

By Tim Linscott

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On Jan. 30 the Perkins County boys basketball team hit the road to Julesburg, Colo., to face Sedgwick County and kept pace with the Cougars, but a fourth quarter cold spell meant doom for the Plainsmen.

PCS lost 62-45 to the Cougars.

Down 18-11 after one period, PCS was able to turn things around and outscore the Cougars 17-16 in the second quarter to face a six point deficit at the half, down 34-28.

The Plainsmen held tough in the third quarter, scoring 10 points while Sedgwick County had 15 points.

Heading into the fourth quarter, PCS was down 49-38.

The Cougars outscored PCS 13-7 in the fourth quarter to seal the win, 62-45.

PCS was active on the floor, hitting 12 of 30 shots (40 percent) and was 2 for 2 from behind the three-point line.

PCS held a 33-23 rebounding advantage over Sedgwick County.

The Plainsmen had a 4 to 1 block advantage, however had 26 turnovers in the game while Sedgwick County had only nine.

The reason for the turnovers, according to PCS head boys basketball coach Shawn Cole, was the half-court trap used by the Cougars.

"Most of our turnovers were from their pressure. They played a half court trap most of the game," Cole said.

PCS was 19 of 30 (63 percent) from the charity stripe, which was an encouraging sign to Cole that his team was running the offense well and going to the basket.

"I felt we did a good job attacking the basket on offense. They did the same and were able to hit some shots," Cole said.

PCS guard Derek Sis put up 13 points, hitting seven of nine from the free throw line and had six rebounds and one assist.

Tim Johnson pitched in 11 points for PCS, hitting 4 of 5 from the floor and was 1 for 1 from behind the arch with five rebounds, one assist and one block.

Zak Kurkowski led the team in blocks with two and had seven points, one assist and five rebounds.

Matt Sestak had five boards, one assist, one block and four points while Chase Miyamoto ended the night with five points, two steals, three assists and six rebounds.

PCS vs. Maxwell

PCS defeated Maxwell in the SPVA tournament earlier this season and things looked good for the first half of the re-match in Maxwell on Jan. 31.

The Plainsmen were up 14-7 after one period and held a 27-20 lead at the half.

Maxwell would outscore PCS 22-14 in the third quarter to go up 42-41 going into the fourth quarter.

The final quarter was a shoot-out with both teams posting 42 points. Maxwell outscored PCS 24-18 to win, 66-59.

The Plainsmen had a 19-6 lead in assists and had a 10 to 5 steals ratio over Maxwell. Maxwell had 16 turnovers in the game and PCS had only 10.

The Wildcats shot better from the floor (23 of 51 for 45 percent) than PCS (25 of 58 for 43

percent) and hit more three-pointers (5 of 14 for 39 percent to 2 for 8 for 29 percent).

Maxwell was 15 of 19 (78 percent) from the free throw line and PCS was 7 of 13 (53 percent).

Maxwell had 15 offensive rebounds and PCS had 12, which Cole said told the tale of the game.

"We gave up to many offensive rebounds. That was the difference in the game," Cole said.

Four Plainsmen were in double digits in scoring for the game.

Christian White had 14 points, shooting 6 of 11 from the floor (54 percent) and had one assist and two rebounds.

Sis had 13 points, one steal and three boards and hit 5 of 6 free throws.

Johnson had an unconventional double double with 12 points and 12 assists.

Johnson also led the team in steals with four and had seven rebounds, including four offensive boards.

Sestak contributed 10 points with two steals and four rebounds. Kurkowski had six points, one block, three assists and six rebounds with Miyamoto knocking down four points with three steals, three assists and three rebounds.

The Plainsmen will be on the road to Cambridge tomorrow (Feb. 7) before hosting Cozad Saturday, Feb. 8. The final home game is Feb. 21 against Hershey.