

By ROY ALLEN

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They may be small in numbers, but what the Seward County Lady Saints have lacked in roster size, they have certainly made up in heart size on the floor early in this 2013-2014 season.



Off to a 9-0 start, the Lady Saints were rewarded on Wednesday as the first NJCAA Top 25 Poll of the regular season came out with Seward County penciled in at No. 7.

Seward moved from No. 19 in the preseason poll to No. 7 in the first regular season poll with a 9-0 start which has included wins over No. 19 Northeastern Oklahoma A&M, Murray State, South Plains, and New Mexico among others.

The Lady Saints are off to a blazing start on the offensive end of the floor where they rank fourth in the country in points per game at 89.7, already eclipsing the 100 point mark four times in their first nine games.

The scoring has been balanced for Seward through the first month of the season, with six different Lady Saints averaging double figures through nine contests.

Seward boasts three of the top 10 scorers in the Jayhawk West thus far, the only team to have

that designation.

The Lady Saints are joined in the poll by a handful of Jayhawk Conference squads. Hutchinson checks in right in front of Seward at No. 5 after drawing a No. 3 ranking to start the season.

Following a move to the Jayhawk East, Seward's former West rival Butler is also off to a quality start, picking up 10 wins in the season's first month to earn a No. 8 ranking.

Another 10 win Jayhawk East team, Cowley, is in at No. 16, and coming off of an eighth place finish in the Jayhawk West last season, Dodge City's fast start has them receiving votes in the poll.

The No. 7 ranking marks the highest ranking for a Lady Saints team since midway through the 2011-2012 season when they climbed to No. 6 in the polls following an 18-2 start.

With seven players on their active roster for this weekend, the Lady Saints will hit the court again on Friday as they take on McLennan at 6 p.m. to get things going in the Pizza Hut Classic. Seward will wrap up play in the classic with a battle against Labette at 6 p.m. Saturday night.