

Daily Leader staff report

Despite a five-minute drought to open the game against Pratt Wednesday, Seward was able to escape with a 76-72 road win to remain perfect at 3-0 in the Jayhawk West.

The Saints, sporting their first ranking of the season at No. 23, fell behind early and trailed the Beavers by 10 at halftime.

Pratt was able to use the deep threat to pull ahead of the Saints.



Tony Smith led the Saints with 18 points, Marcus James added 15 points including the deciding free throws. Marky Nolen and Latiq Agard each scored 13. Jon Tassin had 10.

The Saints (13-3, 3-0) are in first place in the Jayhawk West and will host Cloud (8-8, 1-2) Saturday.

Seward has an early one-game lead on Hutchinson, Dodge City and Pratt. Seward handed Pratt and No. 16 Hutchinson their only conference losses.

Seward was picked to win the Jayhawk West prior to the season.