

# Cowgirls win sub-state opener

**By Roxie Yonkey**  
*The Goodland Daily News*

Very little went right for the Thomas More Prep girls basketball team last night. Their bus was rear-ended as they pulled off the Interstate into Goodland, one of their players went down in the third quarter with an ankle injury and they lost big to Goodland 52-35 in sub-state's opening round.

But Goodland had a few problems also. They hadn't played for more than a week, as their season-ender with Norton was canceled because of heavy fog. The rust showed early. Cowgirls opened 0-8 and 1-11 from the floor, despite putting up many of their shots from seven feet or closer. If not for Jayci Stone's scoring, they would have been shut out in the first quarter.

Neither team scored until 5:35 in the first quarter. Finally, Stone got the Cowgirls on the board with a free throw, followed by a layup from Cody Pettibone.

Helped by Cowgirl defensive breakdowns, the Lady Monarchs scored the next six points to take a 6-3 lead at 2:55 in the first quarter.

Then Stone took over. She scored from the free throw line and twice from the baseline to give Goodland a 9-6 lead at first quarter's end.

The Monarchs didn't score again until 1:03 left in the half. By that time, Goodland led 21-8.

Despite their rustiness, Cowgirl coach Connie Livengood felt her team "got up and down the floor well." They

also rebounded well, with a 43-33 margin over TMP.

"We're in the sub-state semifinals now," Livengood said. "It's a new game and a new focus."

Cowgirls run their record to 14-6, while Thomas More Prep's season ends at 0-20.

Stone led the Cowgirls with 18 points, five rebounds, three steals and three assists. Jara McKee scored nine points and had three steals. Pettibone scored eight points. Anny McCoy had five points and eight rebounds. Erica Mann and Lacey Brenner scored four apiece, StevieLee Raymer two, Kendra Brack and Danielle Hellerud one each.

Ashley Coker led the Lady Monarchs with 12 points, the only team member in double figures. All of her points came in the second half. Liesl Wyett scored eight.

Sub-state semifinals will be held Friday night in Max Jones Fieldhouse. Cowgirls play the winner of the Scott City-Larned game at 5 p.m. Mountain Time.

