

W-P wraps up RPAC tournament play

Written by Wauneta Breeze
Thursday, 31 January 2013 18:29 -

By Diane Stamm

The Wauneta Breeze

The Wauneta-Palisade boys and girls basketball teams traveled to Wallace Thursday and Friday to finish their time in the RPAC tournament.

The girls defeated Paxton 57-37 and the boys lost to Hayes Center 42-54.

Girls beat Paxton again

The Lady Broncos opened the tournament defeating Maywood, 78-34, then losing to eventual tournament champion Dundy County-Stratton, 49-48. Dundy County-Stratton beat Southern Valley 69-50 when the league's two biggest schools faced off at Cambridge Saturday.



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After defeating Paxton 38-29 Jan. 17, W-P traveled to Wallace for its rematch with the Lady Tigers.

Opening the game with a missed shot and turnover, the Lady Broncos let Paxton gain a 4-0 advantage. Not scoring until nearly 3:30 minutes had run off the clock, W-P finally got on the board with two Brianna Einspahr free throws.

After two turnovers on its next possessions, W-P got its first basket of the night with Tailor Lee finding Brooklyn Nordhausen open for two points. The Lady Broncos wasted no time taking its first lead of the night when Syndee Harchelroad found Lee in the low post for a bucket.

A free throw by Paxton brought it to within one, 6-5, but W-P continued to pile up the assists and points.

Cassidy Rathe got in on the act with an assist to Lee and, following a layup by Fanning, Rathe got her second assist when Harchelroad stole the ball, fed it to Rathe who found Fanning for an easy basket.

With W-P leading 12-5, both teams cooled off again with one basket by Paxton at the 2:20 mark, that being the last points scored in the quarter.

Following a walk on its first possession, the W-P offense reeled off points on three straight possessions, getting a put back by Nordhausen, a three-pointer by Einspahr and a two-pointer by Harchelroad. Two free throws and a basket by Paxton kept the Lady Tigers within eight, but a three-pointer by Harchelroad opened up a 22-11 Lady Bronco lead.

The teams finished the quarter with sloppy play. Despite missing three shots and having three turnovers, the Lady Broncos still headed into half time ahead 24-13.

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After scoring 12 points in both the first and second quarters, the Lady Broncos were consistent in the third quarter, putting 12 points on the board.

Over the first four minutes of the quarter the Lady Broncos put eight points on the board. Lee scored the first six points of the half for W-P, twice off passes from Einspahr and Emma Skelton and once off an offensive rebound. Skelton got in on the act also, making a jumper in the lane after being tripped.

Leading 32-14, the quarter turned sour for the Lady Broncos when W-P had turnovers on seven-of-eight possessions against the Paxton press, including four straight possessions when the Lady Broncos couldn't get the ball over half court. Paxton tried to take advantage, making nine-of-10 free throws over the final four minutes of the quarter. Paxton scored 14 points in the quarter, making 10-of-12 free throws. Baskets by Einspahr and Fanning kept the Lady Broncos leading 36-27 heading into the fourth quarter.

As in the second and third quarters, W-P struck first in the fourth quarter.

With a pass from Lee, Nordhausen went to work in the fourth quarter completing a three-point play. Nordhausen earned an assist, setting up Rathe to complete a three-point play.

Nordhausen added three more points, a basket and one-of-two free throws, to give W-P a 43-33 lead. Lee found Harchelroad for a basket. The Lady Broncos continued the nice passing on its next possession when Nordhausen found Lee for a bucket.

After baskets by Fanning and Nordhausen, the Lady Broncos made four-of-six free throws down the stretch of the 57-37 win.

Lee led the Lady Broncos with 14 points. Nordhausen added 12 points, including eight in the fourth quarter. Fanning scored 10 points and Harchelroad notched nine. Einspahr scored seven points.

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Now 11-6, W-P heads down the final stretch of its season, taking on 2-13 Medicine Valley at Curtis tonight and hosting 13-4 Sutherland Friday.

The Lady Broncos' regular season will wrap up hosting Chase County (5-14) Feb. 5 and Maywood (3-12) Feb. 8.

Boys lose rematch with HC

The Wauneta-Palisade Broncos wrapped up its RPAC tournament appearance with a 42-54 loss to Hayes Center.



The Broncos opened the tournament losing to Dundy County-Stratton 49-68. The game with Hayes Center (7-9) was a rematch of a Dec. 15 contest that the Broncos won 57-41.

The game got off to a good start for W-P when Jack McGraw scored on the Broncos opening possession. Though the Cardinals answered with a three-pointer the teams only scored once in their next 17 combined possessions. Logan Bischoff broke the streak with a put back of a missed Broncos' free throw, but once again the Cardinals answered with a three-pointer. Another Hayes Center basket made the score 10-4 with 2:30 left in the first quarter.

Hayden Pollmann's basket with 1:30 left brought the Broncos to within four, but the Cardinals scored the final three points of the quarter to take a 13-6 lead into the second quarter.

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The Bronco defense held Hayes Center scoreless for the first four minutes of the quarter and the offense put five points on the board to tie the game.

The teams traded baskets throughout the final four minutes of the half with the Broncos picking up buckets from Wes Anderjaska, Connor Kayton, Weylin Davis and two from Pollmann. Only giving up eight points to Hayes Center, the Broncos headed into half time leading 23-21.

Unfortunately for the Broncos, the offense dried up over half time. W-P didn't score until only 1:40 remained in the quarter. Hayes Center, meanwhile, put 17 points on the board. The Broncos had five turnovers and missed four shots over the stretch. Closing the quarter on a 6-0 run, the Broncos headed into the fourth quarter down 38-29.

Hayes Center opened the fourth quarter with an 8-2 run. With Hayes Center going cold from the floor, the Broncos tried to mount a comeback from the free throw line. After a basket by Bischoff, Kayton made the front end of a one-and-one and Anderjaska made two pairs of free throws while Hayes Center made three-of-six free throws. An Anderjaska steal and layup cut the Cardinals lead to nine, 40-49, with 39.4 seconds left. But with McGraw, Bischoff, Kayton and Anderjaska each with four fouls, the Broncos had trouble catching the Cardinals to stop the clock down the stretch. Hayes Center made five-of-six free throws down the stretch for the win.

Pollmann led the Broncos with 11 points. Anderjaska and McGraw each had eight points. Kayton scored seven points and Bischoff six.

Both teams made 15 two-pointers, but the Cardinals made five three-pointers while the Broncos made one. Hayes Center made nine-of-19 free throws and W-P nine-of-16. Anderjaska, Kayton and McGraw combined to make nine-of-10 free throws.

Falling to 7-8, W-P will travel to Medicine Valley (8-7) Thursday and host Sutherland (2-13) Friday.

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The Broncos season will wrap up with Chase County (7-10) on Feb. 5, Maywood (1-14) Feb. 8 and Dundy County-Stratton (12-6) Feb. 15.