



By Pastor Vince Carrig

Sports Writer

The 14-5 Hershey Wildcats mauled the Plainsmen 59-32 to end both teams' regular seasons Friday night in Grant.

Hershey encountered little resistance penetrating the lane and locked down their side of the court to start the game on runs of 11-2 and 36-8.

Athletic swing forward Jordan Hiatt scored the most points with 12, but many Panthers took the opportunity to pile on and improve their statistics.

Hiatt moved to the basket with speed and authority to earn layups and free throws, and kicked out to hit a pair of three pointers as well.

Taylor Boldt led the Plainsmen with eight points, shooting four of six from the foul line. But other starters scored just a pair of points or worse yet, fewer.

Missed shots and turnovers played a role in the Plainsmen stringing together just 12 points in the first half; porous interior defense and inadequate "close-outs" on long range shooters allowed the visiting Panthers to terrorize Perkins County for 41 points in the first 16 minutes.

Junior Panthers guard Josh Connell broke in for a layup and stroked a mid-range jump shot as part of his nine points, and forward Bryson Hellmuth stationed himself under the basket for putbacks and nine points as well.

Hershey guard Tucker White stole a routine inbound pass after a Panthers basket and scored again to give the visitors a 46-14, third quarter lead and finished with eight points.

The Plainsmen starting lineup scored just 14 points; Tim Johnson and Colton White entered the

game later and scored four points apiece for Perkins County.

Next Action

The Plainsmen ran off Morrill, 60-35, in the opening game of the NSAA's class C2 sub-district 12 playoff tournament on Monday night, and played 14-5 Hemingford on Tuesday (with coverage to follow in the next issue).

Perkins Co. 32, Hershey 59

Hershey 24 17 10 8—59

Perkins Co. 6 6 8 12—32

Scoring leaders—Hershey: Hiatt 2FG (2[x3]) 2/4FT—12; Connell 3 3/4—9; Hellmuth 4 1/2—9; White, T. 4—8;

Perkins County: Boldt 2 4/8—8.