

District champion Broncos headed to state tournament

Written by Wauneta Breeze

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Jack McGraw kicks away an Anselmo-Merna pass.

By Diane Stamm

The Wauneta Breeze

With three straight wins, the Wauneta-Palisade boys' basketball team improved to 13-10 and advanced on to the state tournament.

After a year away from the state tournament, the Broncos' 63-47 win over Anselmo-Merna Tuesday, Feb. 26, at Hershey gave the team a district championship and state tournament berth.

W-P had picked up a victory over Anselmo-Merna Dec. 29 at the Brady Tournament, but the Coyotes, after going 1-4 to end the regular season, had wins over 15-8 Brady and 16-8 Bertrand in the subdistrict tournament.

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Though Anselmo-Merna held a brief 5-4 lead, the Broncos trailed very little during the rematch. Two free throws by Jack McGraw and a layup by Connor Kayton got W-P started, but a three-pointer by Hayden Pollmann with three minutes gone in the game gave the Broncos a lead it wouldn't relinquish.

After a McGraw basket, another three-pointer by Pollmann and two buckets by Logan Bischoff gave the Broncos a 16-6 lead heading into the second quarter.

Baskets by Pollmann and McGraw increased the lead to 20-8. The Coyotes' work on the offensive boards kept the game from getting out of hand. Anselmo-Merna scored two baskets off offensive rebounds and added a free throw after being fouled following an offensive rebound.

Bischoff added two more baskets in the quarter as the Broncos put up 11 points. Two Anselmo-Merna three-pointers weren't enough to cut into the W-P lead and the Broncos led 27-17 at the half.

The Broncos used a strong third quarter to put the game out of reach.

Wes Anderjaska hit two three-pointers, both with assists from McGraw, to give the Broncos a 33-17 lead. Bischoff remained consistent, adding two more baskets to his total.

A three-pointer by Kayton and two free throws by Weylin Davis, as time was running down in the third quarter, increased the lead to 44-27.

The Coyotes came out with aggressive defense in the fourth quarter. Anselmo-Merna sent the Broncos to the charity stripe 11 times over the final eight minutes. W-P made 12-22 free throws. Anderjaska, Kayton and Bischoff added baskets.

Anselmo-Merna warmed up offensively over the final eight minutes. The Coyotes made seven

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two-pointers and one three-pointer and chipped in three-of-four free throw attempts.

Though Anselmo-Merna cut the lead to 57-47, Davis made five free throws in the final 1:30 and Pollmann added one as the Broncos closed out the win.

Bischoff finished with 18 points. Also in double figures were McGraw and Pollmann with 10 points each. Kayton scored nine points, Anderjaska eight and Davis seven.

Today's game (Thursday)

Leyton is led by Sam Schumacher, a senior who averages nearly 16 points per game. Junior center Brennen Cruise averages just over 15 points per game. Cruise averages a double-double, pulling down an average of 10 rebounds. Also in double figures is junior Dylan Brenner with 11 points a contest. Brenner leads the team with an average of 4.9 assists.

Coach Dave Kuhlen said Leyton is an athletic team that the Broncos will match up well size-wise.