



By EARL WATT

• Daily Leader

The No. 15 Lady Saints did not look ahead to Saturday's marquis match-up against No. 11 Cloud County when Seward traveled to Pratt Wednesday to face the Lady Beavers.

Seward dominated Pratt 93-45 to set up a showdown with the Lady Thunderbirds Saturday at the Green House for sole possession of first place in the Jayhawk West.

"I thought our kids played really well especially in the second half," Seward coach Toby Wynn said. "Defensively we forced some turnovers and outscored them 51-19 in the second half."

Two Lady Saints had career highs against the Lady Beavers. Vanessa Junior had 21, and Shelia Washington had 17 as their top points as Lady Saints.

Rachel Barnes had 13, and Megan Lassley had 11.

Barnes may have scored below her average, but the Lady Saint standout watched reserves play most of the second half.

“She’s averaging 18 on the year ,” Wynn said. “Rachel didn’t play the last 10 minutes of the game. She is really efficient when she’s on the floor, which is what we need her to be.”

Seward (16-1, 3-0) will host Cloud County who will be looking for a little payback against Seward.

Last year, the Lady Saints trounced the Lady T-Birds in the Green House, and at the Region 6 tournament, Seward ended Cloud’s season with a one-point Lady Saints win.

“They want to play better and get us back for knocking them out,” Wynn said. “It won’t be easy at all. They are 17-0 for a reason. They play really well. It will definitely be a tough test for us.”

Seward’s last game in the Green House in early December was a rare loss to Jayhawk East Labette. Since then, the Lady Saints earned tough victories in Arizona and the Jayhawk Shootout.

“Our kids were disappointed after Labette, Wynn said. “We didn’t deserve to win the game, but we still had a chance. Our kids realize that. We went to Arizona, and got back into the groove, then we went to the Shootout. We finished our toughest non-conference schedule since I’ve been here. Our kids have been in big games already this year. We’ve played good teams already. I expect them to be up for the challenge.”

The game is free, and tickets for Saturday’s 6 p.m. tip against Cloud are available at First National Bank.