



By Pastor Vince Carrig

Sports Writer

Caleb Breazeale busted through for a defensive-lane steal, driving it coast-to-coast and Quinton Hite tossed in a three pointer to give the Plainsmen a 41-32 third quarter lead over Sutherland on their way to a 54-42 SPVA first-round win Monday night, Jan. 14 in North Platte.

Steals from Sailors dribblers for breakaway baskets enabled Perkins County to erase an early 15-4 shelling from Sutherland at the start of the game. Senior guards Jake Sexson and Elliot Carlson also undercut dribbles for high-speed scores in the second half.

“The steals just [came from] our guys playing tough defense. We wanted to put a lot of pressure on them and the player executed,” Plainsmen Head Coach Shawn Cole said after the game.

Carlson (13 points) stole a pass at the top of Perkins County’s set and blew by a defender as the Plainsmen began to blow by Sutherland 34-30 in the third quarter.

Freshman guard Kadin Copeland hit his team’s third three pointer of the first quarter and

padding the Sailors' lead to 15-2 right after tip-off.

Consecutive hard-driving layups from Carlson all-but erased the first quarter's 13-point shortfall, and Hite's free throw with time expired swabbed the deficit from the scoreboard, tying the game 28-28 at intermission. Hite tallied 13 points as well.

Sexson (eight points) switched hands twice from the arc to the rack and brought Perkins County to within two of the lead, 25-23 in the second quarter.

Junior guard Tyler Fear (11 points) got a jumper to drop through off the back iron and the freshman forward Copeland released for an open basket to increase Sutherland's second quarter lead to 23-14.

Guard Brett Good's buzzer-beating, flying layup set up Sutherland with a 19-12 lead after one quarter. Good led the Sailors with 13 points.

Blake Poppe and Breazeale used the power game, Colton White banked a wide-angle shot and Hite hit from behind the arc to cut the Sailors lead to 17-12 in the first quarter.

Two three-pointers by freshman guard Brett Good and a pair of field goals from junior guard Tyler Fear staked Sutherland to a quick 10-0 lead.

"Sutherland was obviously ready to play. They wanted to upset us in a big way," Coach Cole said. "I am proud of my guys staying calm and not getting into a panic. They came out firing up shots and they were dropping early. They kept shooting and the shots started to miss. We did a good job on the boards and not letting them have more than one shot each trip."

Sutherland heard whistles for traveling four times in the first quarter.

The Plainsmen fired blanks on nine consecutive free throw shots in the second half before Carlson targeted three of four and Sexson drained two with just over one minute left.

Sutherland 42, P.C. 54

Sutherland 19 9 4 10—42

Perkins Co. 12 16 13 13—54

Scoring leaders—Perkins County: Carlson 5FG 3/5FT—13; Hite 3 (2[x3]) 1/5—13; Breazeale 4—8; Sexson 3 2/2—8; Sutherland: Good 2 (3)—13; Fear 4 (1) 0/1—11; Copeland 3 (1)—9; Carsten 3 1/3—7.