**girls scores**

*By The Associated Press*

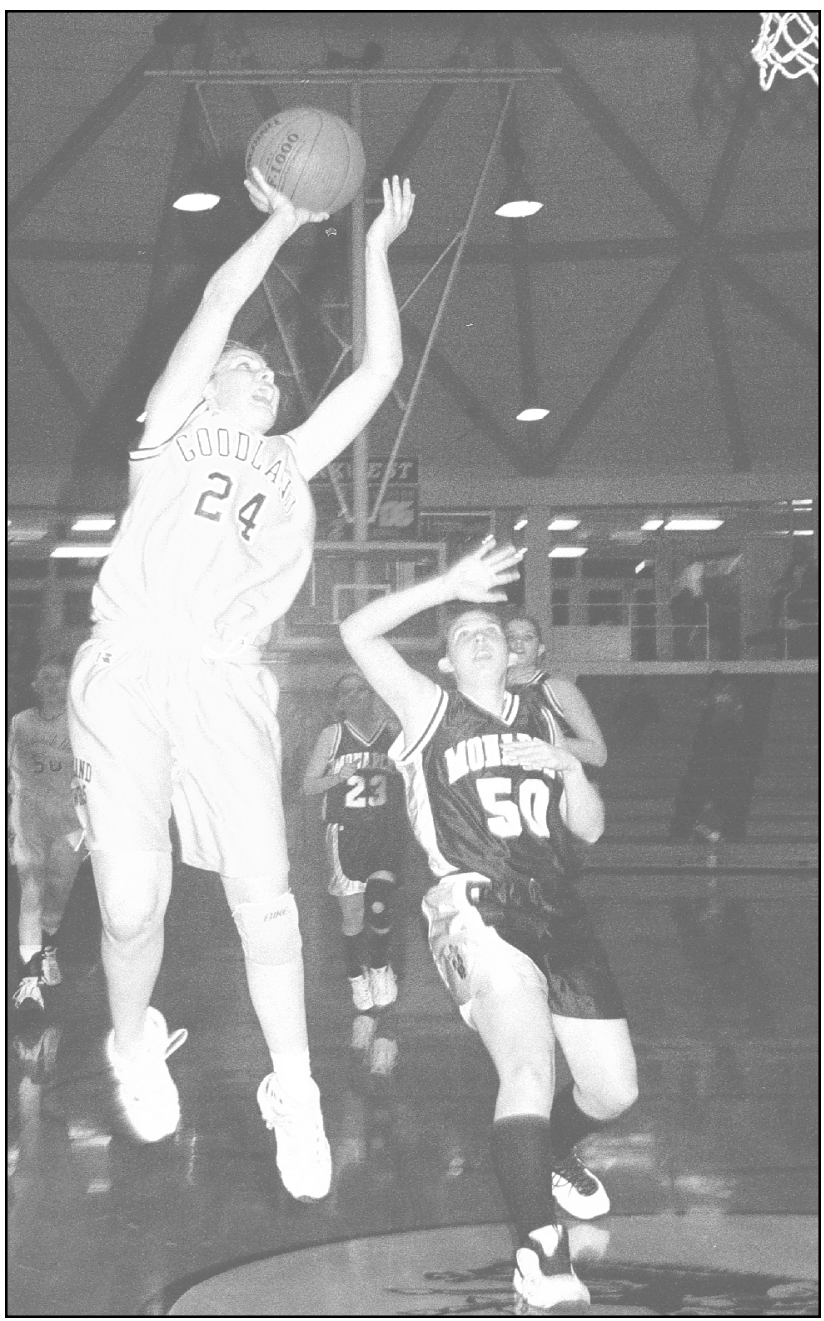
Wednesday night

Atwood 69, Oberlin 57

Goodland 52, TMP-Marian 35

Hoxie 55, Quinter 41

St. Francis 53, Hill City 44



Cowgirl Jayci Stone sparked the scoring with a layup against the Lady Monarchs at Max Jones Fieldhouse in the first round of the 4A sub-state tournament. Stone scored 18 points for the Cowgirls as they won 52-35. The Cowgirls next game will be at 5 p.m. Friday at Max Jones.

Photo by Eric Yonkey / The Goodland Daily News

# Iowa State clinches Big 12 championship

*By The Associated Press*

Iowa State clinched its second straight Big 12 championship as the No. 8 Cyclones got 22 points from Martin Rancik to beat Texas Tech 80-63.

The win clinched at least a tie for the title, but coach Larry Eustachy thought it was a poor effort, especially in the first half, and his players agreed.

"We are too inconsistent," Rancik said. "If we want to do what we're trying to do later on in the season, we can't be like this. It's going to catch up with us and we're going to be upset."

Elsewhere in the conference, Kansas beat Kansas State 77-65; Oklahoma beat Colorado 86-67; Oklahoma State beat Baylor 71-69; and Nebraska beat Texas A&M 97-69.

Iowa State (24-4, 12-3 Big 12) won the title outright last season and can do it again by beating Nebraska at home in its regular-season finale on Saturday.

Texas Tech (9-17, 3-12) traded baskets with Iowa State much of the first half before the Cyclones scored the final 10 points of the half to open a 44-34 lead.

Iowa State then blew it open with a 19-4 second-half run and won for the 35th straight time at home.

Texas Tech lost for the 10th time in 11 games.

Drew Gooden scored 17 points and had seven rebounds as No. 10 Kansas beat Kansas State 77-65 Wednesday night for its 18th straight win on the Wildcats' home court.

"I just tried to step up for my team, making sure I'm knocking down my

shots," said Gooden, who returned after missing five games with a hand injury.

