

By Tim Linscott

Managing Editor

Putting a complete game together may be all that the Lady Plainsmen basketball team needs as the offense was on point for the game against Sedgwick County and the defense was improved against Maxwell.

On Jan. 30 the Lady Plainsmen faced the Cougars of Sedgwick County (Julesburg, Colo.) and put up the best offensive half of the season, but lost the game 71-43.

PCS head girls basketball coach Deanne Bishop said the first half showed what the team is capable of doing on the court. The second half, however, provided a cold spell shooting.

“In the second half our shots didn’t fall and we fouled them too much, putting them on the free throw line,” Bishop said. “I have a lot of respect for the way the Sedgwick County girls handled those free throw opportunities.”

The Cougars hit 72 percent of their free throws to ice the game.

PCS was down 20-14 after one period and then stormed back to take a decisive second quarter lead, 19-9 and was up 33-29 at the half.

An 18-6 third quarter started to unravel the lead for PCS and the Cougars outscored the Lady Plainsmen 24-4 in the fourth quarter.

The Lady Plainsmen did not hesitate to shoot the ball in the game, hoisting 68 shots up, connecting on 15 (22 percent) and was 10 of 22 from the free throw line.

PCS has been cleaning the offensive boards this season with regular success, picking up 15 offensive rebounds, while holding the Cougars to seven.

PCS had a 7-5 advantage on steals.

Mariah Curtis, junior guard for PCS, hit 5 of 16 from the floor and 5 of 14 from the line for 17 points, two steals, one assist and five rebounds to lead the Lady Plainsmen.

Senior Courtney McClenahan picked up eight points, seven rebounds, one assist and two steals for PCS.

Kendra Hoffert notched six points, one steal, one assist and five rebounds for the Lady Plainsmen. Amanda Osler had five rebounds and two points in the game and Courtney Ostermiller had four points, two assists and three rebounds.

PCS vs. Maxwell

In a re-match of the SPVA game against Maxwell, the Lady Plainsmen were hoping to correct some defensive deficiencies in order to gain the ‘W’ against Maxwell on Jan. 31.

The Lady Plainsmen did increase their defensive pressure, however, the offense lacked and resulted in a 37-23 loss.

“I felt our defense was good enough to give us an opportunity to be competitive, but our offensive output wasn’t there,” Bishop said.

Maxwell was up 8-5 after one period and the second period mirrored the first, with both teams scoring eight and five points, respectively. PCS was down 16-10 at the half and hoping to make some adjustments in the second half.

The offense stalled for the Lady Plainsmen in the third quarter, scoring only one point, while giving up 10 points to Maxwell.

Down 26-11 going into the fourth quarter, PCS had to have a 19-point quarter similar to the Sedgwick County game the night before.

PCS outscored Maxwell 12-11, which did not prove enough to pull out the victory.

The team was again not afraid to put the ball up, shooting 59 attempts, but connecting on only eight shots (13 percent). PCS was 7 of 16 for 43 percent from the free throw line.

PCS had a 10 to 5 steals ratio and Maxwell had 20 turnovers, compared to 17 for Perkins County.

McClenahan led the team with a double double, scoring 11 points with 10 rebounds and had one steal.

Hoffert had five points and three boards while Curtis had three points, three steals and two boards. Ostermiller led the team in steals with five and had six rebounds.

The Lady Plainsmen will play Cambridge tomorrow (Feb. 7) before hosting Cozad Feb. 8 for the last home game of the season.

The final game of the season for the Lady Plainsmen will be Feb. 13 against Hayes Center. Sub-district action is slated for Feb. 17, 18, 20 and 28.