By EARL WATT

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Some nights, the ball just won't go through the hoop.

Liberal took point blank shots that wouldn't not go in, and a sluggish defensive effort against Dodge City ended in a 68-46 loss.

Liberal only hit four of their first 21 shots, and the game was uphill for the Redskins from there.

"There was a stretch there that we didn't guard anyone," Liberal coach Drew Gruver said. "We had two guys guarding one guy, and they got a lot of easy baskets. When you let someone score 68 points, you're not going to win many games."

The loss created a tie for third and fourth in Sub-State seedings, and Liberal will have to flip a coin Saturday morning to see which seed they will be.

Either way, the Redskins will be playing at home Wednesday against either Andover Central or Bishop Carroll to open post-seaosnplay.

"It's a new season," Gruver said. "Everyone is 0-0. You have to win two games to get into the state tournament. We have to look at it that way. We have to come out and play hard and play our style of ball. Everyone starts over and anything can happen in the post-season."

Liberal qualified for the state tournament a year ago.

A win Friday would have guaranteed the Redskins the higher seed.

But Liberal couldn't get into a rhythm in Dodge City.

"It was the kind of a game where the ball didn't go in," Gruver said. "We missed shots, we didnt shoot it well and didn't play any defense. When offense isn't clicking you have to get stops, and we didn't play well enough, and that's why it came out the way it did."