Gooden grabbed two key rebounds and scored five points in a 90-second stretch for Kansas (22-5, 11-4).

The near-capacity crowd was the biggest of the year for Kansas State (9-17, 3-12).

The streak has clearly become a source of embarrassment for Kansas State players and fans.

"I heard about it all week," Kansas State guard Larry Reid said. "It's an important thing to us because we are part of this tradition and this team. Whenever we can get a win it's going to be great."

No. 17 Oklahoma, playing for the first time since point guard J.R. Raymond was dismissed for breaking a team rule, broke open the game with a big second-half run and beat Colorado 86-67.

Oklahoma (22-6, 11-4) led by only one point at halftime, but used its defense to produce easy baskets and beat the Buffaloes for the 19th straight time in Norman.

"Our whole team had to accomplish something, and that's everybody be more aggressive and everybody do more than they were doing because we lost one of our best players," said Nolan Johnson, who tied his career-high with 23 points.

Hollis Price, playing point guard in place of Raymond, had 21 points.

Jamahl Mosley scored 15 points for Colorado (15-13, 5-10) and D.J. Harrison had 14 points and nine rebounds.

Nebraska's five seniors, playing their final regular-season home game, scored 74 points as the Cornhuskers beat Texas A&M 97-69.

"The last game is a special game," said Kimani Ffriend, who had a career-high 28 points and 12 rebounds.

Nebraska (14-14, 7-8) took control of the game early in the second half.

Texas A&M (10-18, 3-12) cut the margin to seven a minute into the second period. Then Ffriend made a three-point play and followed with a slam dunk with 16:04 left that gave Nebraska a 51-37 lead.

Cookie Belcher added 16 points and nine assists for Nebraska and had two steals, moving him into third place on the NCAA's all-time steals list with 348.

Nick Anderson led Texas A&M with

19 points, Bernard King had 17 and Jamaal Gilchrist had 11.

Oklahoma State had to hold off Baylor in the second half to win 71-68.

"These four games, the bottom line is to win," Oklahoma State coach Eddie Sutton said. "You're 19-7 and 10-5 and I don't think anybody thought we'd be here at this stage in this season with everything that has happened."

The Cowboys have won four straight, but haven't been impressive.

Baylor (16-10, 5-10) rallied to tie the score at 55, then nearly pulled off the victory after falling behind by eight with 2 1/2 minutes left.

Maurice Baker scored 20 points and Jonzen had 17 for Oklahoma State. The Bears were led by 23 from DeMarcus Minor.

# Colorado Rockies ready for exhibition opener

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Staff ace Mike Hampton and reliever Mike Myers both pitched two strong innings as the Colorado Rockies tuned up for their exhibition opener with a rain-shortened intrasquad game on Wednesday.

Neifi Perez and Todd Walker each had two-run doubles, and Adam Melhuse added a two-run single for the team managed by coach Dallas Williams,

which prevailed 7-2 in the 5 1/2-inning game.

The Rockies will kick off their exhibition season on Thursday against the Arizona Diamondbacks at Hi Corbett Field. Randy Johnson will start for the Diamondbacks, and Denny Neagle will get the call for Colorado.

"It will be nice to see another team (Thursday)," manager Buddy Bell said.

# Jayhawks keep the streak going

MANHATTAN (AP) — On and on goes The Streak.

There seems to be no end in sight.

Even the Kansas players have become blasé about the way they and their ancestors have managed to beat archrival Kansas State 21 times in a row.

"I'm from California, so I just got kind of thrown in the fire," said sophomore forward Drew Gooden, who had 17 points and seven rebounds in No. 0 Kansas' 77-65 victory over the frustrated Wildcats Wednesday night.

"All I know is I'm 5-0 against K-State. As far as I'm concerned, I'm 5-0 so I'm not worried about the other streak, as long as I keep mine going."

