Diane Stamm | The Wauneta Breeze

Sydnee Harchelroad converts the layup above Sutherland's Tawnie McConnell. Trailing the play for the Lady Broncos are Brianna Einspahr (24) and Tailor Lee (right).

By Diane Stamm

The Wauneta Breeze

The W-P Lady Broncos improved its record to 13-6 last week with wins at Medicine Valley and at home against Sutherland.

The Lady Broncos biggest win of the season came Friday against Sutherland (14-5). Ranked last week at number four in the Lincoln Journal Star Class D1 ratings, the Lady Sailors only losses this season have come to Class D2 number five Loomis (14-3) by two points, Class C2 number four Hershey (17-3) and twice to Class C2 number five North Platte St. Pats (19-2).

W-P added its name to the list with a 54-46 win.

The win also propels the Lady Broncos into the Lincoln Journal Star's Class D2 rankings, cracking the list at number nine.

Sutherland scored on two of its first three possessions, but held its last lead of the game at 4-2 with 6:13 in the game. With Abbie Fanning getting the Lady Broncos on the board with a layup, Tailor Lee soon tied the game at four.

The Lady Broncos took its first lead of the contest when Emma Skelton grabbed a rebound and went the length of the court for a layup. Skelton's next basket, with an assist from Brianna Einspahr, put W-P up 8-4.

Following a Sutherland basket, the Lady Broncos went on an 8-2 run to end the first quarter. Sydnee Harchelroad made a basket and Skelton, again, went the length of the floor for another layup, was fouled and made the free throw. A basket by Brooklyn Nordhausen, the fifth Lady Bronco to score, and one free throw by Lee gave W-P a 16-8 lead heading into the second quarter.

After the Lady Broncos allowed Sutherland to score on its first two possessions of the quarter, Lee went to work against the taller Sutherland team, grabbing an offensive rebound and scoring and picking up a basket in the low post with an assist from Einspahr. Einspahr was the sixth Lady Bronco to score when she converted an inbounds pass into two points.

Reaching the bonus with 5:30 left in the half, Fanning converted both ends of a one-and-one to give the Lady Broncos a 24-12 lead. Sutherland wasn't ready to pack it in, though, going on a 7-0 run to narrow the gap. Lee's offensive rebound and put back with a minute left in the half followed by two free throws from Lee and one by Fanning kept the Lady Broncos ahead 29-21 heading into halftime.

Opening the second half, Lee found Einspahr for two and, after a Sutherland three-pointer, Fanning found Lee for two more. Einspahr then added two points to her total, sandwiched

between Sutherland baskets, to make the score 35-28 with 4:37 left in the third quarter.

Following a Sutherland basket in the low post, Einspahr made two free throws, but Sutherland converted a conventional three-point play to narrow the lead to 37-33. With less than a minute in the quarter, the teams traded points, with Cassidy Rathe finding Harchelroad open for a bucket and Sutherland scoring on a give-and-go.

Leading 39-35 heading into the fourth quarter, the Lady Broncos scored first when Lee grabbed a Sutherland miss and made the outlet pass to Harchelroad for a layup.

After two Sutherland baskets cut the lead to two, the Lady Broncos held firm and didn't fold.

Skelton hit the team's only three-pointer of the game and Lee made two free throws to give W-P some breathing room. A three-pointer by the Lady Sailors brought the score back to within four, but two free throws by Einspahr and a basket by Harchelroad in the paint gave the Lady Broncos an eight-point cushion, 50-42.

Despite a height disadvantage, Einspahr continued W-P's success in the paint, scoring from the low block.

Coming out of a timeout down by 10 points, Sutherland scored consecutive baskets.

Both teams tightened the clamps over the final 2:44 minutes. Neither team scored until Fanning's free throw with 1:02 left in the game. A final free throw by Lee with 5.8 seconds left gave the Lady Broncos the 54-46 win.

Lee led three Lady Broncos in double figures with 16 points. Einspahr added 12 points and Skelton chipped in 10 points.

W-P made 15-of-20 from the charity stripe.

W-P rolls over Lady Raiders

Playing without Lee, the Lady Broncos had no trouble handling Medicine Valley (2-15) Thursday. Ten players scored for W-P in the 56-19 win.

The Lady Broncos came out hot to start the game. Skelton, Einspahr and Hannah Nordhausen hit three-pointers in the opening quarter as W-P put 15 points on the board while holding Medicine Valley scoreless.

Both offenses struggled in the second quarter. The Lady Broncos could only manage seven points and Medicine Valley finally got on the board putting up four points.

After the slow second quarter, the Lady Bronco offense kicked into gear in the second half, putting 17 points on the board in each quarter.

All 11 W-P players saw action in the second half.

Einspahr was the only Lady Bronco in double figures, finishing with 13 points. Harchelroad hit two three-pointers and finished with eight points. H. Nordhausen scored seven points and Fanning added six.

Season drawing to a close

W-P (13-6) has two regular season games remaining on its schedule against Chase County (6-15) and Maywood (3-15) before heading into subdistricts Monday and Tuesday.

Held at Cambridge, W-P will face four RPAC teams, Wallace, Hayes Center, Medicine Valley and Maywood, it has already beaten this season.

The D2-9 subdistrict will be held at Gothenburg.