By EARL WATT

• Daily Leader

The West Warriors erased a 14-point deficit and took a second half lead Tuesday at home against Ulysses. But the Warriors ran out of gas late in the fourth and fell 30-27.

West started the game without the services of Britton Abbott who was battling the flu.

Trenton Hammond was called for two quick fouls and had to watch most of the first half from the bench.

With the Warriors two big men sidelined, Ulysses shot out to a 14-0 lead.

“With Britton sick, we worked on some other things, and we tried to wait out the fire,” West coach Pat Knott said.

But Abbott had to be placed in the line-up to create a better match- up with the height of Ulysses.

And the bleeding stopped the moment Abbott stepped on the court.

The Warriors scored two baskets before the end of the first to narrow the gap to 14-4.

With Abbott on the floor, Ulysses had to adjust its defense. With the focus on guarding Abbott, other Warriors had chances at undefended baskets.

And Abbott still had his share of opportunities, too.

Abbott's presence on the court sparked the defense. The Warriors held Ulysses to only one basket in the second quarter.

By half West trailed 16-15.

West came out strong in the second half as well, and by the end of the third quarter had a 23-22 lead.

The game continued to stay close throughout the fourth quarter.

Neither team could get ahead by more than four points as the lead changed hands four different times.

Both teams had opportunities to put the game out of reach with free throws, but both teams struggled at the line. Ulysses only shot four of 15 free throw attempts.

Ulysses had a 29-27 lead when the Warriors had to foul, but Ulysses only hit one of the two attempts.

But a desperation shot fell short, and the Warriors lost 30-27.

“Three of the last four games we’ve lost in the last few seconds,”

West coach Pat Knott said. “As long as we can get there, we’ll be fine. Defensively we did a better job of limiting them to one shot.

That’s all I can ask.”

West fell to 4-4 on the season.

The B-team lost a close contest, 23-21.

The Warriors were down 18-13 before a rally fell short. Junior Acosta led the Warriors with six points.

The Warrior B-team is now 4-4.

The C-team lost 22-11.

Heath Parmenter led the Warriors with seven points.

West will return to action at Guymon, Okla., Thursday.