

## Five seniors wrap up basketball careers with 13-11 season

Written by Wauneta Breeze

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**Diane Stamm | The Wauneta Breeze**

**The starters huddle before the game against Dundy County-Stratton.**

**By Diane Stamm**

**The Wauneta Breeze**

The Wauneta-Palisade boys' basketball team has been through some highs and lows over the last couple seasons.

This year's seniors were sophomores when the team was beaten in the state championship game on a buzzer beater.

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Last year, several saw significant playing time on a team that went 11-11.

This year they earned a state tournament berth.

The ups and downs have helped shape their lives and head coach Dave Kuhlen reiterated what coaches have consistently said about this group of kids.

“To me, the first thing about this team is that they are nice kids and fun to be around on a day to day basis.”

Kuhlen added, “The second thing that stands out is that they could have easily given up on the season and they didn’t.”

After an 11-11 basketball season a year ago, most of the players brought the momentum of an undefeated football season with them to the basketball court.

But the team started off with a 1-3 start that had Kuhlen frustrated.

The Broncos then rattled off four wins to take a winning record into 2013.

With the loss of Maris due to a concussion, the team went 2-6 in January.

Changes in February started to turn the team around.

“We went through a losing streak where it seemed like we finished the first quarter with 6 points every game,” Kuhlen said. “In February we were able to get off to good starts and therefore play

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better overall.”

With only a close loss to C2's Dundy County-Stratton the team won six games in February, including a district title.

Though seeded eighth in the state tournament, the team put on a good showing in Lincoln.

Kuhlen said he thought the state tournament proved that the RPAC had its best season to date.

“With a state champion, a state runner-up, and two narrow first round losses, the conference showed off some real muscle,” he said.

Healthy bodies were a problem through much of the season. Season ending injuries to Maris and Landon Jutten to go with weekly bumps, sprains and illnesses occasionally made practices a challenge.

Only starters Logan Bischoff, Connor Kayton, Jack McGraw, Hayden Pollmann and Wes Anderjaska played in all 24 games. Senior Weylin Davis played in 21.

Bischoff led the team in scoring (14.2 points), rebounding (9.4 per game) and steals (3.3 per game) for the second year in a row.

Kayton led the team in assists with a 2.9 average.

Pollmann and Anderjaska combined for nearly 18 points per game and will return to lead the Broncos in 2013-2014.