

By Pastor Vince Carrig

Sports Writer

Dundy County-Stratton guard Cade Duvel put away two wide-open shots in the fourth quarter and his Tigers eliminated the Plainsmen from the NSAA playoffs with a 47-32 win last Tuesday (Feb. 19) at McCook High School.

Duvel stormed through the back door and later released for a bomb pass with a breakaway layup following to give his Tigers a 47-28 fourth quarter lead. The point guard led all players with 11 points.



Perkins County shot a meager 10-for-54 (19 percent) from the floor, including the 3-for-18 in the first half that severely damaged their chances to advance.

The Tigers excelled at collapsing on Plainsmen driving the lane, running as many as three defenders at a shooter to alter shots. Tips and blocks from Joe Rettele and Dylan Peterson made it hard for Perkins County to make a living in the lane.

Referees awarded Dundy County-Stratton 32 foul shots in the game against just 12 for the Plainsmen. Guard Trey Haislip and forward Rettele filled their plates with five scores apiece from the line as the team from Benkelman netted 13 more points from fouls than Perkins County.

The Tigers outscored the Plainsmen in every quarter. Peterson's two second quarter free throws gave Dundy County-Stratton a 13-2 lead and the Tigers never needed to fear losing from that point.

Tigers penetration and concentration led to third quarter "and ones" for Rettele and reserve forward Michael Lorens. Power forward Cole Stute knocked down a three pointer and a right wing jumper and Rettele stopped, popped and dropped from just inside the foul line to ratchet Dundy County-Stratton's third quarter lead to 35-20.

Senior Plainsmen point guard Quinton Hite answered Stute's triple immediately, and center Blake Poppe hooked two shots off the right side of the glass for Perkins County's highest-scoring quarter—14 points in the third period.

Duvel robbed his second Plainsmen pass of the game and took it to the hole in the third quarter as well.

The Tigers paraded to the foul line in the second quarter, entering halftime with a 19-9 lead thanks to seven scores in 10 tries from the charity stripe.

Perkins County staged a 7-3 run, with Blake Poppe banging in a shot from the left post just before both Jake Sexson and Colton White stroked mid-range jumpers to cut the Tigers' second quarter lead to 16-9.

The Plainsmen approached no closer, however.

Haislip sank all four free throws that came his way in a first quarter filled with missed shots. Ten tries off the mark combined with four turnovers and two offensive fouls stunted the growth of the Plainsmen's score.

Duvel intercepted a pass and dribbled to daylight for the first quarter's only field goal.

The Plainsmen shot a tidy 9-for-12 from the foul line, with Alex Johnston leading Perkins County with five free throws and seven rebounds.

Next year's version of Plainsmen basketball will look very different, as all five starters (Elliot Carlson, Quinton Hite, Jake Sexson, Alex Johnston and Blake Poppe) as well as two rotation players (Caleb Breazeale and Colton White) have used their eligibility and expect to graduate in May.

North Platte St. Patrick's won NSAA class C2 sub-district 11 with a 67-42 blowout over the Tigers on Saturday. The Irish continued their run to the state's "elite eight" in Lincoln, vanquishing Hemingford 51-43 on Monday to win District 6.

P.C. 32, DCS 47

Perkins Co. 2 7 14 9—32

DCS 8 11 16 12—47

Scoring leaders—Perkins County: Hite 1FG (1[x3]) 2/2FT—7; Poppe 3—6; Johnston 5/8—5; Dundy County-Stratton: Duvel 4 3/5—11; Haislip 2 5/6—9; Stute 1 (1) 3/6—8; Rettele 1 5/8—7; Peterson 1 3/4—5.