

By Pastor Vince Carrig

Sports Writer

Hershey guard Tyson Osborne released from the defensive end of the court to score an open basket at the buzzer, giving the Panthers a 38-37 win over the Plainsmen Saturday night in Grant.



The Panthers wrestled a win from Perkins County after Plainsmen swing forward Caleb Breazeale gave his team the lead by downing two free throws (before and after a Hershey timeout) with 3.2 seconds left in the game.

Better defense in the second half helped the Plainsmen erase a 26-19 deficit at halftime. Wing Tim Johnson stripped a dribbler and took it to the hole to tie the game 28-28 in the third quarter. Johnson and guard Quinton Hite swiped five steals apiece for the Plainsmen, who limited Hershey to just 12 points in the second half.

Guard Landan Maassen led all scorers with 11 points, and looked quite comfortable while reaching from beyond the arc. His second “trey” of the game gave Hershey a 35-32 fourth quarter lead.

Johnson and Hite co-led scoring for the Plainsmen, with nine points apiece. Johnson scored on a fourth quarter breakout and Hite hit one of only two Plainsmen three pointers in the third quarter (Caleb Breazeale scored the other).

Perkins County held the lead only twice in the game: in the first quarter at 8-6 and for two of the last three seconds at 37-36. Maassen’s second quarter three pointer bulged Hershey’s lead to nine, 22-13.

Breazeale counted all three free throw shots he took arriving at eight points for the game.

Fellow Plainsmen big man Blake Poppe put back a rebound to tie the game 32-32 early in the fourth quarter; Poppe finished with seven points.

Hershey 38, PC 37

Hershey 13 13 6 6-38

Perkins Co. 10 9 11 7-37

Scoring leaders—Perkins County: Hite 3FG (1x3) 0/1FT-9; Johnson 4 1/2-9; Breazeale 1 (1) 3/3-8; Poppe 3 1/4-7; Hershey: Maassen 2 (2) 1/2-11; Johnson 3 1/3-7; Czarnick 2 2/2-6; Osborne 1 (1)-5.