



By Tim Linscott

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Back-to-back games last week gave the Perkins County Lady Plainsmen a good indication of the rigors of tournament play in preparation of the SPVA tournament in North Platte.

On Thursday, Jan. 16, PCS hosted Chase County.

The game was very competitive in the first half, however, PCS let untimely turnovers limit their offense at crucial points in the contest and dropped the game 57-38 to the Lady Longhorns.

Chase County was up 12-11 after one period with PCS able to effectively rebound and keep the offense on track.

A 16-9 second quarter put Chase County up 28-20 at the half.

PCS head girls basketball coach Deanne Bishop knew her team was going to get the offense in motion, but taking advantage of those opportunities just wasn't in the cards.

"Our turnovers limited our opportunities to get shots on offense. We had plenty of instances where we ran our offensive sets and took the shots we wanted but just didn't get the ball to go in the hole," she said.

PCS stayed consistent on offense, putting up nine points in the third and fourth quarters each, but allowed Chase County to score 14 third quarter and 15 fourth quarter points.

Chase County simply out-shot PCS. The Lady Plainsmen were 13 of 51 (25 percent) from the floor while the Lady Longhorns were 25 of 57 (45 percent).

PCS led in three-pointers made (4 of 15) compared to Chase County (0 for 4) and had a higher free-throw percentage (63 percent compared to Chase County's 50 percent). Chase County, however, held a rebounding edge (36 to 21) but also led PCS in turnovers (32 to 27).

PCS junior guard Mariah Curtis led the Lady Plainsmen on offense with 15 points, three steals, two assists and three rebounds.

Courtney McClenahan had nine points, one steal and a team high five boards.

Stephanie Schrotberger had three steals, one point, two assists and one rebound while Kendra Hoffert had five points, two steals, two assists, three rebounds. Courtney Ostermiller finished the game with two points, one steal, one assist and three rebounds.

PCS vs. Wau/Pa

On Friday, Jan. 17, the Lady Plainsmen traveled to Wauneta-Palisade, giving the Lady Broncos all they could handle statistically, however, shooting percentage from the field again led to a loss.

PCS lost 55-29.

Matching each team up, the stats were about even. PCS shot better from the free throw line (11 of 23 for 47 percent while Wau/Pa has 3 of 7 for 42 percent). PCS was close behind Wauneta-Palisade in total rebounds (29 for Wau/Pa, 25 for PCS) and held an 11-9 advantage on offensive boards.

PCS had eight steals in the game while Wau/Pa had seven. PCS had 18 turnovers and WAPA had 15.

The most telling stat, however, was shot percentage on the night. The Lady Broncos shot 23 of 46 (50 percent) from the floor while PCS shot 9 of 40 (22 percent).

“While I was pleased by our improvement, the stat that overwhelmed us in this game was shooting percentage from the field,” Bishop said. “We got some great looks at the basket, took smart shots and took high-percentage shots, but we still didn’t get the ball to fall like we needed.”

The varsity had a great offensive stretch in the last four minutes of the game, according to Bishop.

“We saw the girls use skills they’ve been working on in practice that set Wauneta-Palisade’s starters back on their heels,” she said. “That’s the type of aggressive mindset we need to have headed into future games.”

McClenahan led the Lady Plainsmen in scoring with nine points and had one steal, one assists and five rebounds.

Curtis had five points, one steal and a team high seven rebounds. Schrotberger ended the night with five points, two steals, three rebounds while Courtney Lyon had four points, one steal and four boards.

Ostermiller led the team in steals with three and had two rebounds and one point.

Osler picked up three points and three rebounds against the Lady Broncos.

SPVA, Round 1

In the first round of the South Platte Valley Association conference tournament, PCS, the number six seed, played the number three seed Kimball on Monday night. Kimball won 52-31.

PCS is slated to face Maxwell this Saturday, Jan. 25, at noon CT for fifth place at Mid Plains/North Platte Community College.

Full coverage of the SPVA tournament will be in next week’s edition.