

Northern Valley ladies win two of three

Two out of three's not bad at all. And for the Northern Valley Husky ladies, that was the result of their last three outings.

Vs. Smith Center

The Northern Valley Lady Huskies played host to Smith Center in a contest that was deemed a "mid-term" exam by coach Chuck Zimmerman, and although the Huskies lost 67-47, the coach said "we have improved."

He added, "We will use this contest to concentrate on the areas that need improvement so we may continue to improve for the rest of the season."

Smith Center was a taller, more physical team and the Huskies just did not adjust to their advantages as needed. "Basically, we were out rebounded by 15, which just gave them 15 more opportunities to score," Zimmerman said.

"Our pressure did cause the Lady Red some problems as they turned the ball over 33 times as we stole 17 on the night. Normally this would be a huge factor in a victory. The problem for us was after we stole the ball we 'were in a hurry to give it back to them.' In other words we had too many turnovers of our own," he said.

Coach said if the ladies can

eliminate our turnovers and concentrate even more on rebounding, they will continue to make positive strides for the rest of the season.

Leader in deflects was Alison Cole with 7 followed by Jessica Largent with 4 and Christina Anderson with 3.

Steals were then taken by Largent and Megan Cole with 4 each while Staci Dole, Joni Hilburn and Anderson each swiped 3 from the Redmen.

Rebounds were taken in by Alison Cole and Anderson with 5 apiece, with Megan Cole grabbing 3.

Assists were handed out by Anderson who found five team mates open while Megan Cole, Hilburn and Largent each found 2.

Scoring: Karen Wenzel 0; Megan Cole 6; Joni Hilburn 5; Alison Cole 21; Kenzie Chandler 0; Staci Dole 2; Christina Anderson 9; Phoung Le 0; Brittney Braun 0; Pam Araujo 0; Jessica Largent 4.

Vs. Victoria

The Lady Huskies traveled to WaKeeney to play Victoria in a make-up contest from the second week on the season and came away with a 61-32 victory.

"It took one quarter before the

ladies started to play our style of ball as once again they played down to the level of their competition.

"After the break you could tell the intensity level picked up and we had a deciding 20-6 scoring advantage which we never relinquished," the coach said.

"In the second half we again approached the 30 percent point margin and we used a split team system of play allowing our junior varsity players to mix in with the varsity to allow them to realize the speed and intensity in which they need to play when they get in the game," he said.

The Huskies had a balanced offensive attack in this game as three of the ladies were in double figures, with two more being only one basket away.

"This must continue for us to improve our overall game," coach Zimmerman said.

"Defensively, once we increased our intensity and we were back on track much like the Logan second quarter as the Knights were whistled for 41 total turnovers of which we stole the ball 24 times off of 32 deflects," he said.

Joni Hilburn led the team in deflects with 9. When Hilburn

stepped up her intensity the rest of the team followed and as a result the team had a season high hustle stat with those 32 deflects. Alison Cole was right behind with 8 followed by Megan Cole with 6.

"Steals, as I stated, were many (24), with Christina Anderson taking 7, and if the Huskies' press is working correctly Christina is playing the position that should be getting most of the steals. Hilburn took 5 and Alison Cole 4.

"Rebounds, well, credit must be given to the Knights as they hustled for every missed shot and did rebound us by 3. Our leaders were Jessica Largent with 8, while Anderson and Alison Cole each grabbed 6," he said.

"Hilburn, playing her best all-round game of the year, also found 8 teammates open for scores. Largent and Alison Cole each found 4. With our two 'kahonas' being assist leaders, this just shows that we are starting to understand the concept of using all our weapons and taking advantage of what the defenses are giving us," the coach said.

Scoring: Wenzel 0; Megan Cole 13; Alison Cole 16; Chandler 2; Dole 2; Hilburn 2; Anderson 9; Phoung Le 0; Brittney Braun 8;

Pam Araujo 0; Largent 9.

Vs. Western Plains

"While I was preparing for the Western Plains game I thought 'we haven't had a close game lately so that we could be tested on how to play in tight games.' Well, I did not expect the Western Plains game to be such a game but it turned out to be as we came from behind to win 40-39 in a game where we only shot 30 percent from the field and the Bobcats a season high 40 percent.

"The key had to be turnovers. Yes, the very same statistic that I have been saying we need to improve upon. In this game where possessions were very important — for us to have more and our opponents less, we did ourselves proud and as a team only had 13 while our defense helped cause 32 by the Bobcats.

"Now if we can only complete the game plan and concentrate on rebounding even better (we were out rebounded by 8) we can start that final push toward the end of conference play and post season," Zimmerman said.

"Our defense hustled hard, not efficiently, but hard, and our girls never gave up even though we were behind by 4 with less than a

minute to play. Deflects and steals were key in the final minute plus as we put the speed team on the court and just denied every pass and it paid off with more shooting opportunities.

"Our deflects leader was Alison Cole with 8 (I should mention that many of Alison's deflects are blocked or tipped shots — in this game she had 3 blocks). Christina Anderson followed with 5, which were very close to being steals. Megan Cole hustled to tip 3.

"Steals were taken by Jessica Largent with 5 while Megan Cole and Alison Cole each took 4 from the Bobcats while Staci Dole swiped 3.

"Assists were plentiful as we continue to be very unselfish with some teammates being too much so. Anderson found 4 'sisters' open while our point guard duo of Joni Hilburn and Staci Dole each found 3.

"A good win, one that proved we can fight our way back and also that we can take care of the ball when we need to."

Scoring: Wenzel 0; Megan Cole 4; Alison Cole 17; Chandler 0; Dole 4; Hilburn 0; Anderson 9; Phoung Le 0; Brittney Braun 0; Pam Araujo 0; Largent 4.

Husky boys drop two games

The Northern Valley Husky varsity boys basketball team dropped 59-30 and 51-37 decisions to Victoria and Western Plains, respectively.

Vs. Victoria

The Knights took a 14-4 lead at the end of the opening quarter and went into halftime with a 23-12 advantage. When the buzzer drew the third quarter to a close, Victoria held a 37-22 advantage.

Bryce Marble led the way for the Huskies with 10 points, the only double digit scorer. Drew Britt tossed in 7, Cody Callaway 5, Tanner Jessup 4, Dusty Eagleburger 3 and Drew Eagleburger 1.

Victoria had three players in double figures — Scott with 17, Wilson 15 and Klaus 10.

Northern Valley scored its points on 9 from 2-point range, 1 3-pointer and 9 from the charity line.

For Victoria, it was 20 2-pointers, 2 3-pointers and 13 free throws.

Vs. Western Plains

The Huskies trailed by just 2 points after the first quarter, 15-13 and were still within striking distance at the half, 26-20. After three quarters of play, still only 8 separated the teams with Western Plains with the advantage 36-28.

The fourth quarter sealed the deal for Western Plains as they outscored the Huskies, 15-9.

Jessup was top scorer for Northern Valley with 13. Dusty Eagleburger added 9; McMillin 1; Cody Callaway 8; Blake Johnson 2; Drew Eagleburger 4.

Chris Rein led the way for Western Plains with 15; Kyle Grose 12; Eric Dysinger 10; Jesse Harbrine 8; Michael Greenway 4; and Jesse Flax 2.

The Huskies scored 11 2-pointers, 2 3-pointers and 9 free throws.

For Western Plains, it was 14 2-pointers, 2 3-pointers and 17 free throws.

Junior Varsity

The Northern Valley junior varsity team lost to Western Plains 27-13. Dusty Eagleburger and Chaim McMillin each scored 6.

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