By EARL WATT •

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Seward coach Toby Wynn didn't pull any punches in discussing the one area where the Lady Saints have to improve to make a conference run.

The post.

"They weren't given a choice," Wynn said after the final game of the pre-conference season Saturday at the Greenhouse. "It's either step up and call for the ball or run at practice."

High expectations were place on Amanda Pierson and Nadia Rosario at the onset of the season.

But the offense has had to come from other sources as the two have struggled down low.

Pierson is averaging a healthy 9.4 points per game, but that is fifth on the team.

Rosario's 6.3 points per game is sixth.

Vanessa Simmons leads the LAdy Saints with an average of 10.9 points per game in the first 12 contests of the season followed by Megan Lassley (10.8), LaNell Taylor (10.6) and Rachel Barnes (10.2) — all guard-style players.

Seward's 10-2 start is currently the third best in the Jayhawk West.

Cloud County went 12-2 in the first phase of the season. Cloud lost to Independence (65-59) and Northeast Nebraska (63-46).

Cloud did defeat Div. 2 No. 16 Johnson County 67-52. In a common opponent comparison, Seward lost to Johnson County 76-58 at the Jayhawk Shootout.

Hutchinson is off to an 11-1 start, and the Lady Blue Dragons' only loss came in overtime to Coffeyville, 63-61.

The Lady Saints lost to Johnson County and Mineral Area (56-50) but earned a win over then No. 11 Northeast Colorado (69-56).

Barton is currently fourth in the West with a 10-3 out-of-conference record. The Lady Cougars lost to Northeast Oklahoma A&M (9-76), No.

15 Moberly (77-53) and Sheridan Wyo. (78-63) but earned a win over then No. 11 Western Nebraska, 72-60.

Seward was picked to finish second in the conference behind Cloud County. But the post play will determine if Seward can improve to compete for the Jayhawk West title.

Currently, the Lady Saints have finished on a high note, earning the victory over No. 11 and then finishing with a win over Jayhawk East opponent Labette, 71-55.

Cloud was predicted first, but the Lady T-birds entered the break with a loss to Northeastern Nebraska.

Wynn and the Lady Saints will continue to develop the post game during the break and will face Hutchinson to open the Jayhawk West schedule Jan. 3. Hutchinson has a quality win over No. 8 South Plains, Texas to accompany the Lady Dragons' loss to Coffeyville in overtime.