Justice Norah puts in two of her 24 points against Sunrise's Jeriel Adair. Liberal defeated the Lady Buffaloes 59-45 to move to 8-5 on the season. L&T photo/Earl Watt

Liberal learns to work clock in win over Sunrise

By EARL WATT
• Leader & Times

The Liberal Redskins prefer a fast-paced, up-and-down style of game. That's the style that suits the Lady Redskins and coach Shane Stout.

But with a 22-point lead, Stout worked on ball control most of the second half in a 59-45 Lady Redskin win.

"We were working on longer possessions," Stout said. "It doesn't suit our style."

The fast-break Lady Redskins took a 17-point lead into the locker room and quickly expanded the advantage to 48-26 early in the second half.

But Sunrise didn't quit. The Lady Buffaloes reeled off 11 straight points to cut the lead to 48-37 to end the third quarter.

After an extended stint on the bench, junior standout Justice Norah returned to the line-up and hit a runner to open the fourth quarter and push Liberal's lead to 13.

The Lady Redskins kept the ball near half court the entire fourth quarter, forcing Sunrise to foul.

The Lady Redskins controlled the ball most of the period en route to the 14-point win.

While Norah scored 24 points, Emily Bayouth was abel to put together her strongest performance as a Lady Redskin. The junior scored 11 and grabbed 14 rebounds for a double-double.

"She was battling underneath," Stout said. ""She played hard and with intensity. She had fire."

Kirsten Ross defended SUnrise standout Jerial Adair and held her to nine points.

After a 3-4 start, the Lady Redskins are now 8-5 after winning five of their last six.

Norah's 24 led all scorers followed by Bayouth's 11. Megan Campbell stepped up to score eight. Marisol Regalado had six.

The Lady Redskins, after returning home after a long road schedule, will get back on the bus Tuesday to travel to Dodge City in a battle at the top of the Western Athletic Conference. Liberal has one loss in conference play while Dodge City is undefeated in the WAC.

Liberal will then travel to Great Bend and then Guymon before retunring to the Big House Feb. 8.

"We have to travel to two of the toughest places to play on the road back to back," Stout said.