

Saints and Lady Saints Win Pizza Hut Openers

It was a tale of two nights for the Seward County Lady Saints and Saints basketball teams Friday night in the Greenhouse. The Lady Saints came out and blew the doors off of a traditionally good Northeastern team in an 80-41 win while the Saints struggled once again to open things up against an inferior opponent, scratching out a 63-55 win over a shorthanded Murray State squad.

Once again Seward got off to an unbelievable start at home, taking a 17-2 and 22-3 lead on Northeastern in the first half before they knew what hit them. The Lady Saints continued to build on their lead behind an impressive shooting performance and at the half led 48-15. Seward got 6 first half three pointers from Madison McLain and 5 first half longballs from Kelsey Blair as the two combined for 34 points to steak the Lady Saints to the big lead. The onslaught continued in the second half as Seward's guard made it tough on the offensive end for the Plainswomen and the Lady Saints had their way on their side of the floor. The lead ballooned to 40 as McLain came within one three of tying the school record of 8 in a game, before coasting to a 39 point win 80-41. McLain finished with 22 and Blair 18 while Fabiana Monte stepped up after a foul plagued first half to finish with 15 on 7 of 10 shooting. The Lady Saints improve to 9-3 on the year and will take on Arkansas Baptist Saturday night at 6:00.

The Saints had a much tougher time of things as they scored the first 4 points of the game before an 8-0 run from Murray State's Timothy Smallwood put the Aggies on top 8-4. It was a slow going, back and forth affair for much of the first half as the teams took turns sharing the lead before a late three from Jabari Peters put Seward up 4 and then two more three's from Kaheem Ransom gave the Saints a 33-25 lead going into the break. In the second half, points continued to be tough to come by, but the Saints were able to build their lead to double digits and kept it right around 10 most of the half. They stretched it to as many as 14, but the Aggies stuck around, cutting the Saints lead to just 6 with under a minute to go and just four players on the floor after two of their six fouled out of the game. The Saints made enough free throws down the stretch to hang on for the 63-55 win despite going just 8 for 18 at the line in the second half. Edson Avila finished with his third double double of the year with 14 points and 11 rebounds while Peters had 14 points, 5 assists, and 5 steals, and Ransom shrugged off a tough night to finish with 13. The Saints move to 7-4 on the year and battle Beacon Prep Saturday night at 8:00 in the Greenhouse.

