By Pastor Vince Carrig
Sports Writer

The Lady Plainsmen's leading scorers found the back door left open in the fourth quarter and all slipped through it for scores and a 60-46 win over Sedgwick County on Thursday night in Grant.

Shania Metcalf led the home team with 14 points and got a putback behind the Lady Cougars' defense, Matisyn Humphrey counted 12 on the night and got open behind a pressing defense, and Michi Prante amassed 10 points and bolted loose after a give-and-go with Metcalf to inflate Perkins County's lead to 62-40.

Prante also banked a shot at full extension, ran in a transition basket and grabbed a steal in a six-point fourth quarter for her.

"We passed the ball well and did a good job of looking up the floor for transition points," Lady Plainsmen Head Coach Deanne Bishop said after the game. "This was a physical game on both ends of the floor. I was pleased that the girls were able to match the intensity and still stay composed."

Sedgwick County's power forward Carlie Orth offset a couple of her team's defensive lapses with thrusts to the basket herself, but only cut Perkins County's fourth quarter lead to 52-40.

The Lady Plainsmen set themselves up for a win by finishing the third quarter strong with a 7-0 run that included a three-pointer from guard Brandie Ross and a steal and breakaway layup from sophomore guard Mariah Curtis.

Carlie Orth's double-move that busted Humphrey in the nose and two back-door buckets from Lady Cougars guard Vicki Jeffers had closed the Lady Plainsmen's third quarter lead to 36-32.

Perkins County won the third quarter's tug-of-war of runs by getting two close baskets by Metcalf and two shots from nearly the same spot (three feet left of the basket) from the freshman Ross to blast to a 36-23 lead right out of the gate.

Sedgwick County used high-speed layups from Becki Sawyers and Marin Olson to edge the Lady Plainsmen 15-13 in the game's second quarter.

Olson added a three and Sawyers, Carly Orth and Jamie Orth all popped in a pair of free throws before halftime for the girls from Julesburg.

Lady Plainsmen junior Courtney McClenahan got some revenge for getting plowed down from behind, hitting all four free throws awarded to her in the second quarter.

Indeed, Perkins County scored seven of their 13 points from the charity stripe in the second quarter, adding those to a pair of field goals from Prante and one from Metcalf for a 28-23 halftime lead.

Metcalf planted a lob and drilled a jumper and Jessi Hoffert and Ross shot a combined 5-for-6 from the free throw line to give Perkins County an early 10-2 lead.

Carlie Orth's two shots from near the basket and Leigha Terry's long shot kept the Lady Cougars in contention in the first quarter.

Perkins Co. 60

Sedgwick Co. 46

Perkins Co.	15	13	16	16—60
Sedgwick Co.	8	15	11	12—46

Scoring leaders–Perkins County: Metcalf 7FG–14; Humphrey 5 1/2 FG–11; Prante 5 0/3–10 Ross 2 (1[x3]) 2/2–9; McClenahan 1 5/6–7; Hoffert 1 4/6–6; Sedgwick County: Orth, C. 5 2/9–12; Olson 3 (1)–9; Terry 2 (1)–7; Orth, J. 2 2/2–6