



### **By Tim Linscott**

*Managing Editor*

Before heading to Sidney for sub-district action on Tuesday, Feb. 24, the Perkins County boys basketball team hosted Hershey in its final home game of the year.

A packed house rooted on the Plainsmen, which PCS head boys basketball coach Shawn Cole said meant a lot to him and the team.

"I don't think the fans know how much it means to the team. We have not won very many games but to see the fans still coming to the games lets us know that they are still behind us and want us to have success. It really does mean a lot," Cole said.

Hershey was able to battle back from a five-point deficit in the second half to win 41-36.

Both squads were evenly matched from the opening tip-off.

The Plainsmen and the Panthers were knotted at 11 after one period of play. PCS pushed the offense by spreading the ball around and slashing to the lane, outscoring Hershey 13-8 in the second quarter to take a 24-19 lead into halftime.

In the second half, Hershey turned the momentum their way by doing what PCS did in the first half, slashing to the basket and making the extra pass.

"They did a good job attacking the basket in the fourth quarter. We failed to score in the second half. I am not sure what we shot the second have but it wasn't good," Cole said.

Hershey outscored PCS 22-12 in the second half.

Statistically, both teams were pretty even.

PCS shot 11 of 39 from the floor (23 percent) and Hershey shot 13 of 50 (26 percent). The Plainsmen were 13 of 20 from the charity stripe while Hershey was 13 of 23.

PCS had a 21-19 defensive rebounding edge and a 9-4 assists advantage. A stat that cost PCS was the 22-18 turnover ratio.

The loss put into perspective the need for tougher defense, according to Cole.

"I think they realized that if they play hard good things happen. In the middle of the first quarter we starting playing defense with a purpose and that got us going," Cole said. "We are not a

team that can outscore someone, we have to play defense to have a chance to win the game. I thought our guys played one of the best defensive game this season.”

Derek Sis led PCS in scoring with 11 points and had two steals and one rebound.

Tim Johnson ended the night with nine points, one steal, three assists and 11 rebounds.

Christian White pitched in three points, two blocks, four assists and three boards.

Plainsmen senior Matt Sestak dropped in six points and had one steal, and eight boards while Zak Kurkowski had two points, two steals and four rebounds.

Tyler Thelander added one assists and one steal to his stats for the season while Chase Miyamoto had five points, one assist and two boards against Hershey.

### **PCS vs. Bayard**

The Plainsmen took on Bayard in Sidney in the first round of sub-district action on Monday.

The season for Plainsmen ended with a loss, 45-33, to the Tigers.

PCS was down 35-20 at the half and the Plainsmen outscored Bayard 13-10 in the second half, but could not overcome the 15-point halftime deficit.

Ending the season with a 3-19 record, PCS will lose four seniors to graduation with two juniors, four sophomores and five freshman currently on the roster.