By JASON EPP

Leader & Times

The Meade Buffaloes fought back after a slow start, but ultimately had no answer for Plainville's Hadley Gillum in a 46-41 loss in the first round of the 2A State Tournament in Manhattan.

Meade's Jett Little drained the free throw to convert a 3-point play with 4:26 left in the third quarter. Little's play capped a 15-2 run that bridged both halves and gave the Buffaloes their first lead (26-25) since leading 4-2 in the game's first two minutes.

But the lead was short lived—eight seconds to be exact before Plainville retook the lead, and never gave it back.

And each time the game seemed to be moving Meade's direction, Plainville's Hadley Gillum stepped in the way.

Three-pointers by Little and Morgan Davis brought the Buffaloes within one point again with 2:32 left in the game. Gillum, who had done most of his damage in the paint, answered with a three on Plainville's next possession and never looked back.

Gillum finished the game with 20 points, 23 rebounds, and six blocks.

Meade was in the game late despite a terrible start. An 11-0 run by Plainville in the middle of the first quarter put the Buffaloes in a 13-4 hole with1:40 left in the quarter.

An 8-2 run by Plainville stretched the Buffaloes deficit to 12 (23-11) with 4:36 left in the half.

But a pair of threes by Davis and Kash Larrabee helped Meade end the half on an 8-0 run.

Meade was 17 of 53 from the floor and only 1 of 1 from the free throw line. Plainville was 17 of 57 from the field and 8 of 13 at the line.

Plainville dominated the boards, out-rebounding the Buffaloes 49-32.

Morgan Davis led the Buffaloes in scoring with 16 points on 7 of 17 shooting, including a pair of threes.. Jett Little was 4 of 15 from the field for 10 points. Kash Larrabee his a pair of threes for six points.

Meade finishes the season with a record of 20-4.