

By Pastor Vince Carrig

Sports Writer

Brandie Ross' two critical overtime free throws edged Perkins County past the Wallace Lady Wildcats 54-52 Friday night in Grant.

Wallace forward Katelyn Melton had tied the game with a desperation three-point shot from just in front of the arc as the fourth quarter's time expired.

The Lady Plainsmen received an eight foot jumper from center Shania Metcalf and a free throw from guard Michi Prante to outscore Wallace 5-3 in extra time.

Wallace took its first lead since 2-0 33:38 into the game when sophomore guard Christina Daniels dropped in a free throw to make the score 51-50.

Perkins County entered the second half with a 17-point, 29-12 lead and led for all but a minute of the game.

Four starters scored seven unanswered points before halftime to give Perkins County great confidence. Forward Matisyn Humphrey put away a misdirected pass and swished two free throws, Prante stepped back from 10 feet, Metcalf thanked Humphrey for a great pass, and senior guard Jessi Hoffert threw one in from the line.

"As well as we executed in the first half, we really struggled with Wallace's added pressure in the second half," Lady Plainsmen Head Coach Deanne Bishop said after the game. "The girls surprised me and rose to the occasion, ultimately finding a way to win. Their ability to tune out the distractions and focus on what they needed to do in those last few minutes was impressive."

Prante's put-back with three minutes remaining shot her Lady Plainsmen ahead 48-41, but guard Sara Hubbard notched points from just inside the arc and Daniels' field goal and free throw set up Melton's dramatic shot.

Perkins County got points in every quarter and 12 overall from Prante. Humphrey hit all four free throws assigned her in the first half and pumped in a jumper and give-and-go from Prante for 12 points as well. Jessi Hoffert nailed three point pointers in the first and fourth quarters and finished with nine points.

Scoreless for the entire first half, 6-foot center Chelsea Sowle began dominating from the right block, scoring four times from two feet away to finish with 12 points.

Along with Melton, Daniels (17 points) and Hubbard (13 points) struck with three pointers in Wallace's fourth quarter comeback.

"I would like to say a special 'thanks' to my assistant coaches, Greg Vest and Mike Mayer, who coached the game for me in my absence," Coach Bishop said. "They did a great job getting the girls ready to compete."

PC 54, Wallace 42 OT

Wallace 6 6 19 18 3-52

P.C. 15 14 11 9 5-54

Scoring leaders—Perkins County: Humphrey 4FG 4/4FT—12; Prante 5 2/6—12; Hoffert 1 (2[x3]) 1/9—9; Metcalf 3 1/2—7; Ross 2 3/4—7; Wallace: Daniels 5 (1) 4/8—17; Hubbard 5 (1)—13; Sowle 5 2/2—12; Melton 2 (2)—10.