

Buzzer-beating shot edges Cowboys to win

By Doug Stephens
The Goodland Daily News
Goodland basketball fans left Max Jones Fieldhouse satisfied Friday night as the Cowboy varsity edged out Colby 44-42 with a buzzer-beating shot.

There was an undercurrent of excitement as the game started. As soon as the girls left the court, both boys teams took to the court in an energetic warm-up.

The Goodland team seemed especially pumped up, maybe driven by an upbeat, almost manic, funk tempo provided by the pep band, in anticipation of matching up with their traditional rivals.

Both teams started hesitantly, testing the capabilities of the other. Traveling calls and turnovers on both sides dominated the first four minutes, with no score.

Toward the end of the first quarter, Goodland coach John McLean started to show his emotions, pounding the empty seat next to him after an unpopular call.

The end of the first quarter also showed Goodland's Donald Raymer starting to dominate the boards, showing a lot of heart, and quite a bit of vertical distance in going after rebounds.

Both teams played tough defense, with Goodland leading at the end of the first quarter, 7-4.

The second quarter began the seesaw for the lead which would continue through the game, with Colby pulling ahead 8-7.

McLean started to jump out of his seat after every close play, shouting encouragement or instructions to his players. He became upset over every call against his team, spending more time prowling the baseline than in his seat.

The last 30 seconds of the half was a buzz of activity, with both teams scoring quick baskets.

It was punctuated by Aaron Gittinger making a trey as the buzzer sounded, bringing fans to their feet, and giving the Cowboy team a 17-15 lead.

As the second half began, the Eagles picked up their defense, forcing

turnovers.

With the Cowboys down 23-27 at the end of the third, Gittinger drove into the paint amid a sea of black. He lost his balance and fell to the floor, throwing up a spectacular underhand shot that brought Goodland to 25.

Andrew Melia stepped up in the fourth quarter, and with Raymer, dominated the boards.

Unless a ball fell directly into their hands, the only chance Colby had for a rebound was when Goodland's giants held back so as not to grab from each other.

With Goodland down 36-39 at the three-minute mark, Jordan Riebel made back-to-back three-point shots. Colby bounced back, tying it up at 42.

With 33 seconds left, Goodland had possession and inbounded. Colby's full-court press stopped Goodland cold, forcing the Cowboys to call a time-out with 25 seconds left.

Goodland tried it again.

Lance Tedford broke through the press and got the ball down court. Tedford to Gittinger. Gittinger to Raymer, back to Gittinger. Off to Tedford at the top of the key with 11 seconds left. Tedford to Raymer. Raymer managed to get it off to Melia to the left of the paint. Melia took a jump shot, which bounced off the board and in. Buzzer.

The field house crowd jumped out of their seats and let out a deafening roar. "I'm proud of our players," McLean said. "We played good defense."

"We struggled a little offensively, and it feels good that we were able to pull off a win after struggling."

