

By EARL WATT • Daily Leader

Not often in the Jayhawk West can a team lose and still be tied for first.

But that's what happened Monday for the Lady Saints after a slow start resulted in a 19-point lead for the Hutchinson Lady Blue Dragons.

"We took some bad shots early," Seward coach Toby Wynn said. "That's what got the lead to where it was. We took some time-outs and finally found our rhythm and attacked their zone."

Seward rallied to a 57-54 lead with 4:46 to play, but Hutchinson went on a 12-4 run to put the game out of reach, 66-64.

"It was two good basketball teams," Seward coach Toby Wynn said. "It didn't go the way you would map it out, to be down 19 points at home, but to come back like we did, we definitely could have laid down, but we had some kids make some shots."

After being down 30-11 with 4:48 to play in the first half, the Lady Saints began to make a run. Seward ended the half on a 16-6 run to cut the deficit to 36-27.

Hutchinson stretched the lead back to 13 points early in the second half, but the Lady Saints narrowed it back to 44-33 with 13 minutes to play.

Seward went on a three-point explosion over the next eight minutes, connecting on six treys,

three by Rachel Barnes, two by Lassley and one by Bailey Crandall, that gave Seward a 57-54 lead with 4:46 to play.

Hutchinson's Ariela McGee and Heather Robbin combined for a 10-0 Lady Blue Dragon run to give Hutch a 64-57 lead.

Seward went on a 7-2 run in the final 1:48 and had a chance to tie the game in the final seconds but could not get a good look as time expired.

"We work on end game situations at practice," Wynn said. "At that point of the game, we wanted to get it in bounds and drive to the basket as hard as you can. or kick it out for an open look,. We just didn't get a good look at it."

Lassley led the Lady Saints with 16 points, Rachel Barnes scored 14, and Vanessa Simmons had 11. Crandall came off the bench and hit three three-pointers for nine points.

While Seward fell to Hutch, Cloud lost to Barton, creating a tie between all four teams with identical 7-2 conference records. Seward travels to Barton Wednesday.