



By LaDonna Swedberg

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As Wallace approaches the halfway point of their season, they continue to have a busy schedule while preparing for the conference tournament.

In the midst of all of this, the Wildcats were looking to get back to their winning ways following the Mullen loss and that is just what they did.

The Cats got things started off in the right direction when they hosted the South Platte Knights on Thursday night. In spite of a slow start, Wallace got things rolling and ended up dominating the game.

In the early goings of the game, neither team was able to get points on the board.

John Marquardt eventually made his way under the basket to kiss one off the glass for the first Wildcat points and shortly after, Dillon Koop completed a similar play for a basket of his own.

With the game tied at four, Josh May stepped beyond the arc for a three-pointer to give his team their first lead. Jacob Melton then started building on the lead when he stole the ball and took it to the house. Before the quarter came to an end, Koop added a put back to give the Wildcats an 11-6 lead.

The Wallace offense came to life in the second quarter while their defense continued to be stingy. Landon Swedberg put up the first points by getting a couple of lay ups.

Following a Knight three-pointer, John Marquardt added two free throws and Andrew Gardner hit a jumper.

The Cats put up eight unanswered points after a South Platte free throw; Hayden Woodcox got a basket in the paint, Shane Anders drained a three followed by a successful inbound play and then Landon Swedberg added a free throw.

Marquardt put in the last three points of the half when he made a basket and added a free throw which gave Wallace a 30-12 half time lead.

The Wildcats continued to roll in the second half as their relentless defense only allowed South Platte to score six points in the remainder of the game.

Shane Anders put up the first points and the Knights responded with their only third quarter basket.

Anders and Landon Swedberg then went back and forth each putting in two baskets a piece. Hayden Woodcox got a couple of baskets and Marquardt added a free throw. Before the third quarter ended, Landon Swedberg added a three-pointer and two free throws.

Things slowed down significantly in the final period with the score board changing a lot less. Marquardt drove the lane to put up the first points and after South Platte put two points on the board, Wallace came back with seven consecutive points.

Landon Swedberg and Dillon Koop each got a put back, Andrew Gardner added a free throw and Anders put one in off the glass. The Knights added two free throws late in the game to make the final score 59-18.

Leaders for the Wildcats were Landon Swedberg with 16 points, two steals, three assists and six rebounds and Shane Anders with 13 points, one assist and two rebounds. John Marquardt contributed 10 points, four steals, two assists, two rebounds and one block.

Wallace had little time to celebrate their victory as they had to travel to Paxton on Friday night to face a tough Tiger team.

The Wildcats were looking to put together four complete quarters on both sides of the ball and as the game got underway, things were looking good.

Wallace put the first points on the board when Landon Swedberg tipped in a rebound. Paxton responded with a basket and then Shane Anders got started with his incredible night as he drained his first of many, three-pointers. The Tigers continued to score throughout the quarter but not many were aware of it because Anders was shooting lights out; He put up 11 more first quarter points.

John Marquardt added a basket late in the quarter and Wallace had a 18-13 lead at the end of the first quarter.

The Wildcats did not let up in the second period as they continued to give Paxton everything they had.

Marquardt put in another basket and later added two free throws while Landon Swedberg put in three baskets for additional points. Anders added another three-pointer and Andrew Gardner also put two points in the books.

Wallace went in at half time with a 33-24 lead.

As well as the Wildcats played in the first half, they had more for the second half and their outstanding play did not waver as the game progressed.

Landon Swedberg came out and put up eight third quarter points while Anders tacked on another three as well as a jump shot. Hayden Woodcox, Andrew Gardner and John Marquardt each added a basket as well and the Cats had increased their lead with a score of 52-38.

Shane Anders started the game on fire and he ended it the same way as he put up 10 more points in the final period; two more three pointers for a total of six baskets from beyond the arc. Landon Swedberg added four points to his total and Marquardt and Gardner each put up an additional two points. The Wildcats had so many big plays on offense and defense which propelled them to the big 70-49 win over Paxton.

Shane Anders was the big leader for Wallace with 32 points, four steals one assist, four rebounds and one blocked shot.

Landon Swedberg put up 20 points and he had three steals, seven assists, eight rebounds and

four blocked shots. John Marquardt also had a great game with 10 points, one steal, nine assists two rebounds and two blocked shots.

Next Action

The Wildcats had another tough conference game when they hosted Dundy County/Stratton on Tuesday, Jan. 21 and then they traveled to Arthur for a second encounter with the Wolves on Thursday, Jan. 23.

Wallace will begin RPAC Conference Tournament play in Maywood, on Saturday, Jan. 25 at 12:45 p.m. when they will go to battle with Wauneta/Palisade.