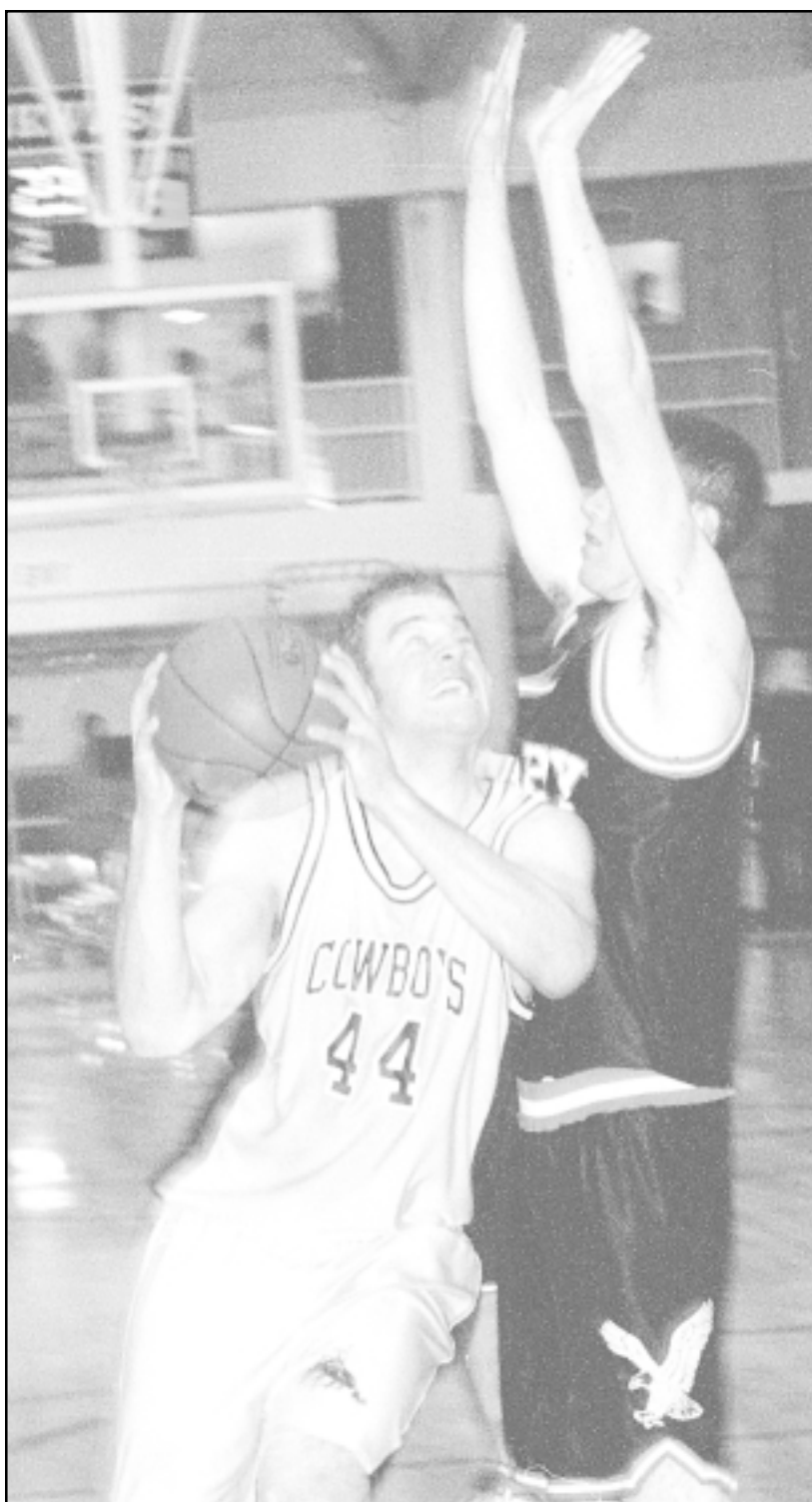
Gittinger and Riebel led Goodland in scoring, both with 11 points.

Raymer led rebounds with 8. The win brings the Cowboys' record to 2-4.

The Cowboys' next game will be Tuesday at home against Lakin, the No. 1 ranked Class 3A team.

"They have a lot of talented players," McLean said.

"This match will be a good barometer of how well we're doing as a team."



Andrew Melia drove past an Eagle defender Friday night at Max Jones Fieldhouse. Melia later scored the winning goal against the Colby team.

Photo by Skilar Boland/The Goodland Daily News

Bronco's coach on the list for head position at Florida

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP) — While Steve Spurrier will say goodbye to his Florida family on Monday, the search for his replacement will center around Bob Stoops of Oklahoma and Mike Shanahan of the Denver Broncos.

Citing sources, The Gainesville Sun and Orlando Sentinel reported athletic director Jeremy Foley offered Stoops the job and a raise of between \$400,000 and \$1 million from the \$2 million a year he makes coaching his current team, the Sooners.

A source close to the football program, however, told The Associated Press on Sunday that no offer had been made.

A day earlier, the same source told the AP that Stoops was the top candidate.

Also Sunday, Shanahan, a good friend of Foley's and long considered one of his favorite coaches, said he'd be willing to talk about the opening, although he said he has not been contacted.

"We always teased each other that if the job were open, he'd talk to me," Shanahan said.

"Obviously, he's a friend of mine and I would talk to him about it. I'm very happy here."

"I've got a contract and I intend on keeping that contract," he said, "but that doesn't mean I won't sit down and talk with Jeremy."

Shanahan's contract pays about \$4 million a year and he would almost certainly take a pay cut if he was to take the Florida job.

He has a new house in Denver, and he still has a strong reputation among hard-core Bronco fans.

Even though the Denver Broncos have had three straight disappointing seasons on the heels of two straight Super Bowl titles, he is still popular with Denver fans.

Asked about the search for a Florida coach on Sunday, Foley refused to comment.

