

By Pastor Vince Carrig

Sports Writer

Kye Kurkowski hit shots faster than an AK-47 spends shells in a furious 14-point, third quarter outburst as his Plainsmen hung 82 on Dundy County-Stratton to win by 19 points Saturday afternoon in Benkelman.

Kurkowski dropped shots through the hoop with a scoop hook, jump hook, middle-of-the-lane hook, close jumpers, mid-range jumpers and banks off the backboard to amass 27 points.

“He is very capable of hitting shots like that every night,” Plainsmen Head Coach Shawn Cole said of his center’s remarkable output.

The Plainsmen became the Tigers’ basketball bosses with a 26-10 third quarter, turning a 40-32 halftime lead into a 63-36 blowout lead with one minute remaining in the third quarter.

Kendall Glidden scored an astounding 41 points for the Tigers. Glidden frequently flew to the basket and contorted in the air to either avoid defenders or draw contact for foul shots. To Glidden’s disappointment, he received just 12 points from the other four on his side through the first three quarters, after which he had already scored 30.

Glidden tacked on 11 points in the fourth quarter, and fellow forwards Jordan Faimon and Joe Rettle almost equaled the entire previous output of his teammates in the fourth quarter by combining for 10 points well after the Plainsmen controlled the outcome.

Both Plainsmen forwards Michael York and Max Jones shot with confidence, putting up 15 points apiece. Their forms and follow-through flowed as both consistently swished shots from

mid-range and long-range.

York sauntered to the three point line and eased a bomb through the net in the second quarter. Jones lit it up in the first quarter from near and far to post 10 points, and jacked one from the left corner for a six-yard field goal.

Plainsmen guards Josh Sexson and Jeremy Hagan flicked in all eight free throws they took—four apiece. Chase Lampmann scored six free throws and both Jeremy Hagan and Lampmann scored from the field in the first half.

With spin moves and up-and-unders, Kurkowski and Glidden staged an offensive clinic. The Plainsmen, though, defended better and shot with much more confidence and accuracy in evening their season's record at 3-3.

"Shots fell [for us], and we got some [points] on the good defense we played. When you out-hustle a team, good things happen," Coach Cole said.