

Cowgirls place fourth at state

By Roxie Yonkey

The Goodland Daily News

SALINA — In Friday's early girls semifinal game, eventual champion Marysville blew out Andale. In the late semifinal game, Labette County got by Goodland on free throws.

Andale and Goodland then met in the consolation game Saturday morning, and Andale prevailed, 54-35.

Andale had much more time than Goodland to prepare themselves to take third place in Class 4A. The Indians knew early that they could salvage a season-ending win out of Saturday morning. Goodland believed until their

game's very end that they could go on to the title game Saturday night. The Cowgirls were shocked to lose and were still in shock Saturday morning.

"We had too many turnovers and too many fouls," Cowgirl coach Connie Livengood said of the consolation game.

Lots of fouls and turnovers at season's end are more a mark of mental unpreparedness than fundamental defects, especially when a team is good enough to nearly reach the state title game.

Goodland did try to make a game of it early. They led 10-7 on an Ashley

Hallagin bucket from Jara McKee and Erica Mann's pass to Kendra Brack for a layup.

The lead switched hands several times until Jayci Stone scored in the lane at 1:04 left in the first quarter. Goodland led 12-11.

Andale's Kristin Faber hit for three at 51.1 seconds in the first to put Andale up by two, 14-12. She opened the second quarter with four more points before Hallagin scored from 12 feet. Then Andale scored seven more points before McKee scored six points to Andale's three.

Two Tracy Patry free throws put

Andale up by eight, 29-21, at half's end, and the Indians slowly widened their lead thereafter.

McKee finished with 12 points and five rebounds, the only Cowgirl in double figures. Stone had six points and six rebounds. Hallagin scored six points and got four rebounds. Lacey Brenner scored five points and got four boards. Kendra Brack had two points and two assists. Erica Mann scored two points. She had three rebounds and five blocked shots. StevieLee Raymer had two points and two rebounds.

Katie Gatlin led Andale with 15 points.

Goodland girls fall short at the last

By Roxie Yonkey

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SALINA — Thirty-two to one. Twenty to one.

Those numbers aren't scoring runs. They are Labette County free throws attempted and Labette County free throws made to Goodland free throws made.

With that kind of lopsided free throw margin, it's a wonder that Goodland only lost the state semifinal game by eight points, 48-40. And the Cowgirls were within one, 41-40, with 1:17 left in the game.

From midway through the second quarter on, it seemed as if the Cowgirls picked up a foul nearly every time they were on defense. On offense, the girls got pushed and held in the lane often, but few fouls were called.

Cowgirl post players were deep in foul trouble much of the game, forcing Coach Connie Livengood to go deep into their bench.

Two Grizzlys posts got into foul trouble late as well, but too late to do Goodland much good.

In every category but the score, turnovers, free throws and fouls, the Cowgirls beat the Grizzlys. Goodland had more field goals, more rebounds, more assists, more blocked shots, more points from turnovers, more three-pointers and more second-chance points.

Because of these advantages and Layette's inability to shoot free throws, the Cowgirls led 38-36 late in the third on Kendra Brack's fall-away jumper in the lane.

Labette's Melissa Fisk tied the game with 24.7 seconds in the third on — what else? — two free throws. Andrea

Gossard opened the fourth with an 18-footer, then the Grizzlys stalled.

Now the Cowgirls had to foul, though most of the starters already had four.

Stone fouled out after pushing Lacey McMann. Goodland had 10 team fouls with 1:32 left in the fourth. McMann made her second free throw and Grizzlys led by three, 41-38.

Cowgirl Jara McKee found Brack in the lane to make it 41-40 Grizzlys with 1:17 left.

McKee fouled out after pushing Labette's Kim Fetts. Fetts made the first of her bonus free throws, but missed the second. Goodland's Ashley Hallagin came down with the rebound. She was fouled, but Labette hadn't reached seven fouls in the half yet, so there was no free throw.

Labette's Amber Sprague stole the inbound pass. Brack pushed her.

Sprague made both her bonus free throws.

After another Cowgirl turnover, Cowgirl Lacey Brenner held McMann, who made both her bonus free throws. Labette led by six, 46-40, with 29.9 seconds left.

Cowgirl Cody Pettibone tried for three but missed. StevieLee Raymer got the offensive board, but missed. Labette got the ball back.

Hallagin then held Sprague. She made her first free throw, but missed her second.

Ten seconds later, Hallagin tried an NBA three, but missed.

"We played so well and so hard," Livengood said, "and if we'd had any kind of break, we'd have been all right. But we didn't get any breaks at all."

Labette (25-0) advanced to play Marysville (25-0) in the championship game. Marysville prevailed, 48-37.



Cowgirl Danielle Hellerud contested a shot from an Andale player during the third-place game at state Saturday in Salina.
Photo by Eric Yonkey / The Goodland Daily News

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tuesday, March 13 - JH NWKL Scholar Bowl (H); West Site Council meeting at 4 p.m.; North Site Council meeting at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 14 - Central Site Council meeting at 4 p.m.

Thursday, March 15 - Earliest competition date for spring sports. Technology Committee meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Friday, March 16 - End 3rd Nine Weeks; 1/2 day of school

Saturday, March 17 - 3 on 3 BB Project Graduation 2002, MJFH and JH Gym.

Tuesday, March 20 - Scholar Bowl at Syracuse, 3 p.m.; League Academic Bowl (H) 3:30 p.m.



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