



Cowgirl Lacey Brenner, a junior, ran the ball down the court for Goodland during Friday night's season-opener game. The Cowgirls won the game 53-46. Photo by Dana Sulsberger/The Goodland Daily News

Cowgirls wrangle Longhorns

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

In a game that was close until the end of the first half, the Cowgirls defeated the Imperial Longhorns 53-46 in their first game of the season.

Coach Connie Livengood said she thought their first game of the season went well.

"I saw a lot of good things for our first game," she said.

The number of turnovers in the game were low, she said, but the team had more fouls than she wanted to see.

"We had good ball movement and good play," she said.

In the first quarter, the girls started off the game with the ball as Cowgirl Erica Mann, a junior, got the tip off but lost the ball to Imperial, who then scored. Jayci Stone, a sophomore, scored first for Goodland with a shot from within the lane.

A foul on an Imperial player gained the Longhorns the lead with a score of 4-2.

Stone stole the ball at the end of the first quarter making two shots, one missing which Jara McKee rebounded and sunk the ball with 20 seconds left on the clock.

At the end of the first quarter, the

score was 10-5 in Goodland's favor.

In the second quarter, Imperial scored on several rebounds but never managed to pull ahead of the Goodland girls with Stone cinching the score at the end of the first half off a rebound from a rim shot by senior Cowgirl Ashley Hallagin.

The score was tight at 21-20 at the end of the first half, with Goodland having eight fouls and Imperial having six.

Goodland pulled ahead in the first minutes of the third quarter, with Stone once again scoring two points for the team, but a foul gave Imperial the chance to tie the score on a free throw leaving the game at 30-30.

The Cowgirls once again pulled ahead by the end of the third with two freethrows made by Cowgirl StevieLee Rayer, a junior, bringing the score to 36-35.

The score in the fourth quarter was neck and neck for most of the quarter. Lacey Brenner rebounded on a shot from Imperial for the second score in the quarter after Stone had taken the first.

The last 30 seconds of the game creaped by as Goodland and Imperial traded fouls, stopping the clock often.

At the end of the game, Goodland and Imperial each had 10 fouls. Imperial attempted 19 freethrows and sunk 14. Goodland got 18 freethrows and made eight, with the leader in scoring, McKee who attempted eight and gained five points.

High scorers for the game were McKee with 13 shots attempted and five made and Stone with nine shots attempted and six made with two three-point shots attempted and one made. Ashley Hallagin led in three-point shots with nine attempted and three made.

McKee was the strongest on offensive rebounds managing to keep the ball on Goodland's side three times and averaged highest in total rebounds gaining five. Stone was the leader on the defensive rebound side, gaining the ball for Goodland four times.

Defensively Cody Pettibone and McKee both stole the ball twice as did Kendra Billinger.

McKee was also the leader in assists with four total.

The Cowgirls will play next at home on Thursday at the Topside Tip-off which will last until Saturday. Games will be played from 4:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. on all three days.

Cowboys fall 66-64

Coach says first half hurt chance for win

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

The Cowboys fell behind in the first quarter of their season opener on Friday night and continued to foul throughout the game until they just weren't able to catch up to the Imperial Longhorns, losing 66-64.

"We didn't play well in the first half," said Coach Jon McLean, "we had a large number of turnovers."

Despite the bad start, the coach said he was proud of the way the team came back in the rest of the game.

The hole dug in the first half was a little too deep for Goodland to pull out of.

"If we would have played as well in the first half as we did in the fourth quarter we would have won," McClean said.

He said Imperial just out-rebounded Goodland and was able to get the ball more often.

The fouls really hurt the team, especially in the first half of the game, said

the coach, who had said before the game that he was worried about fouls.

"I think it could have been just first game jitters," said McLean.

Cowboy Luke Stone, who was the high scorer and a leader in defense, got the tip off to start the game, but Imperial managed to take the ball before Goodland could score.

