



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby High sophomore Kenzie Curry got ready to deliver a pass during the second half of the Lady Eagles' game at Goodland on Tuesday.

Colby High sisters lead team to road win

By Andy Heintz

Colby High Press
aheintz@nwkansas.com

Despite being shorthanded, the Lady Eagles, led by the Bell sisters, picked up a 45-32 win at Goodland on Tuesday.

Seniors Katherine Kaus and Kayla Hockersmith, two of Colby's leading scorers, and senior Katrina Kaus, Katherine's twin and one of the team's top defenders, didn't play because they missed some practices over the holiday break.

The Bell sisters, junior Morgan and sophomore Lauren, stepped up their game a notch to compensate for their missing teammates.

"It was a good win for us," Morgan Bell said.

Morgan led the team with 17 points on 5-of-10 shooting while Lauren Bell put up 12 on 5-of-10 shooting. Lauren led the team in rebounds and assists with 9 and 2.

Morgan, replacing Hockersmith at point guard, scored 8 of the girls' 12 points in the third quarter to give her team a 30-19 lead.

"She carried us to a victory," coach Parker McKee said.

Sophomore Kenzie Curry said

the coach told the girls, who were ahead by only 3 at the half, that they needed step it up. She said they played better in the second half because they were not afraid to make mistakes.

The Bell sisters, junior Emilea Finley, Curry and senior Kelsey Shields started the game.

Curry penetrated inside the lane and scored, cutting a Goodland lead to 8-7 in the first quarter. The girls got one more bucket in the period and led 9-8 at the end.

Both teams struggled to score at the beginning of the second. Morgan drove to the bucket and put up a layup that was a little too strong, but Lauren pulled down the rebound and laid it in to make it 13-12 Lady Eagles.

Goodland called a timeout with barely a minute left in the half and Colby leading 15-12. Then the Cowgirls' Jade Herl knocked down a three-pointer, tying the game at 15.

The Lady Eagles scored the last three points and led 18-15 at the half.

Morgan Bell drilled two three-pointers and scored on a drive in the third. Lauren Bell made a shot inside and Shields scored off a re-

bound. Colby clamped down on the Cowgirls on defense, holding Goodland to four points in the third.

Kriss scored on a fast break early in the fourth, extending the girls' lead to 32-19. Lauren Bell caught a pass at the free-throw line and calmly buried a jumper.

"She knows when to shoot, and she knows when to pass it out," McKee said. "She's a high-IQ player."

Later in the quarter, Lauren found senior Caitlyn Wark cutting to the basket with a no-look back door bounce pass for a layup. Morgan nailed a three pointer from the top of the key to make it 39-28 after Colby had run off a lot of the clock passing the ball around the perimeter. The girls went on to win 45-32.

Finley had 7 points, Kriss added 3 and Shields, Curry and Wark had 2 each.

"It lets them know they can be pretty good if they believe in themselves," McKee said about the starting five.

With the win, the Lady Eagles improved to 6-1. They will play at 6:30 p.m. Friday at Holcomb.

Tough final quarter leads to Colby loss

By Andy Heintz

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aheintz@nwkansas.com

The Colby High varsity boys would have gone home with their first victory of the season on Tuesday if the game had lasted just three quarters.

The team led 33-30 going into the final period at Goodland, but the Cowboys outscored the boys 27-5 in the fourth and won the game 57-38.

Turnovers and a lack of free throws both played a major part in Colby's defeat. The Eagles struggled at taking care of the ball, committing 29 turnovers, many of them in the final quarter. Goodland had only 11, while the Cowboys scored 33 points off turnovers.

"Turnovers killed us," coach Jerad Johnson said.

The coach said the team was not getting to the line enough. Colby shot only five free throws, two of these when the referee called a technical foul on the Cowboys' bench. Goodland shot 23.

Johnson said his players were fading away on too many of their shots instead of going up hard and drawing contact. He said the boys are still not sure how to finish games, adding that they needed to slow the game down and play their style in the fourth quarter.

The Eagles jumped out to a 9-4 lead, thanks to a three-pointer by senior Kale Arnberger and a couple of short jumpers in the lane by senior Spencer Tubbs in the first quarter. But the Cowboys scored seven unanswered points and led 11-9 at the end of the period.

Senior Braden Sager had a couple of buckets inside in the second, including a successful drive to the bucket after the Eagles had broken Goodland's press. Arnberger knocked down his second three-pointer and senior Corbin Stephens scored on strong drive to the bucket, but the boys were unable to take control and trailed the Cowboys 22-18 at the half.

