

### By Larry Pritchett

*Former Activities Director*

The 2012 high school basketball season started this past weekend and the Perkins County Plainsmen, after practicing for a couple of weeks and having a Hall of Fame non-counting game with Paxton, hit the road to do battle with SPVA rivals Maxwell and Hershey.

Opening the season Friday night at Maxwell, the Plainsmen started slow leading only 10-7 after the first quarter but then erupted for 41 points in the middle two quarters while holding Maxwell to four in the second and third and took a commanding 51-15 lead into the fourth quarter on their way to a 57-31 opening game victory.



The Plainsmen's defense time and time again caused problems for Maxwell's offense forcing 25 turnovers during the contest. Along with disrupting the offense, the turnovers led to many easy buckets for the Plainsmen.

The Plainsmen defense did an outstanding job during the game forcing Maxwell into many hurried or just plain bad attempts at the basket which lead to a very poor shooting percentage as the Wildcats hit on only 14 of 60 shots from the field.

Maxwell failed to hit any of the 12 attempted three pointers and their free throw shooting was just as weak as they connected on only three of 15.

The Plainsmen weren't a lot better percentagewise, but they got up 70 attempts hitting on 24 of them, went 1-11 from three-point land and 8-15 from the line.

The rebounding portion of the game was dead even as each team picked off 44 rebounds. Maxwell's total included a very good 20 offense boards but their poor shooting didn't allow them to make use of the offensive board work. The Plainsmen did a pretty good job on their own boards as they had 18 offensive boards out of the 44 total.

The Plainsmen were led in the first quarter by Taylor Boldt and Jake Sexson as both players hit four points each and PC led 10-7 after one. Sexson lead the team in scoring for the game with 12 points and Alex Johnston also hit for double figures finishing with 10 points for the night. Johnston also led the rebounding with 11 boards for the game.

Plainsmen Coach Shawn Cole had the opportunity to get a lot of players some floor time as all 14 who suited saw the floor and the reserves played the entire fourth period. Ten of the 14 players scored in the game.

Some additional stat leaders for the game were Elliot Carlson leading in assists with four. PC also had 19 steals for the game with Quinton Hite getting four and Elliot Carlson and Jake Sexson each had three.

Overall the Plainsmen had a pretty good effort for the first contest of the season and although like all first games there were areas that need work. The Plainsmen played hard and got the

ever important win to open the season.

Perkins Co. vs Hershey

The second night on the road for the Perkins County Boys basketball team proved to be much tougher than the first night. The Hershey Panthers are a much more talented team than the previous night's opponent and posed way more problems for the Plainsmen. The Perkins County boys came up short on a 52-41 score.

The game was closely fought and the Plainsmen had opportunities to win the contest after rallying to tie the game in the fourth quarter, but the Panthers put together about a three-minute spurt where they stopped the Plainsmen offensive efforts and got good offensive play on their own end to get the double digit win.

Hershey led at each quarter break, 11-8, 24-18 at the half, 35-31 after three and the final 52-41.

The Plainsmen rallied in the fourth quarter and with 3:16 left in the fourth quarter Quinton Hite hit a three-pointer to tie the score at 28-28. Just 10 seconds later Tucker White hit a three-pointer for the Panthers and they never trailed again. White's three-pointer ignited a run by Hershey that was fueled by three lay-ups in a row by 6-4 post Wes Layton.

At the same time, the Plainsmen could not buy a basketball and the contest went from a tie to a double figure lead for the Panthers.

The Plainsmen were led in scoring by junior Quinton Hite who banked in 12 in the contest. No other Plainsmen player hit for double figures but Jake Sexson, and sophomore standout Tim Johnson had nine each. Hershey was led by Wes Leyton who hit for 18 points and also hitting for double figures for the Panthers was Bryson Hellmuth who got 14.

Although the Plainsmen came up short in this game, it was certainly apparent that with improvement in a couple of areas, come tournament time, the Perkins County team will have the ability to compete very well with the Panthers if they get matched up somewhere in the tournament.

### **Next Action**

The Plainsmen now play their home opener this Friday against Kimball and then travel to Gothenburg on Saturday.