By Vince Carrig
Sports Writer

Shania Metcalf finished off a fourth quarter give-and-go to separate her Lady Plainsmen from the Sandhills-Thedford Lady Knights and gained a championship plaque with her team for winning the 2012 Perkins County Booster Club's Holiday Tournament on Saturday in Grant.

Metcalf and starting freshman guard Brandie Ross along with sophomore forward Courtney Ostermiller all drained two free throws per person in the final quarter to seal the 45-37 win.

Just two points divided the teams after three quarters, but two of Michi Prante's game-high 13 points in the form of a six-foot baseline jumper allowed Perkins County to throttle the Lady Knights.

The Sandhills-Thedford girls closed the game by missing seven shots, forcing the Lady Knights to foul Perkins County players to stop the clock and try to get the ball back.

The 7-3 Lady Knights' Taylor Marten led her team with 10 points, including the deposit of an inbound pass to bring them as close to winning as they would ever get, trailing by two points at 36-34.

Senior forward Matisyn Humphrey's power move to the basket and score despite a foul gave Perkins County a 28-25, third quarter lead. Lady Plainsmen guard Jessi Hoffert downed jumpers from near and far, but 6-foot-1 freshman twins Avery and Madison Taylor kept the third quarter an even affair with two putbacks and two free throws.

"Humphrey had a crucial role in helping us pass and break the press. [She] and Courtney McClenahan did a good job of filling the gap with Shania [Metcalf] on the bench," Lady Plainsmen Head Coach Deanne Bishop said after the game.

Michi Prante's six second quarter points turned a two-point deficit into a two-point Lady Plainsmen lead at halftime. Prante ran the floor for a close one and then dribbled out of coverage to swish a 10-foot jumper; the senior shooting guard led all scorers with 13 points.

Brandie Ross kept Perkins County competitive in the first quarter, driving from the foul line to

the basket for points and stealing a ball to feed Jessi Hoffert for a breakaway layup that tied the game 8-8.

Guard Taylor Marten scored the Lady Knights' first four points, reaching from just inside the arc to help build an early 8-4 lead for Sandhills-Thedford. Marten led her team with 10 points; no other mate scored more than six, but eight girls in green tallied.

"Our tough December schedule helped us prepare for tonight," Coach Bishop said." "Our entire bench contributed in tonight's game. This was a good win for our program,"

Next Action

Winning the tourney improved the Perkins County girls record to 4-5. The winners of three in a row head south for a "girls only" date with 5-3 Dundy County-Stratton on Thursday and swing east to challenge 7-2 Sutherland on Saturday.

Sand.-Thed. 37, PC 45

Sand.-Thed.	10	8	12	7–37
Perkins Co.	8	12	12	13–45

Scoring leaders–Perkins County: Prante 6FG 1/4FT–13; Metcalf 3 4/9–10; Ross 3 2/2–8; Hoffert 3–6; Humphrey 3 0/2–6; Sandhills-Thedford: Martin, T. 4 2/4–10; Taylor, A. 3–6; Simonson 3 0/1–6.