

Wauneta-Palisade girls basketball team to move on to district finals on Friday Feb. 24

Written by Wauneta Breeze

Friday, 24 February 2012 18:23 - Last Updated Friday, 24 February 2012 18:25



Jonee Maris Passes the ball to a fellow teammate during subdistricts last week where the girls won both of their games to advance to district finals on Friday.

By Diane Stamm
The Wauneta Breeze

It was a short trip for the Lady Bronco faithful to the Chase County High School gym last week where the Wauneta-Palisade girls' basketball team took on Medicine Valley and Hayes Center in Sub-District D2-10 action.

The Lady Broncos opened the tournament facing Medicine Valley Tuesday. The Lady Raiders picked up its first win of the season Monday when it defeated Wallace, 42-35, but couldn't repeat the success against Wauneta-Palisade. Wearing the home whites, the Lady Broncos won 38-22.

Both teams struggled to put points on the board early. A Medicine Valley free throw three minutes into the game broke the ice in the contest. After Wauneta-Palisade's Sheyla Christner made a basket off an assist from Abbie Fanning, Medicine Valley took its final lead of the game,

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3-2. Christner scored the first six points of the contest for the Lady Broncos with a second assist from Fanning and one from Taylor Lee. Lee scored with 15 seconds left in the first quarter to give Wauneta-Palisade an 8-3 lead heading into the second quarter.

After steal by Fanning on Medicine Valley's first possession, Christner continued to have success. Jonee Maris found Christner underneath to increase the Lady Bronco lead to seven. The offense cooled on its next three possessions and Medicine Valley put two points on the board before Lee found Maris on an inbounds play to make the score 12-5. Medicine Valley made two-of-four free throws plus one basket to end its scoring in the half. Wauneta-Palisade got three-pointers from Emma Skelton and Brianna Einspahr to head into intermission leading 18-9.

Coming out from halftime, the Lady Broncos watched Medicine Valley put up its best quarter of the game. The Lady Raiders scored on its first chance while Wauneta-Palisade had a miss and two turnovers on its first three possessions. On its fourth try the Lady Broncos crashed the offensive glass, picking up three offensive rebounds and cashing in with a Fanning basket. Medicine Valley immediately scored and Skelton answered with a steal and two-pointer. Maris and Fanning each found Lee to open up a 26-13 lead, but Medicine Valley scored five straight points and headed into the final stanza down eight.

Christner, Lee and Maris each scored three points in the fourth quarter while the team allowed Medicine Valley to only score four. The team continued to rebound hard, scoring six points after offensive rebounds.

Christner topped the score sheet with 11 points. Lee notched nine. Einspahr, Maris and Skelton each added five and Fanning rounded out scoring with three points. The Lady Broncos made three-of-seven free throws.

Medicine Valley was led by Taylor Sandoe's 13 points. The Lady Raiders hit three-of-twelve free throws.

The point total was low, but the excitement level was high Thursday when Wauneta-Palisade met Hayes Center for a chance to advance to the district finals. The Lady Broncos made four free throws in the final minute for a 25-21 win.

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The game started well for Wauneta-Palisade. The Lady Broncos opened up a 3-0 lead after a basket from Lee on the team's first opportunity and a free throw by Christner on its second. Wauneta-Palisade then struggled against the physical Hayes Center team and the Lady Cardinals went on an 8-0 run before Fanning found Nordhausen to get the offense scoring again. Two free throws by Christner and a layup by Hayes Center made it 10-7 at the end of the first quarter.

Though the team only made three-of-eight free throw attempts in the second quarter, the Lady Broncos outscored Hayes Center 7-5 leading up to halftime. Hayes Center extended its lead to five on its first possession, of the quarter. A minute later Fanning made the first of two free throws and Christner's offensive rebound led to a Nordhausen bucket. After a Hayes Center basket, Lee finished the quarter with four straight points to bring the Lady Broncos to within one, 15-14, at halftime.

The Lady Broncos continued to work hard on the offense rebounds in the second half. Hayes Center scored on its first possession then Skelton kept Wauneta-Palisade alive with an offensive rebound and another by Lee got her to the free throw line. Lee made one-of-two to keep the Lady Broncos within a basket.

The teams traded buckets with Lee getting another score off an offensive rebound and Sydnee Harchelroad found Christner to make it 21-19. A basket by Nordhausen off an offensive rebound knotted the score for the first time since three minutes into the game.

It could easily be said the offenses were offensive in the fourth quarter. Between the third and fourth quarters the teams went scoreless for nine minutes. Although the Lady Broncos only made 11 free throws in 23 attempts for the game, they made them at the right time.

After Fanning drew a charge on the Hayes Center end, Christner was fouled with 56.2 seconds left in the game. She made one-of-two from the charity stripe to give the Wauneta-Palisade the lead. Lee matched her effort, making one-of-two, with 38.6 seconds left. Harchelroad sealed the win for the Lady Broncos, first with a defensive rebound and then with a steal under Hayes Center's basket on an inbounds play. Harchelroad was fouled on both plays and was one-of-two from the charity stripe each time giving Wauneta-Palisade the win, 25-21.

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Lee's ten points led the Lady Broncos. She also had nine rebounds for the night behind Christner who ended play with 12 rebounds. Christner scored six points and Nordhausen added four. Fanning and Harchelroad scored three and two points, respectively.

Hayes Center was led by Haley Tyan with nine. The Lady Cardinals made three-of-eight free throws.

Now 13-9, Wauneta-Palisade will travel to Hershey to face Ansley. The teams will square off at Friday at 6:00 MT. Ansley, 21-2, defeated Brady 56-38 in the D2-9 Sub-District.

WP: Christner 11, Einspahr 5, Maris 5, Lee 9, Fanning 3, Skelton 5.

MV: Henderson 3, Schroeder 4, Sandoe 13, Schmidt 2.

WP: Christner 6, Nordhausen 4, Lee 10, Fanning 3, Harchelroad 2.

HC :Large 7, Tyan 9, Deaver 2, Cox 3.