

By Pastor Vince Carrig

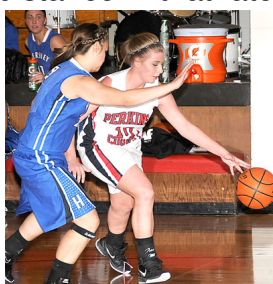
Sports Writer

Lady Panthers forwards Tayler Baker and Maegan Hiatt shot the lights out in a 19-point first quarter barrage that sent Hershey to a 43-30 win over Perkins County Saturday night in Grant. Baker grabbed a steal from a pressing Hershey defense and pulled up to launch a three pointer and give the Lady Panthers an early 13-2 lead.

"They are quick on offense and tenacious on defense," Lady Plainsmen Head Coach Deanne Bishop said of Hershey. "They like to shoot long threes and get the ball off very quickly."

Hiatt opened the scoring from "downtown" and slugged another triple from straight away in the first quarter to create a margin that the Lady Plainsmen would never really dent.

Senior Perkins County guard Michi Prante swished shot after shot and led all scorers with 16 points. Three of her eight field goals in the game kept the Lady Plainsmen within shouting distance in that fateful first quarter.



"Michi led by example in terms of hustling after rebounds and loose balls. When we needed a bucket, Michi shouldered that challenge and attacked the basket. I was pleased with the senior leadership she demonstrated in this game," Coach Bishop said.

Prante favored the baseline for her launching point and counted several mid-range jumpers from along the end line. She also displayed nice touch around the basket, getting a putback and a loose ball to go down from close range.

Shifty-dribbling guard Daynlee Miller actually topped all Hershey scorers with points in every quarter and 13 overall. The senior point guard put her stamp on the first quarter rout with two field goals—one from just inside the arc and a layup off of a steal.

Hiatt grooved two more three pointers early in the fourth quarter to firm up Hershey's chances with a 39-25 Lady Panthers lead.

For the second game of the weekend, Lady Plainsmen center Shania Metcalf scored from close and far, feeding the basket two shots from underneath it and connecting from inside the wheel. Metcalf tallied seven points.

Next Action

The 1-1 Lady Plainsmen travel to Kimball to face the 2-0 Lady Longhorns on Friday. Kimball sneaked by Dundy-County Stratton and then won by a handful over a team from Wyoming. The 0-2 Gothenburg Lady Swedes visit Grant on Saturday. The Gothenburg girls kept the score respectable against Lexington but allowed Hershey to trounce them last week.

P.C. 30, Hershey 43

Hershey 19 4 10 10-43

Perkins Co. 8 8 7 7-30

Scoring leaders—Perkins County: Prante 8 FG-16; Metcalf 3 1/2 FT-7; Hershey: Miller 5 (1x3) 0/2-13; Hiatt 1 (3) 1/2-12; Baker 2 (2) 0/2-10.