Foley is essentially a one-man search committee in charge of replacing Spurrier.

Spurrier is the man who took Florida from decades of mediocrity to one of the top, and most entertaining, programs in the country over his 12 seasons.

At 4:30 p.m. Monday, one of Spurrier's most intriguing news conference's will take place.

It's the one where he will say

goodbye.

He scheduled his resignation to give the Gators a chance to fill the opening before the dead period for recruiting ends Saturday.

Foley would like to have somebody in place by then.

"To all the recruits out there that are considering the University of Florida, I ask that you have faith in us that we'll find a quality football coach that will take this on and build upon what Coach Spurrier has already built," Foley said Friday at his news conference about the new job possibility.

Still, in the past, when asked about the coaching search he'd have to conduct someday, Foley always said that he would rather take too long and risk losing a few players than to hire the wrong person.

Clearly, Stoops would be the right guy for this program. He was defensive coordinator here for three seasons and ran Spurrier's defense during the 1996 national-title year.

He's also a commanding sideline presence — something any replacement of Spurrier's has to have if he's going to succeed.

Stoops also has support of a coaching staff that is uncertain of its own future.

"Getting Bobby would be an easy transition," said offensive line coach Jimmy Ray Stephens.

Stephens would likely keep his job if Stoops came.

"Whoever gets the job has total control over who they hire, said Stephens. "We'll have to wait and see. I hope it's Bobby."

The Florida job is one of the very few that could lure Shanahan away from Denver.

He was offensive coordinator there from 1980-83, when Charley Pell coached the Gators.

At the time, Foley was working his way up the ladder in the athletic department, and the two became good friends.

"We're very close to a number of people there in the university," Shanahan said. "I've got a lot of respect for Jeremy," said Foley.

"That's the only reason that I would really sit down and talk to him. That does not mean I'm headed off to be a Florida Gator."

Spurrier's wife, Jerri, reportedly told The Orlando Sentinel that her husband "had no plans right now. Right now, I'm the only one employed."

bowling results

Thursday Night Mixed League
McDonald's over Goodland Development 3-1
Weis Oil over SunAmerica 3-1
Half Fast Four split with Blind Team 2-2
The Grannies & the Gramps split with Our Team 2-2

Mex & Company over Charlie's Angels 4-0
Women's high game: Shelly Thompson-187
Women's high series: Shelly Thompson-516

Men's high game: Jarome Ontiveroz-231
Men's high series: Charlie Babcock-575

Team high game: McDonald's-866
Team high series: Mex & Company-2531

League Standings: No. 1 The Grannies & the

Gramps 19-5; **No. 2** McDonald's 17-7; **No. 3** Mex & Company 16-8

Happy Hour League
Rasure Lumber split Blind Team 2-2
Bowladium Lanes over Kanorado Coop 3-1
KMAA over Wheatridge Farms 3-1
B & B Electric over Pocket Rockets 4-0

Individual high game: Brent Wood-258
Individual high series: Darren Hickson-656

Team high game: Rasure Lumber-809
Team high series: Bowladium Lanes-2342

League Standings: No. 1 B & B Electric 20, 4;
No. 2 KMA 18, 6; **No. 3** Bowladium Lanes 14, 10.

Was record-setting sack gift?

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Michael Strahan of the New York Giants broke the NFL record for sacks in a season.

Only quarterback Brett Favre will ever know if the record-setting sack was a gift.

Strahan got sack No. 22 1/2 with 2:42 left in the fourth quarter against the Green Bay Packers.

He fell on Favre after the Packers'

quarterback rolled out and then went down at the feet of the New York defensive end.

The sack broke the 17-year-old record of 22 set by Mark Gastineau in 1984.

The play looked somewhat questionable because the Packers were leading 34-25 and Favre didn't have a blocker in front of him on the rollout during the play.

dart results

Goodland Dart League
Can't Get Started over 3MTA3 14-2, No Luck over Silver Bullets 10-6, Just Us over Bad A's 9-7
4th Round Outs: Kevin Delano, Woody Woodward, Bryan Varney, Mark Wear, Jeff Badgett (2) 9
Dart Out: Kevin Delano. **Hat Trick:** Jeff Badgett.
Most Tons: Mel Bracelin 5, Jewff Badgett 5, Kevin Delano 4, Mark Wear 4. **Most Wins:** Jeff Badgett 5, Nikki Quain 4, Mark Wear 4, Mel Bracelin 4.

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