

Boys basketball season comes to a crushing end with a 53-54 score against Medicine Valley

Written by Wauneta Breeze

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Hayden Pollmann goes up for a shot against the Medicine Valley Raiders. Pollmann scored five of the team's first 10 points.

By Diane Stamm

The Wauneta Breeze

The Wauneta-Palisade boys' basketball team saw its season end in bizarre fashion Tuesday when a scorebook discrepancy led to a technical foul against the Broncos.

Broncos' fans watched subdistrict opponent Medicine Valley erase a six-point deficit over the final two minutes of play. When a timeout was called with 19.5 seconds left, two score keepers gave the timeout to Wauneta-Palisade, its last time out, while one gave credit to Medicine Valley. After the Raiders tied the game with 5.0 seconds remaining, Broncos Coach Dave Kuhlen immediately did his best to get the officials attention and call a time out. Referees stopped the clock with 0:00.7 seconds left and, upon review of the scorebooks, called a technical foul on the Broncos because it had no time outs left. Medicine Valley's Riley Garey gave Broncos fans hope when he missed the first of two shots but Garey made the second to

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give the Raiders a 54-53 lead. Medicine Valley was awarded the ball and ran the remaining time off the clock.

The Broncos showed vast improvement from the 13 point loss to the Raiders 15 days ago. Hayden Pollmann provided the offensive spark in the first quarter for Wauneta-Palisade. Pollmann scored five of the team's first 10 points as the Broncos jumped out to a 10-2 lead. In his final game, Bo Fanning started well, making a free throw and finding Logan Bischoff for a basket. Medicine Valley scored four straight points to cut the lead to four, but Jack McGraw made two free throws to give the Broncos a 12-6 lead at the end of the first.

Both offenses were cold to start the second quarter. Wauneta-Palisade could only manage a Pollmann basket early in the second, while Medicine Valley continued to chip away at the Broncos' lead. The Raiders outscored Wauneta-Palisade 10-4 to narrow the gap to 14-10.

The Broncos broke out of their slump with a Jacob Maris three pointer and McGraw scored the final three points of the half for Wauneta-Palisade, making a basket off an assist from Bischoff and adding one free throw. The Broncos headed into halftime ahead 20-16.

Coming out of intermission the Raiders made the first of five three-pointers in the quarter to cut the Broncos' lead to two. McGraw found Bischoff to keep the Broncos up 22-19, but Medicine Valley answered with another three to tie the game. Medicine Valley scored eight straight points to open up a 27-22 lead before Wes Anderjaska hit a three to keep the Broncos within two. Pollmann added another basket between Raiders' three-pointers and Bischoff's conventional three point play kept Wauneta-Palisade within two, 32-30.

Medicine Valley extended their lead to five, but the Broncos closed the quarter on an 8-3 run behind back-to-back three pointers by Maris off assists from Pollmann and Reese West. With time running down in the quarter, McGraw found Bischoff for an alley oop to tie the game at 38 heading into the final stanza.

The Broncos continued their run on their first possession of the fourth quarter when West found Maris for another trey. A spin move by Bischoff in the paint gave Wauneta-Palisade a five point lead with 6:32 left in the game. A free throw and another three-pointer by Medicine Valley cut that lead to one, 43-42. Maris' fifth three of the game gave the Broncos some breathing room

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and back-to-back put backs off offensive rebounds by McGraw sandwiched around a Raiders' three pointer kept the lead at five, 50-45. With 2:42 left the Broncos attempted to run time off the clock, but a turnover led to a Medicine Valley layup. Bischoff's conventional three-point play, with an assist from McGraw, opened up a 53-47 lead with two minutes remaining.

The Raiders put the clamps on over the final minutes and the Broncos struggled to bring the ball up the court against the Medicine Valley pressure. Two turnovers against the press led to four straight Raiders' points and brought the score to 53-51 with 1:30. Wauneta-Palisade had two more turnovers and missed a foul shot while Medicine Valley missed four shots leading up to the timeout call with 19.5 seconds left.

Maris led the Broncos with 15 points. Bischoff finished with 14. Pollmann added 11 and McGraw notched nine points. Anderjaska and Fanning scored three and one point, respectively. Wauneta-Palisade made six-of-12 free throws.

Garey led Medicine Valley with 21, with five three-pointers. Brendan Johnson scored 11 points, including three three-pointers. The Raiders were 11/18 from the charity stripe.

Wauneta-Palisade finishes its season at 11-11.

WP: 12 8 18 15 53

MV: 6 10 22 16 54

WP: Maris 15, Bischoff 14, Pollmann 11, McGraw 9, Anderjaska 3, Fanning 1.

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MV: Garey 21, Johnson 11, Aspenleiter 7, Gleisberg 7, Houser 7, Welch 1.