The Longhorns got their first two points off a foul by Goodland. Aaron Gittinger was the first Cowboy to score in the game, bringing up the score to 4-3 in Imperial's favor. But the Cowboys continued to foul giving Imperial lots of chances to score.

At the end of the first half the score was 35-24 with Goodland falling behind. Goodland had 10 fouls for the half with Imperial collecting seven.

Two three point shots from Stone and several steals from Gittinger brought the score up to 51-39 going into the fourth quarter.

Fourth quarter action was exciting as both teams struggled, Goodland for domination and Imperial to keep their lead.

Matt Mentzer scored first in the quarter followed by a three-point shot from Stone.

Once the ball was lost to Imperial, Mentzer managed to steal the ball and put in a powerful throw from the three-point line sinking the ball and bringing

the score up to 54-48, with Imperial still in the lead.

The closest Goodland was able to get to the Longhorns was with 30 seconds left on the clock. Stone was fouled against and sunk two freethrows bringing the score to a narrow 63-61, then Stone made a three-point shot to bring it up to 65-64.

Goodland lost the one point margin to a foul, and Imperial gained a point on the free-throw.

After the final foul only nine seconds remained on the clock and Goodland wasn't able to get their hands on the ball. Goodland ended the game with 10 fouls to Imperial's nine.

Stone made seven attempts at three point shots, making four, and attempted 12 two point shots, managing six. Mentzer was the lead in two point shots making seven of the 13 he attempted.

Stone was the leader in defensive play with nine defensive rebound — he also gained five offensive rebounds for a total of 14 — and was the leader in assist with three followed by Mentzer with six total rebounds. Jordan Riebel got two steals.

The Cowboys next action will be at home on Thursday with the three day Topside Tip-off tournament which starts at 4:30 p.m. Games will be held all three days from 4:30 p.m. until 8 p.m.

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Wildcats lose Big 12 title game

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — This time, Kansas State's Wildcats were able to land on their feet when they fell in the Big 12 title game.

Two years after being passed over by the Cotton Bowl following a double-overtime upset loss to Texas A&M in the conference championship game, No. 11 Kansas State accepted a bid Sunday to play No. 21 Tennessee in Dallas on New Year's Day.

Kansas State (10-3) could have earned a Fiesta Bowl berth with a win over No. 1 Oklahoma in Saturday night's conference championship. The Sooners pulled away from a 17-all tie with a series of clutch second-half plays, though, and held on for a 27-24

win that puts them in the Orange Bowl against No. 3 Florida State.

"We're honored to have an opportunity to play a great team, a program with a continued legacy of success," said Kansas State coach Bill Snyder, whose first New Year's Day bowl appearance was a 19-14 loss to Brigham Young in the 1997 Cotton Bowl.

Kansas State will be making its eighth straight bowl appearance, while Tennessee's streak of 12 straight bowls began after the 1989 season with a 31-27 win in the Cotton Bowl.

"Our team, coaches, staff, fans — everyone concerned is excited to be returning to the Cotton Bowl," Tennessee coach Phillip Fulmer said. "We're

excited about playing an outstanding team like Kansas State — Coach Snyder's done an incredible job with that program — and we feel our team is deserving of a spot in a New Year's Day bowl."

This will be the first postseason matchup between Kansas State and the Volunteers (8-3), who were poised to play for the national championship two years ago — a matchup derailed by the Wildcats' loss to Texas A&M.

Tennessee, which rallied in the Southeastern Conference title game for a 24-14 win over Mississippi State, went on to the Fiesta Bowl and won the national championship with a 23-16 victory over Florida State.

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3 pm Sagebrush Shootout @ Brewster
Teacher Workday

Saturday, Dec. 9 - 3 pm Sagebrush Shootout @ Brewster

ACT Test Date

Monday, Dec. 11 - BOE Meeting 7:30 pm

Tuesday, Dec. 12 - 4 pm & 6:30 pm HS BB @ Triplains

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