By Pastor Vince Carrig
Sports Writer

Paige Spady grabbed teammate Valeria Cervantes' missed free throw and sent a free throw of her own through the net with 14.7 seconds left in overtime to give Chase County a 37-36 win and kick the Lady Plainsmen down to Saturday's fifth-place game last Tuesday night (Jan. 15) at the SPVA tournament in North Platte.

Reserve guard Mariah Curtis miraculously put back an offensive rebound after Michi Prante stole a Chase County pass to tie the game 32-32 with 0.7 seconds left to dramatically send the game to overtime.

"Although points were at a premium, the girls fought back, found a way to send it to OT and ultimately had a chance to win it at the end," Perkins County Head Coach Deanne Bishop said after the game. "This was a hard-fought match between two 'blue-collar' teams." Swing forward Bethany Sorenson's sixth jumper of the game seemed to have clinched a Lady Longhorns win with 25 seconds left in the fourth quarter and a 32-30 lead.

Curtis had come off the bench and turned two steals into three Perkins County points in the middle of the fourth quarter.

Lady Plainsmen center Shania Metcalf spun and blistered in two shots at the basket to give her team a 21-20 lead early in the fourth quarter. Metcalf also hit all four free throws she took for eight points in the quarter and 10 for the game.

Jessi Hoffert's second three pointer of the third quarter tied her Lady Plainsmen with Chase County, 17-17, but guard Morgan Fisher answered with a "three" of her own to send the Lady Longhorns into the fourth quarter with a 20-17 advantage.

A Michi Prante back-door cut and high and hopeful shot from Curtis pulled their Perkins County team back into contention in the third quarter after the opponents in black and orange threatened to run away with the lead.

Sorenson struck from the farthest lane hash and Paige Spady scored a transition basket to send Chase County ahead 15-7 early in the third quarter.

Sorenson swished another jumper in the second quarter, and Spady hit the back iron with two foul shots yet watched both of them go through netting. Chase County missed 14 shots in the second quarter but committed just two turnovers and went to halftime leading 11-7

Prante's high-arching jumper from the elbow counted for points in the Lady Plainsmen's second quarter. The Perkins County girls doubled their missed shot total by missing another 13 in the second quarter, but sliced turnovers down to just three. Sorenson swished two jumpers and Cervantes hit two free throws in Chase County's first quarter.

Prante found Metcalf cutting hard to the basket for and underhanded layup and Humphrey

scored for Perkins County despite taking a foul for the Lady Plainsmen's only field goals in the first quarter.

Perkins County missed 13 shots and turned the ball over nine times, and the Lady Longhorns missed eight shots and committed eight turnovers in the first quarter, keeping even the combined total point output very low.

C.C. 37, P.C., 36 OT

Chase Co.	7	4	9	12	5–37
Perkins Co.	5	2	10	15	4–36

Scoring leaders–Perkins County: Metcalf 3FG 4/6FT–10; Curtis 3 2/4–8; Prante 2 4/6–8; Hoffert (2[x3])–6; Chase County: Sorenson 6 0/2–12; Spady 2 3/4–7; Fisher 1 (1) 1/2–6; Langin 2 1/2–5; Cervantes 1 3/5–5.