

Lady Broncos finish tough pre-holiday schedule with 2-1 week

Written by Wauneta Breeze

Tuesday, 24 December 2013 18:02 -



Ellie Lee splits the South Platte defenders. (Diane Stamm | The Wauneta Breeze)

By Diane Stamm

The Wauneta Breeze

After a week one win over Wallace, the sledding got tough for the Wauneta-Palisade Lady Broncos.

The Broncos lost four games in a row against teams that are a combined 22-5, including a loss this week to 7-0 Dundy County-Stratton.

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WP got back in the win column Friday and Saturday with wins over 3-3 South Platte and 3-4 Hayes Center.

Three games in five nights

The Broncos opened the week with a trip to DCS.

DCS has rolled through its first seven games with only the Broncos and Arapahoe finishing within 10 points of the Tigers.

The Tigers looked to have the game in hand several times throughout the game, only to have WP fight back.

DCS opened up a 14-3 lead in the first quarter as WP could only manage a basket, then a free throw by Brooklyn Nordhausen.

WP quickly got back in the game with three consecutive three-pointers, the first by Sydnee Harchelroad, then two by Brianna Einspahr.

The Broncos headed into the second quarter trailing 12-16.

Despite baskets by Tailor Lee and Harchelroad, the Tigers opened the lead back up to seven points.

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Following another Nordhausen free throw and put back by Lee, the lead was narrowed to four.

A three-pointer by DCS was the only offense over the next three minutes until two DCS free throws.

WP could only manage two Lee free throws over the final four minutes of the half and trailed 21-32 at half time.

The scoring was hot and heavy to start the second half.

Behind Einspahr's shooting the Broncos narrowed the gap to 41-44.

Einspahr hit four three-pointers in the quarter.

Nordhausen and Lee each made one basket and Fanning two during the stretch.

Lee was able to narrow the margin to two points with a free throw early in the fourth quarter, but from there DCS pulled away.

The Tigers doubled up on the Broncos 14-7 over the final eight minutes to take the 58-48 win.

Einspahr added five more points to her total in the quarter, finishing with seven three-pointers in nine attempts and 23 points.

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Lee made two-of-four free throws in the fourth quarter and finished in double figures with 10 points.

Lee and Einspahr led the Broncos with nine rebounds each.

Fanning had four assists.

The WP offense kicked into high gear Friday night against South Platte.

After making six three-pointers against DCS, the Broncos made eight against the visiting Knights.

WP wasted no time getting on the board with Einspahr finding Fanning for a three-pointer on the team's opening possession.

Fanning hit two three-pointers and two two-point baskets in the first quarter.

Einspahr added two three-pointers and one two-pointer and Harchelroad added three points as the Broncos opened up a 21-4 lead.

The Broncos remained on a roll in the second quarter, outscoring South Platte 14-6.

Fanning added four more points and Einspahr hit another three pointer.

Nordhausen got in the book with a basket and Lee made a basket and free throw. Cassidy Rathe added two free throws.

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Coming out from halftime with a 35-14 lead, the Bronco defense shut down South Platte in the third quarter, holding the Knights scoreless.

WP's hot shooting from beyond the arc continued in the second half.

Harchelroad made three three-points in the second half and finished the game with 16 points.

Fanning added a third quarter basket and also finished with 16 points.

Lee scored three baskets in the second half and finished with nine points.

Thirteen Broncos played in the 65-19 win which ended with a running clock after WP reached a 40-point lead.

The Bronco offense took longer to warm up the following night at Hayes Center.

After Lee scored on the Broncos' first possession, she picked up two fouls in the first minute.

Harchelroad responded for WP hitting a three-pointer, the first of three for her in the game.

Hayes Center used a three-point play and put back to stay in the game, then took a 7-6 lead off a WP turnover.

An offense rebound and basket by Nordhausen gave the Broncos the lead with 4:40 left in the

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first quarter, but the offenses stalled and Hayes Center held a 9-8 lead at the end of the first quarter.

The teams played scoreless ball over the first two and a half minutes of the quarter until Nordhausen found Einspahr for a three-pointer.

Hayes Center was never able to find the bottom of the basket in the quarter, while WP got a putback from Lee, another three-pointer by Harchelroad with an assist by Ellie Lee, two free throws by Fanning and a driving basket by Harchelroad.

WP headed into halftime leading 20-9.

The Broncos continued to pull ahead in the third quarter, giving up seven points but added 10 to its own total.

Harchelroad and Einspahr each added a three-pointer. Harchelroad and T. Lee each also had two-point baskets.

T. Lee reached double figures in the fourth quarter, making two baskets and adding two free throws to finish with 12 points.

Harchelroad led the Broncos with 14 points.

Einspahr made her third three-pointer of the game in the fourth quarter. Einspahr finished the week with 13 threes.

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Brady Invitational

The Christmas break is a short one.

WP will be back in action Friday, Jan. 3 at the Brady Invitational.

The Broncos will play Anselmo-Merna (1-7) in the first round. Tip off will be at 12:00 p.m. MT/1:00 p.m. CT.

Brady (5-1) and Eustis-Farnam (4-2) are in the other half of the bracket.