their lead. The third quarter ended 40 to 21.

The Lady Cats continued to battle in the fourth quarter, and the lead allowed Coach Messersmith to give some of his younger players some valuable court time. Arthur tried to mount a comeback, but they just ran out of time. The Wildcats won the game 54 to 41.

When asked about the game, Coach Messersmith said, "I was very proud of the effort." He added, "We played most of the game at the intensity level we needed to, and we are still improving every game. We will just continue to work on the details."

Offensively, Daniels led the Cats with 17 points, followed by Sowle with 12 points. Hubbard had nine points, Melton had eight points, senior Anna Griffiths and Lundvall each had three points, and sophomore Mickayla Sheets and freshman Sarah Banks each had one point.

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

Leading the team with assists were Griffiths (three), Melton (two), Daniels (two), Sowle (one), Lundvall (one), and Storm (one).

Defensively, Sowle led the Cats with four rebounds, three blocks, and one steal, followed by Hubbard with three rebounds and two steals, and Daniels with two rebounds and three steals. Melton had four rebounds, Griffiths had two steals, and Aylward, Lundvall, Storm, Sheets, and Banks each had one rebound.

RPAC

Wallace vs Hitchcock Co.

On Saturday, the Lady Cats played Hitchcock County in the first round of RPAC at Wauneta. The Wildcats came out strong against Hitchcock, but both teams were shooting well.

The first quarter ended 14 to 19. The Lady Cats battled back, and really started to come together defensively. The Lady Cats outscored the Falcons by six, and the quarter ended with the Wildcats leading 30 to 29.

At the start of the second half both teams were determined, and each team matched the other shot for shot. The third quarter ended with the Lady Cats still in the lead 43 to 42.

The Cats rallied in the fourth quarter, but plagued by fouls, the Falcons retook the lead, and refused to let go. The game ended 54 to 64.

Offensively, Sowle led the Cats with 24 points, followed by Daniels with 13 points. Melton had seven points, Griffiths had five points, Storm had three points, and Aylward had two points.

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

Leading the team with assists were Daniels (six), Melton (five), Griffiths (three), Lundvall (one), and Aylward (one).

Defensively, Sowle led the Cats with five rebounds, followed closely by Griffiths with three rebounds and one steal. Daniels had two rebounds and one steal, Melton and Aylward each had two rebounds, Lundvall and Hubbard each had one rebound and one steal, and Storm had one rebound.

When asked about the game, Coach Messersmith said, "We worked extremely hard, but foul trouble in the third quarter had a major impact on the game. Hitchcock County shot the ball from the perimeter as well as any team we have played this season."

Because the Lady Cats lost in the first round of conference play, they will play the winner of

game four in a second round match in Wallace at 4:15p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 24.