

HSHS' Low-Scoring Half Helps Lift Visiting Socorro

By Tony A. Archuleta
HERALD Reporter

Frequently with basketball, the rim gets smaller on the road. Sometimes though, cold shooting is cold shooting, no matter the venue, home or away. That was the case for the Hot Springs varsity boys basketball team when they hosted Socorro Tuesday, Feb. 6, in a key District 3-4A showdown at Tiger Gym.

Socorro won it 43-31. Neither offensive rebounding nor drives to the hoop resulted in many points for the Tigers, who scored just two points in the first quarter. The good news for the Tigers is that they held the Warriors to just seven points. Back-to-back turnovers by the Tigers to start the game gave the Warriors early momentum that they never relinquished. Seth Childress finally put Hot Springs on the board with a field goal with 5:40 left in the quarter.

The Warriors controlled the offensive boards in the second quarter, started connecting on 3-pointers, and the home team found itself down 2-16 before Tino Luna converted an offensive rebound, and Nathan Salcido scored a bucket to make it 16-6. The Warriors hit a free throw and a 3 to close out the quarter and enter the halftime locker room holding a commanding 20-6 advantage.

The teams played more evenly in the second half with the Warriors outscoring the Tigers 12-11 in the third quarter to take a 32-17 lead. The Tigers made up a little ground in the final frame with a 14-11 showing, making the final score a little more palatable for the Tigers but failing to conceal Socorro's overall dominance.

It was a surprising outcome, considering the Tigers played the Warriors competitively during a Jan. 23 trip to Socorro where the visiting team led by six points at half-time. And it was a costly loss for HSHS in terms of league standings.

The Tigers had a chance to move into at least a second-place tie with the Warriors after securing a crucial road win at Cobre in late January.

Luna led Hot Springs with 14 points, followed by Childress (8), Salcido (4), Juan Avalos (4) and Coltin Whitehead (1).

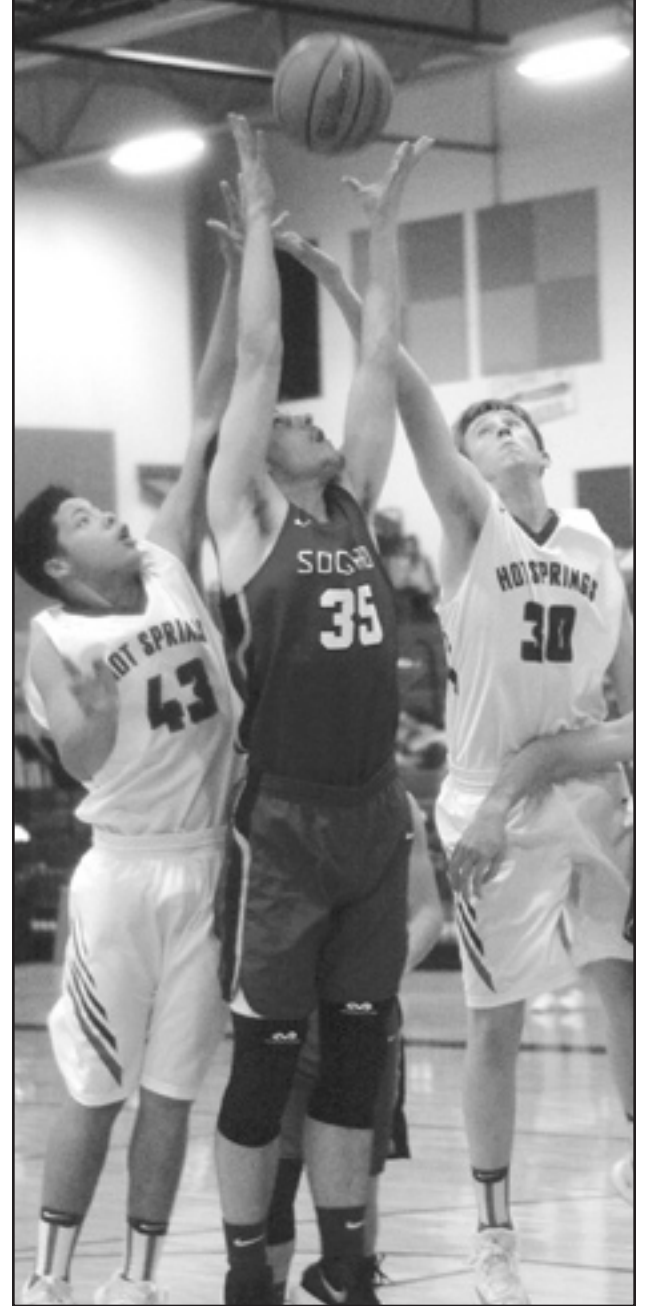
The Tigers hosted Cobre on Tuesday, Feb. 13, and close out the regular season on Friday, Feb. 16, at Hatch Valley.

