

# Goodland girls slip by Colby

By John Van Nostrand

Colby Free Press

The play was there, but the ball was not.

Colby Eagles had three seconds to get the ball down court for one shot to win. But a pass went too far and the ball fell into the hands of Goodland which won 32-31 Thursday in Scott City in substate semifinal action.

"We had to get the ball up the court but had the turnover," said Colby head coach Derek Bissitt. "It was nobody's fault."

Goodland will play Hays-Thomas More Prep 6 p.m. Saturday in Scott City for the substate championship. Hays-Thomas More Prep defeated Larned Thursday in the other semifinal game.

After two free throws, Goodland took a 32-29 lead with 1:01 left. Colby called timeout with 54 seconds remaining to set up the offense. Brittany Kersenbrock was able to attempt two three-point shots in 15 seconds but missed both before Goodland regained possession.

Eagle Jessica Stephens then stole the ball near the Cowgirls' basket and scored a layup with 18 seconds left to cut the deficit to one.

Goodland was fouled on the ensuing possession and sent to the free throw line with three seconds left. But the free throw was called off after Goodland committed a lane violation giving Colby the ball back one last time.

In the three games the two teams played this season, the total point difference was three.

"That is what happens when Goodland and Colby play," Bissitt said. "It's a championship like game."

Of the three match ups this year,

Thursday's game had the lowest total points. When the two played Feb. 14 in Colby, Goodland won 44-42. In January, Colby won 47-46 in overtime.

"It was a defensive battle," Bissitt said.

The defense shows.

Colby's biggest lead Thursday was five points. Goodland's biggest lead was three. Colby shot 31 percent and Goodland shot 28 percent.

"We just struggled from the field shooting the ball. Sometimes that happens in big games and I truly believe that was the championship game," Bissitt said.

Goodland was 2-4 at the free throw line. Colby was 5-13. Colby missed four free throws in the second quarter and only went to the line once in the fourth quarter.

Lissa Mazanec led Colby with 14 points and 14 rebounds. Ten of her points were in the second half. Ashley Barnes scored seven points.

Barnes and Zanae Baird each had five rebounds. Goodland had 15 turnovers to Colby's 17.

"They rebounded and played fantastic defense. I was so proud of their effort in those two areas," Bissitt said.

Archer led Goodland with 13 points.

Colby finishes the season 16-6 overall.

"I was very proud of the way the ladies played last night. They did everything we asked of them. The girls also made me proud of them with their maturity to realize they played the best game they could play against their biggest rival and to be satisfied with their effort. They did their best and I know it and so do they and that is all we can ask for from them," Bissitt said.

Colby only loses two to graduation, Jessica Stephens and Baird.



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press

Colby's Lissa Mazanec protected the ball from the Goodland defender during Colby's 32-31 loss to the Cowgirls Thursday in Scott City. Mazanec led Colby with 14 points.

## Bulldogs in semifinal

Golden Plains Bulldogs girls play Grinnell 7:30 p.m. today in Phillipsburg in the substate semifinal.

The winner of that game plays the winner of Agra-Eastern Heights vs. Bushlton-Quivira Heights at 6 p.m. Saturday in Philipsburg.

# Chiefs cut Warfield, McCleon, others

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Kansas City Chiefs on Thursday cut four players to get under the salary cap, and then stepped back and regrouped just like everybody else in the NFL.

Shortly after announcing they were at an impasse with the players union, prompting a mass dumping of players, the owners announced they had extended the start of the free-agent signing period.

As a result, the period will not start until late Sunday. And all players who were terminated Thursday for cap reasons could be pulled back at the clubs' discretion if a labor agreement is reached that raises the cap.

So hanging in limbo for a few more days will be Chiefs' linebackers Gary Stills and Shawn Barber and cornerbacks Eric Warfield and Dexter McCleon.

"I guess that's what the NFL is. It's always about change and we certainly have had some changes the past few weeks, few days, few hours," said Chiefs president and general manager Carl Peterson.

Kansas City, which spent lavishly on free agents in an effort to upgrade its defense last year, is believed to be about \$15 million to \$20 million over the cap.

Peterson, speaking from the East Coast where he had been taking part in the owners' meeting, said the Chiefs still had many moves to make.

Yet undecided is the fate of 11-time Pro Bowl guard Will Shields, who has one year left on his contract but has had health issues the past few years and could save a lot of cap money. A decision must also be made regarding running back Priest Holmes, who is rehabbing the neck injury that shelved him for the last nine games of 2005.

Peterson has also been talking with several players about restructuring their contracts to make them more cap-friendly.

"I'm always much appreciative of players who think about the team first and themselves and their personal contracts second," Peterson said.

"Obviously, in all this maneuvering we've had to do, we have spent time with players and agents and some players have been very cooperative in restructuring their contracts. That's been essential for us

to get to the cap number we need."

Peterson said the Chiefs also are planning to make tender offers on several of the Chiefs' restricted free agents.

He also said that "for the right dollars" the Chiefs would like to retain fullback Tony Richardson and defensive lineman Lionel Dalton.

"There's a number of things we've done beyond terminating four players to create some cap dollars, and there may still be some things we do in the next 24 or 48 hours. One of the things I learned a long time ago in the NFL, you never close any door completely, you never burn any bridge."

Shields, who has battled various aches and injuries the past few years, contemplated retirement after the 2004 season and still has not decided if he wants to go another year, Peterson said.

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# Young Colby wrestlers compete

Colby youth wrestlers competed in a tournament Feb. 25 in Scott City. More than 400 wrestlers were there.

Colby results:  
14 and younger: 130 pounds, Jonathan Griffin, did not place.

12 and younger: 150 pounds, Nathan Quagliano, did not place; 100 pounds, Dalton Snyder, first;

10 and younger: 130 pounds, Dustin Burleigh, first; 82 pounds, Devin Langdon, did not place; 58 pounds, Dustin Reed, first, Josh Barnhart, third.

8 and younger: Heavyweight, Austin Hart, second; 88 pounds, Casey Quagliano, first, Brady Slinger, did not place; 80 pounds, Lucas Coulter, fourth; 73 pounds, Conner Edmundson, second; 70 pounds, Andrew Voss, first; 64 pounds, Brady Holzmeister, first; 49 pounds, Tate Carney, first.

6 and younger: 61 pounds, Jeron Schutte, second; 52 pounds, Zach Hart, did not place, Rex Barnum, first; 49 pounds, Tucker Barnum, second; 46 pounds, Clayton Riney, Tate Siruta, did not place; 37 pounds, Braiden Lynn, second.

## CHS wrestling dinner set

The Colby High School wrestling awards potluck dinner will be 6:30 p.m. March 9 at the high school commons.

Drinks will be provided. People are asked to bring their own table service.

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