

By Pastor Vince Carrig

Sports Writer

The Lady Plainsmen harnessed the power of Jenni Sis' accurate shooting and stamped to a 16-0 start in taking a 39-33 win from the Lady Broncos in Wauneta Friday night.

Riding a three-game winning streak, Perkins County evened its season record at 6-6.

Sis struck from three-point land after hitting a seam in Wauneta Palisade's defense and swishing a mid-range jumper for seven first quarter points toward the big lead.

"I was very pleased that our team came ready to play at the start of the game. A combination of good defense and some cold shooting [on their part] helped us get off to a great start in the game," Lady Plainsmen Head Coach Chris Mestl said.

Sis, Tanya Metcalf, and Wauneta-Palisade guard Katie Flaig led all scorers with 12 points apiece.

Metcalf paced Perkins County through the rough terrain of the Lady Broncos' comeback attempt, which ended with the visiting Lady Plainsmen barely still ahead 25-24.

Metcalf hit two shots close to the basket and then traded assists with guard Mackenzie Hite in the fourth quarter. Metcalf found Hite wide open after sneaking in the back door; Hite led Metcalf for a breakaway score after stealing a pass for a 37-31 lead.

Both dialed up the defense in the fourth quarter as well, with Hite breaking up a two-on-one with an interception and Metcalf picking the last pass of Lady Broncos breakout.

Wauneta Palisade's guards Katie Flaig and Bethany Riener took turns lassoing the Lady Plainsmen back to the ranch, with Flaig running two consecutive steals to the hole to bring the Lady Broncos to 24-19, and Riener swishing a three pointer and running a rebound to the bucket to yank the home team to within one point at 25-24.

The teams combined to shoot 35 percent from the free throw line; Hite's three-for-five gave her the most.

Shelby Hamilton and Flaig retaliated with three pointers to blunt Perkins County's 16-0 opening run and quickly got Wauneta-Palisade back into competition. The home squad never quit but could not overcome missing its first eight shots and turning the ball over four times before scoring.