

Cowboys take a fall

By Roxie Yonkey
Goodland Daily News
The McCook Bison (4-1) had a habit of letting their opponent hang around through two or three quarters, then exploding to win.

They did it in the first two rounds of the Topside Tipoff this weekend, then again in the final round. Goodland (2-2) stayed with McCook well into the third quarter, but the Bison exploded late in that period.

They went on to win 65-46 to take Tipoff's title for the third straight year. McCook opened with an 8-2 lead before Goodland rallied. The Cowboys' Matt Mentzer scored a free throw, then Luke Stone hit a trey. Stone then found Mentzer for a fast-break layup to close the gap at 8-8. The game was so close early that there were seven ties through 4:48 of the third.

The teams both ran up and down the floor well and scored well, but Goodland got into foul trouble. Luke Stone and Andrew Melia kept replacing each other to save fouls, but both had about the same amount — way too many.

The Cowboys still pressed on. They took their first lead of the game on Stone's free throw, the third quarter's first score. McCook got it back on Kyle Carmichael's layup, but Mentzer's old-fashioned three-point play gave the lead to Goodland again. Melia's two free throws gave Goodland a four-point lead.

McCook then scored seven straight points to retrieve the lead. Nate Thompson's pair of free throws cut it back to one, 35-34, with 3:45 left in the third. Stone's bucket would have put Goodland in the lead. Instead, he was called for charging and the bucket was taken away. That gave Stone four fouls. Melia replaced him, but he had four fouls, too. McCook's Krae Dutoit and Michael Kuhlen then hit back-to-back threes.

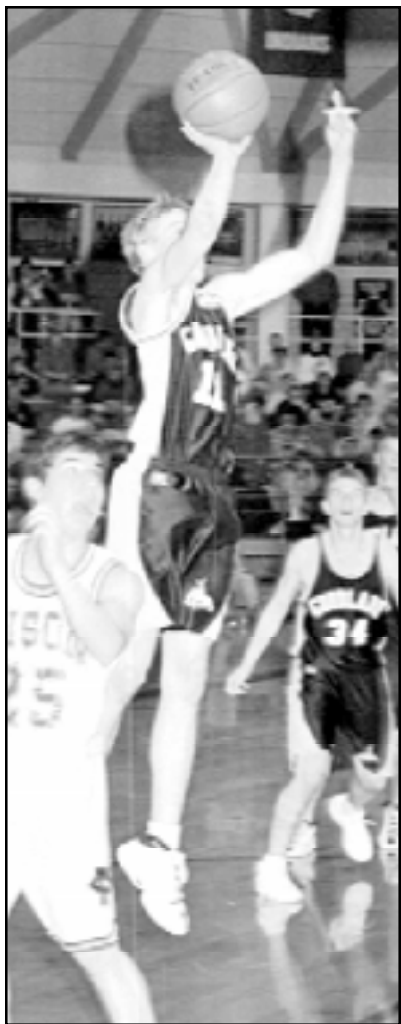
Goodland answered with a Thompson assist to Jeremy Stefan in the lane. But McCook scored the next eight points to end the third and start the fourth quarter. By this time, Goodland was down by 13, 49-36, and the Cowboys couldn't make up the deficit.

The Cowboys' shots refused to fall and the Bison picked apart their baseline defense.

Mentzer led Goodland with 14 points and eight rebounds. Stone had 12 points and eight rebounds, despite time limited by fouls. Melia added 10 points. Also scoring for Goodland were Stefan and Thompson (4 each) and Lee McCoy (2).

Mentzer and Stone were named to the all-tournament team. Goodland's Jordan Riebel won the three-point shooting contest. The Goodland High band won the tourney's spirit award.

Goodland will play Quinter at home Friday, the final game before Christmas break.



Goodland's Jeremy Stefan (11) got off a shot behind McCook's Andrew Sughrue on Saturday during a Topside Tipoff game.

Photo by Eric Yonkey
The Goodland Daily News

Cowgirls win Topside Tipoff

Goodland jumps into lead and hangs on for whole game

By Roxie Yonkey
The Goodland Daily News
The shock of being down 9-0 is tough to overcome. Morrill, Neb., was in that situation in the Topside Tipoff championship Saturday night.

