

Physical play and hot shooting opponents doom Broncos

Written by Wauneta Breeze

Wednesday, 18 December 2013 20:19 -



Playing Southern Valley at home Saturday, Lorenzo Cavanaugh (14) and Chris Carl (22) get their hands up on defense. (Diane Stamm | The Wauneta Breeze)

By Diane Stamm

The Wauneta Breeze

It was a busy time at Wauneta-Palisade High School last week.

Not only did the basketball teams travel to Cambridge Friday night and host Southern Valley Saturday, the One-Act Play Production team travelled to Norfolk for the State competition.

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Due to the trip, the basketball teams practiced the morning of Dec. 10 before loading onto a bus and heading to Norfolk. The group returned Wednesday evening and practiced Thursday before the games to end the week.

It was a rough couple games for the Broncos. The girls' team lost to Cambridge 46-49 and Southern Valley 43-53.

The boys' team fell to Cambridge 49-74 and Southern Valley 26-63.

Boys' opponents on fire

WP had no answers to the hot-handed Trojans Friday in Cambridge.

The Broncos put up the best point total of the year, 49, against Cambridge, but didn't have an answer for the Trojans' 12 three-pointers. Seventy-four points was double Cambridge's usual output.

Wes Anderjaska did his best to keep WP in the game, hitting two three-pointers and a free throw in the first eight minutes, plus a basket in the second quarter. Hayden Pollmann added a bucket in the first quarter and added a three-pointer and a two-pointer in the second quarter. WP's only other first half basket came from Chase Rathe and the Broncos headed into halftime trailing 18-36. Cambridge made seven first half three-pointers.

WP fared better in the second half. The Broncos outscored Cambridge 16-14 in the third quarter. Anderjaska added another three-pointer to his total, scoring nine points in the quarter. Pollmann made six points and Landon Jutten hit a free throw for WP.

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The Broncos continued to hang with the Trojans in the final stanza. Anderjaska added another nine points. Pollmann scored four more and Jutten made a basket in the loss.

Anderjaska finished with 27 points for WP, including four three-pointers. Pollmann scored 17 points. Jake Witte led Cambridge with 19 points and Evan Jones contributed 17.

The task didn't get any easier Saturday night when undefeated, Class C2 seventh ranked Southern Valley came to town.

Southern Valley held a 16-4 lead at the end of the first quarter behind the hot hand of Hunter Quinn. Quinn scored 10 points in the opening quarter and had 16 by halftime.

Jutten scored the Broncos' first four points of the game. Anderjaska came alive in the second quarter with two three-pointers and Tom McGraw made three first half baskets. Pollmann made two free throws as the Broncos outscored Southern Valley 14-11 in the second quarter.

Coming out of the locker room trailing 18-27, WP was unable to keep up with the Eagles in the second half. Rathe made a bucket for WP. Pollmann put six points on the board in the half and finished with a team high eight points. Anderjaska and McGraw each finished with six points.

Southern Valley's Alan Varela hit four second half three-pointers and finished the game with 14 points. Quinn led the Eagles with 25 points.

WP will look to pick up the season's first win when it hosts 0-4 South Platte Friday. Hayes Center (1-4) will host the Broncos Saturday to wrap up December games.

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Girls' face physical teams

The game was physical right off the bat against the Trojans. WP got its first three points off of free throws by Tailor Lee and Brooklyn Nordhausen. Despite a three-pointer by Brianna Einspahr, Cambridge was able to tie the game up midway through the first quarter. With buckets by Ellie Lee, Sydnee Harchelroad and two from Abbie Fanning, the Broncos went into the second quarter with a 16-10 lead.

Cambridge stormed out of the gate in the second quarter, putting 12 unanswered points on the board. WP could only manage one basket each by Harchelroad and Fanning and one free throw by T. Lee in the quarter. The Trojans scored 19 points over the same time span, including two three-pointers and seven-of-nine free throw attempts.

Trailing 21-28 to start the second half, the Broncos cut into the Cambridge lead with a three-pointer by Einspahr off an assist by Brooklyn Nordhausen and a two by Fanning with an assist from T. Lee. After both teams made two free throw attempts, WP was able to cut the lead to one, 30-31, when nice passing by Cassidy Rathe and T. Lee found Fanning open. Two quick baskets by Cambridge opened the lead back up, but a basket by T. Lee with 10 seconds left put the Broncos within striking distance, 32-35 heading into the fourth quarter.

Cambridge opened the quarter with a basket and Fanning answered with a steal and layup. The Broncos then answered one Cambridge free throw with a basket when Nicole Strand found Rathe open. Two more free throws by the Trojans, the team made seven-of eight free throw attempts over the last 4:20, plus a three pointer extended the Cambridge lead to 43-36. Two baskets by T. Lee around a Cambridge basket kept the lead at five, 40-45. After drawing a charge, Nordhausen converted a three-point play off an assist from T. Lee.

Within two with 30 seconds left, the Broncos fouled. Cambridge made all four free throw attempts down the stretch.

T. Lee led WP with 13 points. Fanning was right on her heels with 12 points. Kadee Long led Cambridge with 13 points, including nine-of-10 free throws. Long was one of two Cambridge post players to foul out of the physical game.

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WP made seven-of-17 free throw attempts in the contest. Cambridge knocked down 17 of its 21 attempts.

The Broncos returned home the following night to take on Southern Valley.

Behind two three-pointers and 10 points from Sydnee Harchelroad, the Broncos held a 13-12 lead at the end of the first quarter.

With an assist from Nordhausen, T. Lee opened scoring for the Broncos. A free throw by Nordhausen and a three-pointer by Harchelroad around a Southern Valley three-point play made the score 6-5. Two free throws by Harchelroad gave WP a three-point lead, but another three-point play by Southern Valley tied the game at eight. Southern Valley made two layups, but Harchelroad added another three-pointer and a steal and layup to keep WP ahead.

Neither team was able to gain an advantage in the second quarter. Both teams put 13 points on the board. A three-pointer by Einspahr and a two-pointer by Nordhausen opened up a 18-12 WP lead. Southern Valley scored four unanswered points before a Fanning three-pointer made the score 21-16. Southern Valley responded with a six-point run to take a 22-21 lead before an Einspahr bucket put the Broncos back in the lead. Einspahr answered a Southern Valley three-pointer with one of her own off an inbounds pass from Fanning with 8.3 seconds left in the half to give WP a 26-25 halftime lead.

A slow third quarter doomed the Broncos. Fanning found T. Lee twice for baskets in the opening minutes, but the Eagles scored 10 points over the first four minutes and took a 35-30 lead. Though T. Lee added another basket off an offensive rebound, Southern Valley scored nine more points and led 44-32 heading into the fourth quarter.

Even though neither team scored in the first half of the fourth quarter, both teams heated up over the next minute and a half. Following a two-point bucket and a free throw by Southern Valley, Einspahr and Harchelroad made three-pointers around a three by Southern Valley to bring the score to 38-50. After a Southern Valley timeout, the Broncos were forced to foul. Southern Valley made three-of-five free throw attempts down the stretch while Einspahr added

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one more three-pointer and Fanning a steal and layup to make the final score 43-53.

Einspahr totaled 14 points to lead the Broncos. Harchelroad added 13 points. Emily Becker led Southern Valley with 23 points.

WP's battle continued Tuesday at Dundy County-Stratton (5-0). Stats and story will be available in next week's issue along with details of the Broncos games against South Platte (2-2) and Hayes Center (3-2).