

By ROY ALLEN

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There is never an easy way to lose a game that ends your season. Friday night in Koch Arena in Wichita, the Seward County Saints might have suffered the most stinging loss that they possibly could have.

After a furious late game comeback by the Saints from nine points down in the final three minutes, Niem Stevenson tied the game with three seconds to play.



Upstart Pratt launched a halfcourt prayer as time expired and unbelievably, the shot found its mark, swishing through the hoop in front of the Beaver fans to send Koch Arena into a frenzy and the Saints fans home still trying to figure out just how it happened.

Pratt won the game 71-68, ending the Saints season in the semifinal round of the tournament while the Beavers will look to continue their magical run on Saturday as they take on Hutchinson in the championship game of the tournament.

The Saints used free throws to get to within one in the final minute, and a Pratt turnover gave Seward the ball with a chance to win it as time wound down.

Stevenson took the ball and drove to the basket for Seward and was fouled with 3.1 seconds left and went to the free throw line where the predominantly Pratt crowd played a part in a miss

Saints lose to mid-court miracle

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on the front end of the two shot foul. With the game in the balance, Stevenson knocked down the foul shot to tie the game at 68.

Pratt got the ball in clean on the inbounds and as the clock would down to triple zeroes, Pratt's Jarvis Flynn got a shot off from half court and to the utter disbelief of the few Seward faithful in the building, the shot found its mark, easing its way through the hoop to win the game 71-68 and send the Pratt fans into a frenzy.

As the Saints sat on the floor in disbelief, Pratt fans stormed the court and just like that, Seward's ride in the tournament was over.