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(Neb.)-Cowboys Rally Past Chadron State

By: Dennis and Kathi Brown Posted at: 01/18/2014 09:41 AM

CHADRON-New Mexico Highlands overcame a 10-point deficit in the final 10 minutes to slip past the Chadron State men 85-82 in a Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference game Friday night,

The Cowboys trailed nearly the entire game, but took the lead for keeps with two minutes remaining when Mannie Cass hit a jumper to break a 79-79 deadlock.

Each team then made three of four free throws to leave Highlands on top 84-82 with 35 seconds remaining.

Both teams then stole the ball. The Eagles got their possession with 20 seconds remaining, but never got off a potential tying or winning shot. Highlands added a free throw in the final second after the Chadron State had thrown the ball away.

Guard Stargell Love led Highlands with 18 points and also handed out 10 assists. Both Cass and Stuart Sullivan scored 15 points and Drew Martin contributed 14. The Cowboys shot just over 50 percent each half.

It was a tale of two halves for the Eagles. Things worked well in the first half, when they shot 56 percent (19-34) from the field, including nine of 17 from 3-point range. But in the second half, the hosts made only 29 percent (9-31) from the field and just one of 10 from long range.

Five Eagles scored in double figures, but they tallied 39 of their 56 total points in the first half. Evan Brooks led with 13 points, followed by Zac Bargan with 12, David Downey 11 and Chris Smith and Grant Stone, both 10.

Highlands is now 9-6 overall and 6-5 in the RMAC. Chadron State is 6-8 and 3-7.