Hayden Pollmann cuts through the Brady press as Connor Kayton watches his progress.

By Diane Stamm

The Wauneta Breeze

The Wauneta-Palisade girls' and boys' basketball teams traveled to Brady over the Christmas break to participate in the Eagles' Holiday Tournament.

Bronco boys gaining momentum, five wins in last six games

WP opened tournament play Friday by revenging a season opening loss to Brady (6-3).

The teams played close through the first quarter with Jack McGraw's buzzer beater giving the Broncos a 12-10 lead.

Wes Anderjaska and Jacob Maris each hit a three-pointer and Logan Bischoff scored eight points in the second quarter. The Broncos headed into halftime up by 10, 29-19.

Anderjaska added two more three's in the third quarter.

WP made eight-of-14 free throws down the stretch for the 59-43 win.

Bischoff led the Broncos with 19 points. Connor Kayton scored 12 points, hitting six-of-eight free throws, and Anderjaska added nine points. McGraw and Hayden Pollmann each score eight points.

Following the win over Brady, W-P took on Anselmo-Merna Saturday in the championship game.

“The whole first half, we played hard but we just weren’t playing very good fundamentally,” Coach Dave Kuhlen told the North Platte Telegraph. “We were just throwing the ball at the basket.”

With a 17-14 score at the end of the first quarter, the offenses struggled in the second.

Anselmo-Merna only made one basket in the quarter and made five-of-six free throws.

W-P, meanwhile, got baskets from Kayton and Maris and also made five-of-six free throws.

Heading into halftime down 23-24, the Broncos let Anselmo-Merna (3-5) score the first six points of the second half.

“The second half, after talking about those things at half, we came out and were trying to be too careful and that allowed [Anselmo-Merna] to get six straight,” Kuhlen told the Telegraph.

Down 23-30 the Broncos woke up and used a 21-3 run through the third quarter to take a comfortable lead.

The Broncos scored 10 then 11 points straight during the run.

Kayton scored six points in the third, while Anderjaska and Pollmann each added five.

Pollmann’s three-pointer with seconds remaining in the third quarter gave the Broncos a 44-33 lead.

Logan Bischoff scored eight of his 21 points in the fourth quarter. The Broncos made six-of-nine free throws in the quarter.

Kuhlen also told the Telegraph, “Anselmo-Merna is an aggressive team and isn’t the easiest team to keep off the boards, but the kids’ effort in the second half rebounding was outstanding. We’re still a work in progress. From night to night different things seem to crop up, but this team has a lot of potential.”

Pollmann and Kayton finished with 12 and 11 points, respectively.

Lady Broncos go 1-1

After losing to Brady 48-52 to open the season, the Lady Broncos lost to Brady 60-44 to open tournament play.

W-P stuck with Brady (8-1) through much of the first quarter, holding a 9-8 lead with just under three minutes to go. The Lady Broncos got baskets from Sydnee Harchelroad, Abbie Fanning and Cassidy Rathe and Brooklyn Nordhausen, with a free throw by Abbie Fanning, in the first quarter.

But over the rest of the first quarter and into the second, Brady went on a 10-point run. Back-to-back baskets by Tailor Lee and Fanning narrowed the Lady Eagle lead to five, but Brady went on to outscore the Lady Broncos 13-3 and open up a 33-17 lead approaching halftime. Brady led 35-21 at half.

The Lady Broncos could only manage two baskets and two free throws in the third quarter.

The Broncos scored 17 in the fourth quarter, including eight by Fanning.

Emma Skelton added two baskets in the fourth quarter.

Lady Eagles Coach Lance Arterburn told the North Platte Telegraph, “One thing about [Wauneta-Palisade] is they won’t quit. They keep coming back at you. We’ve played them twice now and we could see them later on. They do a nice job and we were fortunate to get a win tonight.”

Wauneta-Palisade Coach Betsy Johanson said, “They had a big advantage in the rebounding. That was the difference in the game. We couldn’t keep them off the offensive boards.”

Fanning led the Lady Broncos with 15 points. Nordhausen and Lee each added six points.

In the consolation game, Anselmo-Merna (0-8) got two baskets each from three players to take a 12-11 lead at the end of the first quarter.

Fanning scored seven for the Lady Broncos in the first.

W-P found success from the outside in the second quarter. The Lady Broncos got three three-pointers from Brianna Einsphar and two from Harchelroad to pull W-P ahead.

Hannah Nordhausen added her own three-pointer in the third quarter and Fanning added four points.

Outscoring Anselmo-Merna by seven over the final eight minutes, the Lady Broncos cruised to

the 54-42 win.

Fanning made six-of-eight free throws down the stretch. Einsphar added another three-pointer and made two free throws.

Fanning finished with 19 points and Einsphar scored 15.

Upcoming action

The Broncos (5-3) and Lady Broncos (5-4) will host Hitchcock County on Friday and will travel to Southwest Saturday.