

By EARL WATT

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The Lawton Wolverines lived up to their name Friday against the Redskins.



Lawton's Darreyl Patterson forced two turnovers against Liberal guards near midcourt, and before the Redskins could execute a half-court set, the Redskins trailed 6-0 and never recovered in a 60-46 loss.

The Redskins limited their turnovers after the initial shock of Lawton's defensive pressure subsided, but the Wolverines were able to connect on two three-point shots against the Redskin zone, and in less than four minutes into the game, the Redskins trailed 14-2.

Liberal responded with a 5-0 run that included baskets from Hayden Coker and Nolan Larkin and a free throw from Britton Abbott to cut the lead to seven.

Larkin hit a three-pointer early in the second quarter that pulled Liberal within four, but Lawton responded with an 8-0 run to take a 24-12 lead.

Larkin ended the rally with another three-pointer, and after free throws from Coker and Abbott, Liberal cut the lead to 26-19.

Patterson continued to be a problem for the Redskins by scoring the next five Wolverine points including a three-pointer.

By half, Lawton had extended to a 33-23 lead.

Liberal started slow again in the second half, and Lawton expanded their lead, 39-25.

By the end of the third, the Wolverines had extended to 49-33.

Elmer Quintana nailed a three to open the fourth, but the Redskins went on a four minute scoring drought while Lawton jumped out to a 53-36 lead.

The Redskins had a late 6-0 run to cut the lead to 11, but Lawton responded by pushing the lead back to 16 with transition turnovers and cruised to the 60-46 win over the Redskins.

“The pressure dominated us to start the game and we had that scared look in our eyes,” Liberal coach Scott Hinkle said. “It snowballed on us, and we weren’t able to recover.”

The turnovers were a result of no help for the dribbler.

“Nobody wanted the ball in those situations,” Hinkle said. “We have to have guys come to the ball. Everyone was running away. We couldn’t go to areas on the floor where they want to trap, and that’s right where we dribbled.”

Liberal had dribble penetration opportunities, but the extra pass underneath the rim turned into turnovers.

“Sometimes we are too unselfish,” Hinkle said. “Especially when you are close to the rim. We can’t feel sorry for ourselves. We turn around and play a really good Bartlesville team. We have to make adjustments.”

But it was the pressure that Hinkle saw coming that could be a problem.

“I had a sneaky feeling if we didn’t handle the pressure this could happen,” he said. “And that is exactly what happened.”