

By Pastor Vince Carrig

Sports Writer

The Broncos pulled up the curtain on “The Harris and Bartels Show” in the second quarter and the Plainsmen watched in horror during a 59-39 rout for the home team in Wauneta Friday night.

Harris, who stands 6-foot-4 and can dribble the ball between his legs at will, tortured Perkins County with drive after drive to score nine second quarter points and 20 for the game.

Harris texted the visitors how the night would go with the game’s first score, double-crossing over two defenders on his way to the rack for a score.

The Broncos ran wild to the rim, scoring 15 field goals right at the basket. Their drives also merited them 26 trips to the line, which they converted into 18 points.

Bartels scored eight in the second quarter and 20 overall as well.

Harris and Bartels played off of one another and created a nightmare for the Plainsmen, stretching a 13-10 lead to 30-14. They scored off of steals, floated in jumpers, and cleared room in the paint.

Harris actually backhanded a shot off the glass to run Wauneta-Palisade’s advantage to 26-14.

Broncos Head Coach Dave Kuhlen employed a fierce press that produced results in the form of

steals, interceptions and breakaway layups. His team physically asserted itself underneath both baskets.

Plainsmen Head Coach Shawn Cole credited the 9-2 Wauneta-Palisade squad: "They do a great job attacking the basket. They don't force things when they get in the lane. If they don't have a shot they pass and someone else drives."

The game started well enough for the Plainsmen, as Kye Kurkowski had his turnaround jumper cranked up and a couple of those staked the visitors to an 8-7 lead.

But the Broncos ran far from the stable with steady production from Harris and Bartels in the third and fourth quarters as well.

Bartels and guard Myles West hit three pointers in the fourth quarter to assure Wauneta-Palisade's win.

Next Action

The Plainsmen faced the 2-8 Sutherland Sailors on Tuesday night in the first round of the SPVA Tournament at Mid Plains Community College in North Platte. With results not available at press time, please look to next week's edition for full coverage. Another date with 7-2 North Platte St. Patrick's awaits the winner, with 9-1 Maxwell lurking as the likely winner of the other tournament bracket.