

By EARL WATT

- Daily Leader

The Saints suffered their first conference loss of the season earlier this year to Dodge City.

Seward will face the Conquistadors for homecoming at the Green House Saturday, but they will do it without the services of standout Tony Smith.

Smith has left the team after being recruited by Florida, Kansas State, Gonzaga, West Virginia, Oklahoma, and Oklahoma State.

Smith had a scoring average of 14 points, six assists, and five rebounds per game prior to leaving the team before the Feb. 13 game against Cloud County.

The departure was amicable.

“Tony is a good kid, we just weren’t seeing eye to eye on things and he decided to leave the team,” Seward coach Bryan Zollinger said in a release by the college.

Smith also stated he had no hard feelings in the same release.

“I’m not mad at coach Z (Zollinger) or Coach Stock,” Smith said. “Things just weren’t working out. I wish the team the best.”

The Saints are still in the hunt for a Jayhawk West title but more than likely need to win the remaining three conference games and get some help.

It is within the Saints control to reach second by winning out, but as competitive as the Jayhawk West has been this season, it is still highly likely that the Saints will have a shot to win the conference by the time first-place Butler rolls into the Green House Feb. 27 for the regular season finale.