

Broncos on a roll, beat Perkins Co. and Garden Co.

Written by Wauneta Breeze

Thursday, 23 January 2014 16:04 -



Wes Anderjaska leans in for a shot Friday against Perkins County. (Diane Stamm | The Wauneta Breeze)

By Diane Stamm

The Wauneta Breeze

After starting the season 1-8, the Wauneta-Palisade Broncos boys' basketball team has won three straight games, including wins over Perkins County and Garden County this week.

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Take out Perkins County

The Broncos opened the week with a 46-43 home win over C2 Perkins County (2-10).

The teams opened the game with two scoreless minutes before Chase Rathe found Lorenzo Cavanaugh open for a three-pointer.

After two free throws by Perkins County, Hayden Pollmann made a three-pointer and, following a Wes Anderjaska steal, Rathe made a free throw to put the Broncos ahead 7-2.

The teams closed the quarter with a flurry. A bucket by Anderjaska was answered with one by Perkins County and another Pollmann three-pointer was answered by a three-point buzzer beater by the Plainsmen.

Leading 12-9 at the start of the second quarter, three free throws by Landon Jutten were all the Broncos could manage over the first three minutes of the quarter, while Perkins County would make three baskets and tie the game at 15.

WP regained the lead with a full court drive and layup by Pollmann. After Rathe hit both ends of a one-and-one opportunity, Perkins County hit a three-pointer to bring it back within one point.

Rathe added two more free throws with a minute and a half left in the half, which Perkins County answered with a bucket. It looked like the teams would head into halftime with the score 21-20 but a Pollmann three-pointer at the buzzer with an assist from Tyler Davis gave the Broncos a four-point halftime lead.

With the Plainsmen asleep at the wheel WP got a gimme basket by Rathe to open the third quarter.

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Following a Jutten free throw, Perkins County made one free throw and getting the offensive rebound off the missed second rebound made a basket to bring the score to 27-25.

With the help of one free throw, Perkins County took the lead, 28-27, on a basket at the 4:34 mark in the third quarter.

WP took the lead back when Pollmann found Rathe open on a nice cut for two points, then, after a Rathe steal, Pollmann sunk a basket with an assist from Anderjaska.

Consecutive baskets by Perkins County gave it a 32-31 lead, but WP finished the half with one free throw each by Jutten and Pollmann to take a 33-32 lead into the fourth quarter.

A putback gave Perkins County the lead, but WP was able to answer with a three-pointer by Anderjaska, quickly followed by a steal and layup by Cavanaugh.

WP opened up a six-point lead, 40-34, with a bucket by Rathe. Responding to two Plainsmen free throws, Rathe hit another bucket with an assist from Pollmann.

With WP leading 42-36, the Plainsmen went on a 7-0 run to take the one point lead with 54.5 seconds left.

A Pollmann jumper pulled the Broncos back into the lead with 31.0 seconds remaining.

With 20.2 seconds left Perkins County missed two free throw opportunities. Rathe, however, made both ends of a one-and-one with 7.6 seconds left to seal the Broncos' 46-43 win.

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Rathe made 7-8 free throws in the game and finished with 15 points.

Pollmann led the Broncos with 16 points.

Perkins County made 10-of-22 free throw attempts in the game. WP made 13-of-20 free throws.

Travel to Garden County

WP followed up the Friday night win with a trip to Oshkosh to face Garden County Saturday.

The Broncos held a 14-13 lead at the end of the first quarter. Jutten scored WP's first two baskets of the game, before seven straight points by Pollmann. A three-pointer by Rathe rounded out first quarter scoring.

Garden County took a 24-18 lead into halftime after outscoring WP 11-4 in the second quarter. The Broncos could only manage one basket by Anderjaska and one free throw each from Pollmann and Rathe.

WP cut into the lead in the second half. Rathe, Cavanaugh and Davis each scored baskets for the Broncos and Davis added a free throw to bring WP to within one, 25-26, going into the fourth quarter.

The Broncos sealed the win by outscoring Garden County 19-13 over the final eight minutes.

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Following baskets by Jutten and Pollmann, Cavanaugh hit a three-pointer. Anderjaska added two free throws before another Jutten bucket. Anderjaska added another free throw and then a basket and the Broncos wrapped up the win with a third Jutten basket and one free throw by Cavanaugh and two by Anderjaska.

Pollmann and Jutten each scored 10 points for WP. Anderjaska added nine.

The Broncos will travel to Paxton Friday to take on the 10-2 Tigers before starting the RPAC Tournament Saturday morning.

RPAC Tourney

The Broncos (4-8) are seeded seventh in the upcoming RPAC Tournament.

WP will face Wallace (10-1) in the first round Saturday, Jan. 25, at Maywood. Game time will be 11:45 a.m. MT/12:45 p.m. CT.

With a win, the Broncos would play the winner of Paxton and Maywood Tuesday, Jan. 28, in Trenton at 6:45 p.m. MT/7:45 p.m. CT.

If WP loses to Wallace, it will play the loser of the Paxton/Maywood game at 3:15 p.m. MT/4:15 p.m. MT Tuesday in Trenton. The tournament will continue Friday, Jan. 31, in Benkelman and Saturday, Feb. 1, in Southern Valley.