

Cowboys blow half-time lead, lose to McCook

By Doug Stephens
The Goodland Daily News
The varsity Cowboys blew a six-point lead at half-time and lost to the McCook Bison 72-50 on Thursday at their first game of the Orange and Black Classic, dropping their record to 3-6.

The best they can do now is fourth place, and they'll have to get through Wichita South and either Liberal or Scott City to do it.

They will play the Wichita South Titans at 4:15 p.m. Mountain Time today at the Colby High School gym.

Wichita South lost to Ulysses 58-51. They shot 38 percent from the field and out rebounded Ulysses 29-21.

Goodland coach Jon McLean said they are a quick, aggressive team, but not very big.

"We should match up well with them," he said. "I plan to win. I don't care who we play afterwards, Liberal or Scott City, as long as we play the winner."

If Goodland beats the Titans, they will play for fourth place 2 p.m. Saturday at the high school. If they lose, they will play for seventh place noon Saturday at the Colby Community Building.

Against McCook, the Cowboys came out strong in the first quarter, outscoring the Bison 19-12.

McCook scored the first four points, then let the Cowboys get nine straight.

The Cowboys led 17-8 with one minute left, tying the biggest lead they would have, but finished the quarter up by seven.

The Bison fought back in the second quarter. Clayton Gaunt of McCook posted up and faked a shot, sending two Cowboys flying through the air and laying it in.

Krae Dutoit ran it in on a breakaway and put the Bison at 16.

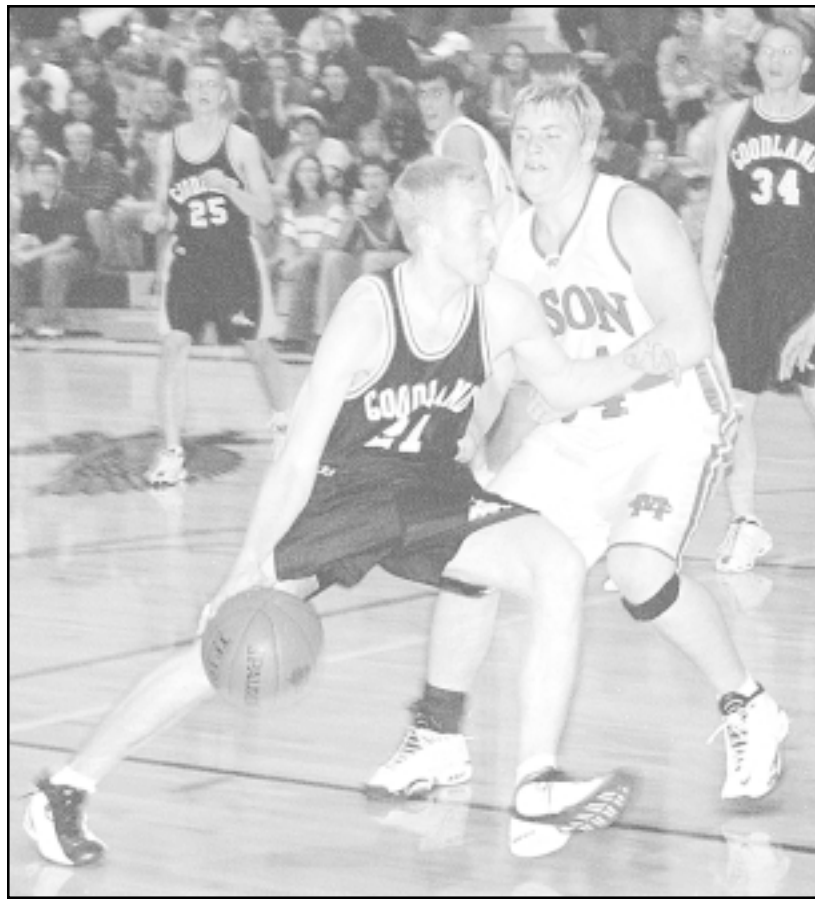
With five minutes in the half, Aaron Gittinger got a defensive rebound and threw it downcourt for Andrew Melia. It was too long and Melia made a great effort to keep it inbounds, but couldn't quite do it, crashing into the wall of the gym.

