

By EARL WATT

• Leader & Times

Beavers can be pesky, and the Redskins found that out Friday after holding a lead for most of the game and then having an offensive breakdown late in a 52-46 loss.

Scott City came to the Big House undefeated, and the Redskins played even with the Beavers in the first quarter by pushing the ball inside and taking an 8-7 lead.



Liberal's offense remained aggressive in the second, and a Tim Fitzgerald free throw with 3:04 to play before the half gave the Redskins a 21-13 lead.

The Beavers cut the lead to one after a 9-2 run, and Lorenzo Pando hit the final shot of the half to give the Redskins a 25-22 lead.

Scott City took a 28-27 lead early in the third quarter, but the Redskins responded with a Hayden Coker put-back bucket to regain the lead, 29-28.

Liberal pushed back to a 37-31 lead with 4:07 to play in the third, but Scott City went on a 6-0 run to tie the game before Jared Hasik charged to the basket and hit a lay-up for a 39-37 Liberal lead.

The Beavers opened the fourth quarter with a 6-2 run to take s 43-41 lead, and another Coker basket tied the game.

Scott City's Brett Myer hit a basket, and Dylan Hutchins followed with a three to give the Beavers a 48-43 lead.

Coker hit one of two free throws, and Blake Stout rebounded the miss and put it back in to cut the lead to two.

Britton abbott rebounded a Scott City miss, but was called for an offensive foul on the clear-out. Scott City was able to convert with a basket with 1:02 to play, and Liberal was called for two charges late while trying to rally. Scott City was able to hit free throws in the final seconds to secure the 52-46 win.

"I felt like we executed pretty well on the defensive end," Liberal coach Scot Hinkle said. "I was really disappointed on how we executed on offense at the end of the game. We didn't take care of the ball, took quick shots. We preached in the time outs to be patient. We stuck with the defensive plan but we got away from the offensive plan late.

Coker and Stout each scored 11. Abbott added 10.

Liberal (4-8) will host Dodge City (4-7) Tuesday.

