

Colby Eagles hold off Cowboys 12-8

By Andy Heintz

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The Colby High Eagles were able to hold off the Goodland Cowboys and escape with a 12-8 victory Friday night in a fierce battle between the two Northwest Kansas League rivals.

The game was decided by a mere 36 inches. That was the distance Goodland quarterback Reed Bellamy was from the goal line after the Cowboys had gone for a score on fourth-and-goal on the Eagles' 3 yard line with about a minute and a half left in the game.

Colby seniors Adam Weber and Ethan Stickel, along with juniors Rocque Russell and Kale Arnberger, combined to make the game-clinching tackle. The Colby offense ran a few running plays before time expired and the game came to an end.

The Eagles showed a lot of character in the game's closing minutes. A few minutes before the game-clinching play, it looked as if the Eagles luck had run out. Goodland junior receiver Brock Wilkens had made a fabulous 34-yard catch while surrounded by two Eagles' defender on Colby's five.

The Cowboys had the momentum and they had four chances to get the ball across the goal line. But the young Eagles' team played like battle-hardened veterans, refusing to let Goodland walk

away with a victory.

The win had to be especially sweet for Colby, because it was the last time they will play the Cowboys in a Northwest Kansas League game.

A game that turned out to be a defensive battle, all the points were scored in the first half. The winning touchdown was scored by junior Corbin Stephens, who picked off a Goodland pass on the Cowboys' own 17 and took it in for a touchdown with 2:40 remaining in the first half. The point-after attempt failed.

It was not Stephen's only memorable play of the night. Minutes before the interception, he had made a spectacular nine-yard reception on fourth down and five deep in the Cowboys' territory. Junior quarterback Kale Arnberger fired the pass, and Stephens was hit almost immediately as he was trying to catch the ball. The hit knocked Stephens on his back and left the ball floating in the air, but miraculously he was able to catch it while lying on his back for an Eagles' first down.

The Eagles, however, were unable to take advantage of the catch. The Cowboys' defense made a big defensive stand, stopping all four of the Eagles' attempts to score. Fortunately for Colby, Stephens made his interception moments after Goodland had regained possession of the ball.

The Eagles' first touchdown came after a drive consisting of

a few big runs by junior Andrew Flanagin and some powerful runs up the middle by senior Adam Weber. Flanagin finished off the drive with a three-yard touchdown run with a little over seven minutes left in the first quarter. Flanagin tried to run in the points after, but was stopped short of the goal line.

Bellamy threw about a 35-yard touchdown pass to junior Garth Helton to tie the game at 6 with a little less than nine minutes remaining in the first half. Junior running back Chris Bustillos rammed his way into the endzone for a successful two-point conversion to give the Cowboys an 8-6 lead. Unfortunately for the Cowboys, those would be their only points of the night.

Flanagin rushed for 74 yards on nine carries and Stickel gained 63 yards on 22 carries. Arnberger completed three of seven passes for 33 yards and rushed for 31 yards on 10 carries.

On the defensive side, Flanagin led the team in tackles with 14. Stickel had 12 and recovered a fumble near the end of the third quarter after a vicious hit by Weber caused Goodland's running back to lose his grip on the football. Weber and Russell both had seven tackles.

Colby will play next against Hoxie at 7 p.m. on Friday at Dennen Field.



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby High junior Andrew Flanagin (above) carried the ball on Friday in Goodland as two Cowboys' defenders got ready to take him down. Later, he carried the ball (below) in the open field as Adam Weber (40) ran to block the Cowboys' Kelly Pearson (7), who was preparing to tackle him. The Eagles came away with a 12-8 victory.



Broncos defeat Cincinnati after miraculous touchdown

CINCINNATI (AP) — An aggressive defense that had kept Denver out of the end zone all afternoon was closing in for a clinching hit.

Cornerback Leon Hall jumped and swatted the pass away from receiver Brandon Marshall, sending the ball flying end-over-end. Cincinnati Bengals safeties swarmed toward Marshall, ready to take him down if he somehow caught the ball. Nobody thought about going for the carom.

Not even Brandon Stokley. The Broncos receiver was in the right spot to

pull off one of the great finishes in NFL history on Sunday. He caught the deflected pass and outran a linebacker to the end zone, completing an 87-yard touchdown with 11 seconds left. The 12-7 victory is already part of fantastic finish lore.

It was the longest game-winning play from scrimmage in the final minute of the fourth quarter in NFL history, according to the league's records. It decided a game full of gaffes and glaringly bad offense.

Both teams could have ended it cleanly, but neither was able to close the deal.

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