



**By Pastor Vince Carrig**

*Sports Writer*

The Lady Plainsmen front line of Shania Metcalf, Tanya Metcalf and Shalee Pollard asserted itself at the basket to capture the NSAA class C2 sub-district 12 tournament championship with a 57-50 win over the Hemingford Lady Bobcats in Gering Thursday night.

Perkins County's girls will now play on Friday in Sutherland for a district championship and a berth in the state tournament against their nemesis, North Platte St. Patrick's.

Shania Metcalf pounded down an inbounds pass and two free throws on back-to-back fourth quarter trips to separate Perkins County from Hemingford late, 53-44.

Shania Metcalf led all scorers with 15 points, followed by Tanya Metcalf with 14, Pollard and Lady Bobcats guard Kelsy Wood with 12.

Just before Shania's last four points, Tanya Metcalf grabbed a defensive rebound, dribbled it most of the court, and pulled the ball from her pocket to the bucket to stop a Hemingford rally.

Reserves trying to get what they deserve, guard Precious Campbell scored two free throws and 5-foot-11 sophomore Dani Campbell hit from near the foul line to draw the Lady Bobcats to within three points at 47-44 with less than five minutes left.

Hemingford drew no closer to the team that led for the entire ball game, however.

The Lady Plainsmen began the game on a 9-2 run that put them in good position to control the

outcome. All three forwards scored in that fast start, and a Tanya Metcalf lob to Pollard for a three-point play punctuated it.

Kristin Beck reached from beyond the arc to extend Perkins County's lead to 18-8 at the end of the first quarter.

The only Lady Plainsmen guard to score multiple field goals, Jessi Hoffert, boosted her team with an open jumper and lane drive in the third and a close-range tally as Hemingford still lurked in the fourth quarter.

Perkins County did an excellent job of connecting passes with players cutting to the basket in open space on Thursday night.

Wood's one-handed three-point shot from NBA range infused life into her Bobcats at the third quarter buzzer, cutting their deficit to 34-27.

Pollard stripped Wood's dribble, and posted-up guard Michi Prante got points in the fourth quarter to help offset that unlikely shot.

Down 47-40 with 5:42 left, forward Kaitlyn Heitz swished a three-pointer and guard Wood drove the entire lane unchecked for the Lady Bobcats to bring Hemingford as close to the lead as it would ever get, 47-45.

Perkins County eliminated Dundy County-Stratton with a 47-41 victory over the Lady Tigers on Tuesday, Feb. 14.

### **Next Action**

The Lady Irish beat Southern Valley 52-34 to win sub-district 11 and will stand in Perkins County's way of a district championship on Friday night in Sutherland. North Platte St. Patrick's beat the Lady Plainsmen 61-39 and 65-27 in two earlier meetings this year.

Perkins Co. 58, Hemfrd. 50

Hemingford 8 9 12 11—50

Perkins Co. 18 16 13 11—57

Scoring leaders—Perkins County: Metcalf, S. 6FG 3/4FT—15; Metcalf, T. 4 6/10—14; Pollard 5 2/3—12; Hoffert, J. 3—6;

Hemingford: Huss 5 3/3—13;

Wood 4 (1[x3]) 1/2—12; Heitz 2 (1) 4/6—11.