At the four-minute mark, McCook's Justin Randolph stole the ball, only to have Gittinger sneak up from behind and steal it from him in a lightning move. Gittinger threw it to Melia who easily laid it up and in, putting the score at 28-21.

Jordan Riebel made a 3-pointer with a minute and a half left in the half, putting the Cowboys again up by nine.

Marcus Kuhlmann came back with two of his own, and Dutoit made one of two free throws after being fouled by Goodland's Kevin Schulte to end the half 33-27 for Goodland.

The half was good for the Cowboys. They had a better field goal percentage, made more three-pointers, and grabbed more rebounds during the first half.



Cowboy Bryan Mai tried to get past McCook defender Clayton Gaunt Thursday night during the Orange and Black Classic at the Colby High School gym.

Photo by Skilar Boland/the Goodland Daily News

Don Raymer led all players with 12 points and he and Gittinger led rebounds with six.

The third quarter showed McCook playing tough defense, causing three quick turnovers in the first minute and

a half, forcing an early Goodland timeout.

The Cowboys didn't make a shot from the field for four minutes, by which time McCook was already up by five.

Riebel led a short-lived charge to get back in the game, making a trey, then turning around and getting a steal and assist on a pass to Gittinger, but the quarter ended with McCook up 49-43.

Coming into the fourth, Raymer faked on a post and laid it in after his Bison defender fled by, dropping the lead to four. It was as close as the Cowboys would get.

Goodland only got seven points in the quarter, to the Bisons' 23.

Goodland Coach Jon McLean said he had never been involved with a game where a team played so well in one half, then so badly in the next.

"I am real pleased with the way we played in the first half," he said. "The second half definitely could have been better."

"Defensively we broke down. We didn't move our feet; we didn't get aggressive," he said.

"Offensively, we didn't move. We just quit doing what we did in the first half."

Raymer led Goodland scoring with 17. Andrew Melia got 11, Gittinger 9, Riebel 6, Bryan Mai 4, and Kris Rubio 3.

The loss brings down the Cowboy's record to 3-6.

sports briefs

DENVER (AP) — For the second straight game, the Colorado Avalanche went deep into overtime. This time, the outcome was different.

Two nights after losing to San Jose with 3 seconds left in overtime, the Avalanche won with 2 seconds to go. Ville Nieminen scored on a breakaway to lift the Avalanche to a 3-2 win over the Phoenix Coyotes on Thursday night.

"It was a nice little payback to pull one out the same way we basically lost one," Colorado coach Bob Hartley said. "Nemo dug down deep. He was dead tired, but he found energy."

The Avalanche also might have caught a break.

Nieminen gathered in Greg de Vries' pass along the right boards, skated across the slot and beat backup goalie Robert Esche.

The goal was allowed despite the Coyotes' contention that play should have been stopped because the Colorado goal on the other end of the ice had been knocked from its moorings just seconds earlier.

Officials explained to Phoenix that Colorado's Radim Vrbata had been knocked into the goal, which meant that play should resume. However, after watching video replay in the locker room, Phoenix coaches claimed that Vrbata intentionally knocked the goal loose.

"At that last second, I was looking for a little break, thinking I could maybe catch them looking at the clock or something," Nieminen said.

Legislators skip out of trip to Manhattan for research centers

TOPEKA (AP) — Some said they had more pressing business. Others may have been protesting.

Whatever their reasons, about 60 legislators skipped a trip to Manhattan on Thursday to hear presentations from state officials and U.S. Sen. Pat Roberts about proposed university research centers.

Some of those 60 or so — leaders

didn't take roll, so an exact count wasn't available — did not like the idea of legislators traveling to Kansas State University to hear what they considered a lobbying pitch.

"I guarantee you, we won't do it for an average constituent," said Rep. John Ballou, R-Gardner. "We make them take off work and come see us."

Rep. Jim Morrison, R-Colby, said

the two budget committees should have made the trip but, "I'm not a money person."