Having beaten both the Indians and the Bears already, Hot Springs (9-11 overall, 2-4 district) is aiming to position itself well for the District 3-4A tournament, potentially hosting a first-round game and most likely traveling to Socorro for a semifinal game against the Warriors.

LADY TIGERS

The Hot Springs varsity girls basketball team was at Socorro on Tuesday, Feb. 6, where the host Lady Warriors prevailed 79-29.

Hot Springs (2-21 overall, 0-6 district) was at Cobre on Tuesday, Feb. 13, and closes out the regular season on Friday, Feb. 16, when Hatch Valley visits Tiger Gym.



SECOND AND THIRD - The Hot Springs varsity boys basketball team hosted Socorro on Tuesday, Feb. 6, in a key District 3-4A match-up with at least a tie for second place hanging in the balance. The visiting Warriors took control early and cruised to a 43-31 victory. Top left photo: a Socorro defender challenges Hot Springs senior forward Aiden Aguirre (#24). Top right: Sophomore forward Juan Avalos (#43) and junior post Tino Luna (#30) battle for a rebound. **HERALD photos/TONY A. ARCHULETA**



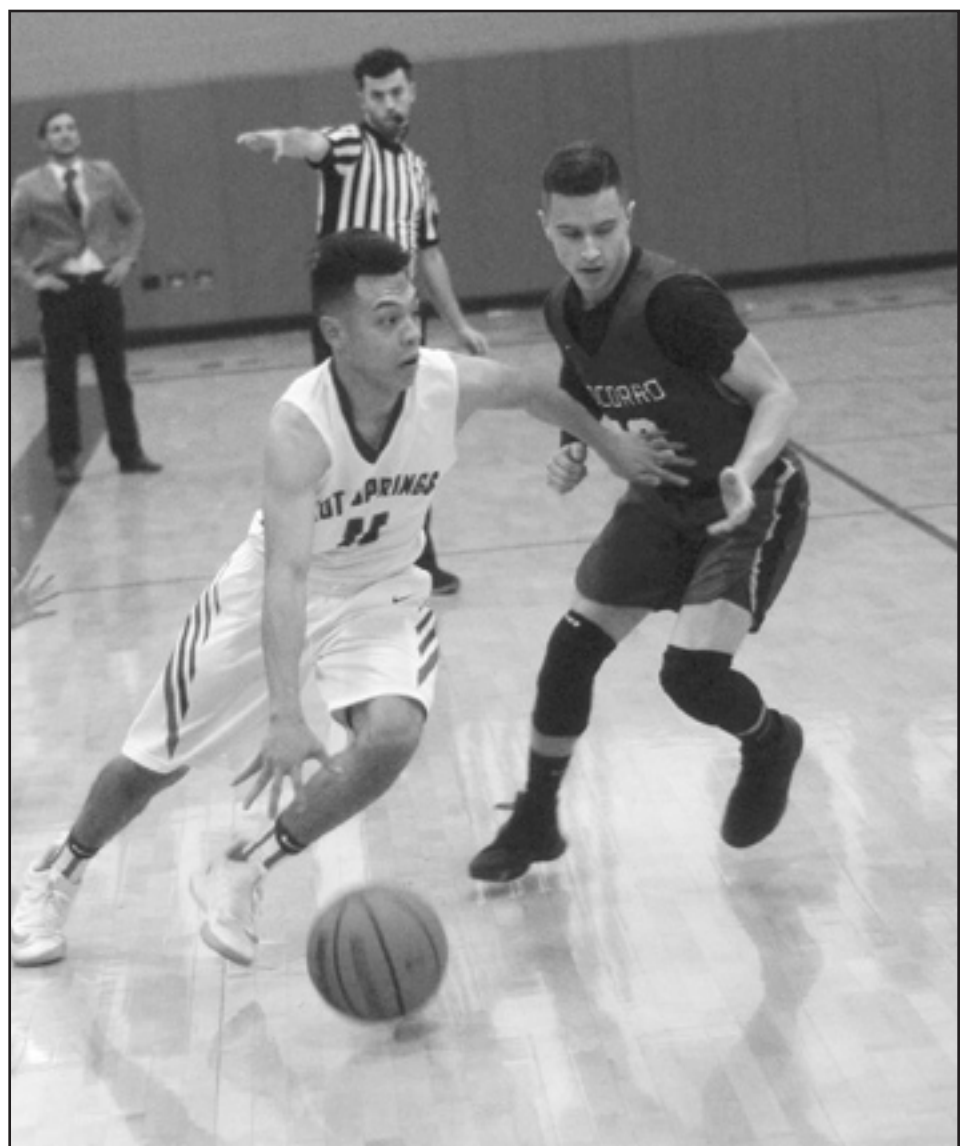
HSHS freshman guard Nathan Salcido (#20)



HSHS senior guard Seth Childress (#23)



HSHS freshman point-guard Verrels Lukman (#15)



HSHS senior guard Victor Garcia (#11)