Arnberger drilled another three at the start of the third and Tubbs scored a couple of buckets. The game was tied at 29 when the Cowboys' bench was whistled for a technical. Arnberger calmly drained both foul shots. Tubbs hit a cutting Todd Kane for a layup and Eagles led 33-30 at the end of the quarter.

Everything came unraveled for the boys in the fourth, however. The Cowboys' Robert Cowan scored inside while drawing contact from Kane. He made his free throw to put Goodland up 34-33.

A few possessions later, Ryan Hillmer of Goodland buried a three-pointer to make it 39-33. Hillmer continued to be thorn in the Eagles' side; knocking down a jumper from the baseline and hitting another three.

Things continued to deteriorate for Colby as the Cowboys went on a 25-0 run. They owned the of-



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Colby High senior Kale Arnberger shot a three-pointer during the Eagles' game at Goodland on Tuesday. Arnberger nailed four three-pointers.

fensive glass and got open looks inside while also scoring several points off turnovers. The Cowboys' Reed Bellamy got a bucket off a turnover that gave Goodland a 50-33 lead. The Cowboys went on to pick up a 57-38 win.

Arnberger had a team-high 16 points, shooting 5 for 9 from the field, including 4 of 7 three pointers. Arnberger also was the lead assist man for the Eagles, dishing out 3. Tubbs and Stephens both had 8. Tubbs led the team with 11 rebounds, dominating the defensive glass for much of the first half; and Stephens pulled down 9.

Stephens led in turnovers with 10. Sager finished with four points and Kane had two.

The Eagles won the battle of the boards, 35-30, but only six of Colby's rebounds came on offense. The Eagles made about 36 percent of their shots, connecting on 21 of 58. The Cowboys only shot 41 percent, but they made a high percentage in the final quarter. Goodland's bench outscored Colby's 10-0.

With the loss, the Eagles dropped to 0-7. They will play at 8 p.m. Friday at Holcomb.

Returning star leads Wildcats

MANHATTAN (AP) - Jacob Pullen sure didn't look like he'd missed the last three games.

The preseason All-American scored 24 points in his return from a suspension, and No. 17 Kansas State cruised to a 92-61 win over Savannah State on Monday night in the Wildcats' final tune up before Big 12 play.

"This is basketball," Pullen said. "It's the one place I feel comfortable all the time, no matter what is going on in life. Basketball is always my comfort zone."

Pullen was 7 of 8 from the field in the first half and hit three 3-pointers, showing little rust after missing time for receiving impermissible clothing benefits from a local store.

Fellow senior Curtis Kelly is still suspended for his role in receiving impermissible benefits. He is not eligible to return until Jan. 15 against Texas Tech.

"I feel like a lot of people do not believe I should have been a preseason All-America," Pullen said. "That is motivation and I love when people do that. I love when people doubt me. It has been the story of my life."

The game was tied at 18 before Pullen went to work, capping a 19-point spurt prior to halftime with a nifty drive and left-handed layup at the buzzer, after Kansas State coach Frank Martin had called timeout with 4.7 seconds left to set up the final play.

"I could tell by the way he has practiced since he got back from Christmas that he's pretty zoned in," Martin said. "He took good shots, passed the basketball. He kept the game simple."

Kansas State (12-3) led 46-35 by halftime and coasted after the break.

"He's a gamer," Savannah State coach Horace Broadnax said of Pullen, who gained national acclaim during last year's NCAA tournament. "He's one of the best guys in college."

Wally Judge liked what he saw during Pullen's return to the floor.

"A lot of 3s going up," Judge said. "It's good to have a strong guard back in the lineup. Just to have one of our senior leaders back means a lot."

Preston Blackmon scored 19 points and Jovonni Shuler had 15 for Savannah State (2-15), which has played 12 of its last 15 games on the road. The Tigers keep the trip going at Nebraska on Wednesday night before visiting Marshall next weekend.

Savannah State didn't look weary early, sticking with the bigger Wildcats until Pullen fueled their big run late in the first half. Kansas State was more balanced on offense in the second half, when Judge and Rodney McGruder got into the act.

McGruder hit consecutive jumpers and Judge scored in transition to make it 63-45, and Pullen added a 3-pointer with 8:53 left from the right wing that made it 83-53.

McGruder finished with 15 points on 5-of-9 shooting, while Judge had 13 points and 14 rebounds. Jamar Samuels added 11 points as Kansas State shot 47 percent (31 of 66) from the field and 21 of 31 from the foul line - a modest 67 percent clip that far exceeds their season average, which had been among the worst in the nation.



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