The Jayhawks have never lost in 13 games since Kansas State opened Bramlage Coliseum, a point driven home by a big banner Kansas fans held up during the 21st straight victory:

"Allen Fieldhouse West, 13-0 since 1988," it read.

Gooden, who had missed five games with a hand injury as the Jayhawks (22-5, 11-4 Big 12) went 3-2, took charge late in the second half after Kansas State (9-17, 3-12) fought back to within five.

First, he made two free throws. Then he went back to the line and missed the back end of a 1-and-1 but got his own rebound and a stick-back that made it 66-58.

He then rebounded Kansas State's next two misses and capped his spree with a short jumper that gave the Jayhawks a 68-58 lead with 4:32 to go.

"Drew was really fired up. You could tell," said Kansas forward Nick Collison.

Gooden was joyful just to be back in action after sitting out.

"I was like, 'Great players step up

and do great things when they're needed,'" said the 6-foot-9 sophomore.

"I just tried to step up for my team, making sure I'm knocking down my shots."

The shorter Wildcats had nothing to counter the 6-foot-9 Gooden.

"He really gave that team a boost," said Kansas State's Travis Reynolds.

"He seemed like he was fresher than everybody else."

The Jayhawks got double-figure scoring from five players.

The near-capacity crowd was the biggest of the year for Kansas State (9-17, 3-12), but included a noisy contingent of Jayhawks fans who made the 90-minute drive down Interstate 70 from Lawrence.

While the Jayhawks shrug off the streak, it has clearly become a source of embarrassment for Kansas State players and fans.

"I heard about it all week," said Kansas State guard Larry Reid. "It's an important thing to us because we are part of this tradition and this team. Whenever we can get a win it's going to be great."

First-year Kansas State coach Jim Wooldridge would prefer to ignore the streak.

"I mean this sincerely: I know it's the thing to report. But I can honestly say we are so focused on getting better and going into each individual game that everyone has disregarded that," he said.

"It's not something I personally want to talk or think about. We know it's there but we disregard it."

Nick Collison had 13 points for Kansas, while Kirk Hinrich had 12 and Jeff Boschee and Kenny Gregory each had 11.

Reid had 16 points for Kansas State.

# Chiefs release quarterback after negotiations fail

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Kansas City Chiefs have released quarterback Elvis Grbac after efforts to renegotiate his contract broke down, Chiefs President Carl Peterson said.

The Chiefs had been trying to restructure Grbac's contract, which called for a \$10 million bonus if he was on the roster by Friday, when all NFL teams need to be at the salary cap spending limit for 2001 of \$67.4 million.

Grbac had asked for a five-year contract averaging \$8 million a year, including a \$20 million signing bonus, Peterson said.

"That was well beyond what we were prepared to do," Peterson said.

Peterson did not specify the terms of

the Chiefs' offer, but said that it included a \$10 million signing bonus.

"They came to us looking for a contract that would make him the highest-paid quarterback in the NFL, more than Brett Favre, more than Mark Brunell," Peterson said.

"And we responded by saying, 'That is a nice starting point.' There was no way, under our current salary-cap situation, that we could consider that kind of contract."

Grbac's agent, Jim Steiner, said the Chiefs' initial offer included a \$7.5 million signing bonus.

"We felt their offer was well below what a Pro Bowl quarterback deserves," Steiner said. "So we countered with a package that was negotiable."

# Denver defeats Lakers, 107-101

DENVER (AP) — Nick Van Exel insists he gets no added joy from tormenting the Los Angeles Lakers.

Del Harris, the Lakers coach Van Exel feuded with for four seasons, is long gone, and he has no history of confrontation with current Lakers stars

Shaquille O'Neal and Kobe Bryant.

Still, Van Exel was motivated Wednesday night, hitting a tiebreaking 3-pointer and adding eight straight free throws in the final 37 seconds of the Denver Nuggets' 107-101 victory over the Lakers.

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