

Goodland Cowgirls beat Lady Buffaloes in overtime

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News
The lead changed hands 25 times and the game was tied 10 times, but in the end it was the Goodland Cowgirls who came out on top of the Atwood Lady Buffs, 61-60, on a last second free throw Friday.

The home crowd at Max Jones Fieldhouse roared.

The win broke a two-game losing streak for the Cowgirls and raised their record to 5-3. The Lady Buffs' record falls to 5-4.

"It was pretty exciting to watch, but as a coach it is nerve wracking," said Lady Buff Coach John Terry. "It is too bad one team has to lose. They both deserved to win."

"As a coach you always remember that last turnover or the last foul. We had quite a week, taking Republic Valley to double overtime on Tuesday before we won, and then the game in Goodland Friday. That is enough overtime for the year."

The Cowgirls will be in action at 4:15 p.m. Mountain Time Thursday against Ulysses in the first round of the Orange and Black Classic in Colby. The girls will play at Colby High School.

Cowgirl Coach Connie Livengood said the girls played very well, and that there was some very good bench help. She thought they played with a higher level of intensity.

"The girls wanted to win," she said. "They could have folded when we fell behind in the fourth quarter, but they showed they wanted to win and came back. Looking ahead to the Orange and Black Classic Livengood said she expects Ulysses to be a good test. "They mainly have one player, Anderson who is a guard, and they do a lot of good things," she said.

Friday, the Cowgirls and Lady Buffs traded the lead 21 times during the four quarters, and there were eight ties, including the score at the final buzzer, tied at 55.

Overtime saw three lead changes and two ties as the two teams fought hard for each point.

Atwood's Rachel Woody broke the tie, making one of two free throws at the 3:54 mark to give the Lady Buffs a

56-55 lead in overtime.

Moments later, Cowgirl Lacey Brenner hit the first of two free throws to tie the score, and then dropped the second to give the lead to Goodland, 57-56.

Brenner fouled Atwood's Ginger Kastens at the 3:05 mark. It was Brenner's fifth foul, and Kastens made both free throws to reverse the lead again, 58-57.

Goodland's Jayci Stone blocked an Atwood shot, and drove the full length of the floor to return the lead to the Cowgirls, 59-58, with 2:15 remaining.

Cowgirl Erica Mann made it a two-point lead, hitting the first of two free throws at the 1:48 mark to lead, 60-58.

A foul on the Cowgirls' Jessica Osborn put Woody at the line and she sank both free throws to tie the score at 60 with 59.9 seconds left.

Stone took a shot with 35 seconds left, but it rolled out. Atwood had a turnover with less than 30 seconds. Trying to work the ball in, the Cowgirls took a time out to setup a shot with 10.2 seconds left.

After inbounding the ball, the Cowgirls' Danielle Hellerud passed into Stone, who went up for a shot. It missed, but she was fouled with 2.2 seconds remaining. She had two free throws coming. The first bounced off — no good. The second hit the rim and rolled in to give the Cowgirls the 61-60 lead. Atwood was unable to get a shot off before the buzzer, sealing the Cowgirls' win.

The game was close most of the way, with neither team able to hold a lead, and no lead was bigger than six points.

The Cowgirls started with a 4-0 lead, but a 3-point basket by Kastens gave Atwood their first lead, 7-6, with 1:50 to go in the first.

Cowgirl Hayley Jarmin returned the favor when she took a pass from Osborn and gave Goodland an 8-7 lead. Atwood's Shannon Lowry retook the lead for the Lady Buffs, and free throws by Kastens extended the lead to 11-8 with 44.9 remaining.

Next time down the court, Jarmin went up for a shot — she was fouled — basket counts — she made the free throw to tie the score at 11 which is how



Annie McCoy was double-teamed during Goodland's one-point victory over Atwood. She scored 15 points. Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

the quarter ended.

Jarmin hit the first shot of the second period to give Goodland a two-point lead, then the two teams traded shots and free throws. Jarmin regained the lead with a basket at 3:45, 18-17. Jarmin had nine points on the night, all in the first half, and through the middle of the second quarter she had half the Cowgirl's total.

Free throws by Stone and one of two shots for a technical foul called on the Atwood coaching staff extended the lead to four points. Stone hit another basket to make it six points, 23-17, with 1:45 remaining.

Atwood's Lowry hit a jump shot and a 3-point basket in the next 30 seconds to cut the lead to one, and free throws by Kastens gave Atwood a 24-23 lead at half.

Cowgirl Annie McCoy tied the score in the third quarter and then gave the Cowgirls a lead. Free throws by Kastens tied the score at 27, but McCoy put back a rebound to give the Cowgirls the lead again.

Lowry hit two free throws to tie the game, but McCoy hit another basket to retake the lead. On a fast break, Stone drove in for a lay-up to give the Cowgirls a 33-29 lead. Stone had a team

high 17 points.

Another 3-point basket by Atwood's Lowry cut the lead, but another basket by McCoy made it three, 35-32, with 3:29 left. McCoy hit another basket with 2:45 left — was fouled — free throw was no good, keeping the lead at three, 47-34. Moments later McCoy got her fourth foul and went to the bench, replaced by Mann.

Mann hit a basket with 1:30 left, but Atwood would not go away as Lowry hit another 3-point shot at the buzzer to cut the lead to one, 39-38. Mann had 7 points on the night.

Opening the fourth quarter, Atwood

got baskets from Carolyn White, Lowry and Amy Green to complete a six-point run and give the Lady Buffs a 44-39 lead.

Goodland Coach Connie Livengood called a 30-second time-out with about six minutes left in regulation. It seemed to help.

After trading free throws, the Cowgirls got a rebound shot from Mann, a lay-up from Stone and a steal and lay-up from Osborn to give the Cowgirls the lead, 46-45, with 3:30 remaining.

Atwood's White fouled out with 2:27 left. McCoy made a free throw to tie the game at 47, and a free throw by Brenner, who made 3 of 4 on the night, gave the Cowgirls a one-point lead.

McCoy fouled out with two minutes remaining, and Atwood's Lowry made both free throws to give the Lady Buffs the lead.

Twenty second later, Osborn brought the crowd to their feet with a 3-point basket to retake the lead, 51-49, with 1:40 left.

Kastens made a free throw and then a basket with 38 seconds left to give Atwood a 52-51 lead.

After a Goodland time-out, Stone gave the Cowgirls the lead, 53-52.

However, Atwood's Lowry hit another 3-point shot to give the Lady Buffs a 55-53 lead.

With 9.4 seconds remaining, Atwood's Amanda Franklin fouled Goodland's Osborn, who had two free throws coming. The first shot bounced around and fell through. The second shot was net only, as Osborn tied the score at 55. She had 10 points on the night, and made 3 of 4 free throws.

The Cowgirls took another time-out after the free throws, and using pressure made it impossible for the Lady Buffs to get off a good shot before the buzzer.

They were headed into overtime! The Cowgirls hit 34 percent of their field goals, making 21 of 61 shots; 17 percent of their 3-point shots, 1 of 6; and 62 percent of their free throws, 16 of 26. Cowgirl StevieLee Raymer had 2 points to complete the Cowgirl scoring.

The Cowgirls had 39 rebounds total, 19 offensive and 20 defensive. They had 12 turnovers and Stone had two blocked shots and McCoy had one.

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