Goodland's Cowgirls jumped out to that lead and the Lions never could get a handle on the game thereafter. Goodland went on to win 63-44, taking the Topside Tipoff for the second straight year.

Goodland's Jara McKee started the opening run with a follow of her own miss. Ashley Hallagin got a steal and turned it into a bucket, then Jayci Stone found McKee for a layup and McKee followed Cody Pettibone's miss. Then Pettibone made a free throw to give Goodland a 9-0 lead at 4:39 in the first quarter.

Morrill finally got on the scoreboard

on Jennifer Weinmeister's shot from the free-throw line. Goodland scored the next three points, a McKee free throw and Kendra Brack's follow of Hallagin's miss.

That pretty much set the game's pattern — Goodland scoring twice to Morrill's once.

"That was the best defense we've played all year," Goodland coach Connie Livengood said. "Our press worked well and we got them into a hole. We played great man-to-man defense."

McKee had 24 points and six rebounds to lead Goodland. StevieLee Raymer had 11 points. Rounding out scoring for Goodland were Hallagin (8), Pettibone (5), Lindsay Custer and Erica Mann (4), Anny McCoy (3), Kendra Brack (2), Jessica Vignery and

Jayci Stone (1). Stone added four assists, passing up several shots that almost certainly would have added to her point total.

McKee and Hallagin were named to the all-tournament team. Hallagin tied her cousin, Kelsey Hallagin of Burlington, in the tournament's three-point shooting contest. The cousins decided to share the honor and did not go to a shoot-out.

Goodland hosts Quinter Friday at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

"I hope we can keep our momentum rolling through Friday and the (Christmas) break," Livengood said. "I'd like to finish December strong and have a good January."

Livengood said the Cowgirls' fans had been great with their support during the tournament.

Goodland wins close game against Yuma

By Roxie Yonkey
The Goodland Daily News
Like a juggler's flying balls, the lead switched hands between Goodland (2-1) and Yuma, Colo., through most of the first quarter of their Topside Tipoff semifinal game.

But all juggling stopped at 1:53 in the first quarter when Goodland's Matt Mentzer hit four straight free throws. He followed those with a steal that led directly to Luke Stone's bucket.

Goodland went on to win by 40, 89-49. Yuma finally answered Goodland's run with a reverse layup from Jared Bryant, but Goodland's Jordan Riebel hit from three-point land to end the first

quarter. At the end of the initial quarter, Goodland led 25-16. The Cowboys kept on going to start the second quarter, with buckets from Nate Thompson on Kris Rubio's assist and Jeremy Stefan from Thompson's assist. Andrew Melia's steal set up Stefan's bucket. Goodland went up 31-16 and Yuma never recovered.

After Stefan's bucket, Yuma's Heath Roundtree got a three, but Goodland scored the next six buckets. The Cowboys got scores from Mentzer, Stefan, Stone, Riebel, then Stone and Riebel again. Riebel's second bucket in the run was a three from Aaron Gittinger.

The Cowboys were up 48-19 with

2:24 left in the half and there was no hope at all for the Indians. Goodland's offense was so potent Friday night that six players, Stone (16), Melia (12), Mentzer (12), Stefan (11), Lee McCoy (11) and Thompson (10) were in double figures. Riebel just missed double figures with nine points.

Brandon Chapman scored 21 points and Robert Drietz 13 to lead the Indians.

"It was just a darned good basketball game for us," Goodland coach Jon McLean said. "We played great on defense and offense. We did a good job of attacking around the bucket and we had a lot of free throws (22 of 33).

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Thursday, Dec. 14 - JH Boys BB @ Oberlin
League 2:00 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 15 - "C" JV V BB (H) Quinter 3:45 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 16 - WR (H) Holiday Classic 9:00 a.m.
Sunday, Dec. 17 - BB Open Gym 1:00 to 3:30 p.m.
Monday, Dec. 18 - Winter Band/Vocal Concert HS Auditorium 7:30 p.m.
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Tuesday, Dec. 19 - 7-12 Vocal Concert HS Auditorium 7:00 p.m.
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