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(Neb.)-Eagles Overcome Cowgirls In Double Overtime Thriller

By: Dennis and Kathi Brown Posted at: 01/17/2014 10:55 PM

CHADRON - Kattie Ranta scored 37 points - 36 of them coming in the second half and overtime - to lead the Chadron State women's basketball team to a rousing 102-99 Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference game Friday at Armstrong Gymnasium.

Ranta, who also added 12 rebounds, scored 22 of Chadron State's 27 points in the two overtime sessions to record the fourth-highest single game scoring performance in school history. In the final two sessions, she made six of eight from the field and nine of 10 from the foul line.

While Ranta provided the scoring bulk, several others chipped in solid performances. Kayli Rageth scored 20 points and grabbed nine boards, Kate Simonton scored 15 points, Dallas Shaw finished with 12 points and Greer Babbe added in 10 points and four blocks. Simonton and Shaw also had five assists apiece.

The Eagles, who overcame a 15-point deficit with 16:10 to play in the second half, made 16 of 25 shots from the field in the second half and limited Highlands to 42 percent.

Chadron State had a chance to win the game in regulation but Highlands' Alyssa Lopez sank a layup to tie things up at 75-75 with three seconds to play. The Eagles also led 87-84 in the first overtime but Lopez struck again, sinking a trey with eight seconds remaining.

The Eagles finally shut the door in the second overtime when Ranta hit back-to-back foul shots and she gathered a rebound off Highlands' final possession to secure the victory.

For the game, Chadron State, which scored over 100 points for the first time since the 2005-06 season, shot exactly 50 percent (32 of 64) and connected on 32 of 47 free throws.

Highlands, now 7-7 overall and 4-7 in the RMAC, took 91 shots but made only 40 of them. The Cowgirls were also 14 of 19 from the charity stripe.

Four Cowgirl players scored in double figures. TJ Manson and China Smith, who fouled out midway through the second half, both scored 20 points. Also for Highlands, Lopez scored 19 points and Jenny Johnson had 16 points and eight assists.