Morrison stayed in Topeka to work on water issues on behalf of the city of Hoxie, which is in his district. He also had meetings with Insurance Commissioner Kathleen Sebelius and former Gov. Mike Hayden, who is now serving as secretary of wildlife and parks.

He even returned his pay for the day, \$78.75 in salary and \$85 to cover expenses.

"As far as I'm concerned, it's a snow day," Morrison said.

Others, like Sen. Jim Barone, D-Frontenac, didn't criticize the trip but had other commitments.

Barone said he had meetings with constituents and had already heard the

presentations that officials gave in Manhattan.

"In these busy times, it's hard to take time to get information repeated," Barone said.

The trip was organized by the chairmen of the Legislature's two budget committees, Sen. Steve Morris, R-Hugoton, and Rep. Kenny Wilk, R-Lansing.

Father may face kidnapping charges

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hearing, Kevin Berens, Thonna's attorney, requested she be given sole custody of the children until the father appears in court. Judge Burr granted the request and scheduled the next hearing at 10 a.m., Feb. 11.

The couple's dispute is a routine custody dispute, Berens said. That is until the father didn't return them this weekend. Police Chief Ray Smee said Mark Thompson may be facing kidnapping charges.

"He is in violation of a court order," Chief Smee said. "He's taken off with the kids, and we don't know where."

He said the police department is investigating the incident as a kidnapping by the father. He had joint custody of the kids and failed to return them, Smee said, so the police are looking for him and the children. The Goodland Police has reported the incident to the Kansas Bureau of Investigation, the chief said, and to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Thonna said a friend she sent to pick the boys up on Sunday said Mark's house was locked up and dark and his 1984 Chevy Suburban was gone. She said she called the police right away and sent friends to look for Mark.

The suburban is brown, she said, with a tan stripe and has Sherman County Kansas plates with tag number SND 837. He may be towing a brown camper trailer, the posters say.

The posters describe Mark as being 5-foot 9-inches tall and 135 pounds with dark graying hair that he may have died black.

Thonna has posted 8 by 10 inch posters in Goodland businesses asking anyone with information about her children to contact Officer Dave Becker at the Goodland Police Department at 785-899-4570. The poster describes each of the boys. It says Jaeger has a birthmark on his lower lip, wears glasses and may answer to Bubba or Jaybird. Jacob has a small scar on his left cheek bone and may answer to Elf. Both boys have brown hair.

Jonah has red hair and green eyes, the poster said, and Job has brown hair and blue eyes and may answer to Boo.

Hopefully someone will spot the boys with their father, Thonna said, and realize they shouldn't be with him. She asked people to please come forward if they know where he is. Thonna said she is making new posters to include a description and tag number of the suburban and the tag number of a car owned by Jack Hinson, who she believes is traveling with Mark.

Hinson drives an old white ambulance, Thonna said, which she had seen at Mark's house a lot the week before he left with the boys.

Thonna is a full-time student in the auto technology department at the Northwest Kansas Area Technical College. She said Mark worked the grave yard shift at Total as a cashier.

University wants biomedical center

TRIP, from Page 1

most important industry for America in the 21st century," said President Jon Wefald.

Wefald said the introduction of a biological agent would hurt both the Kansas and national economies. An outbreak in the food supply system would triple food prices, he said.

Roberts and other state officials have said that the food safety center could become the focus of the nation's defense against agroterrorism, such as infestation of infectious disease among livestock.

Kansas State officials are seeking \$40 million for a new Food Safety and Security Research Facility.

The University of Kansas seeks \$65 million toward construction of a \$150 million biomedical center that officials said would put the state on the leading edge of research into such diseases as cancer and AIDS.

"In 20 to 25 years, we will see the pharmaceutical industry disappear," said Michael Welch, vice chancellor for research. "We will no longer use chemicals, but

proteins, to repair damage."

Wichita State wants \$10 million to help build an Engineering Research Laboratory Building, with more laboratory space and a new wind tunnel.

The trip was organized by the chairmen of the Legislature's budget committees, Sen. Steve Morris, R-Hugoton, and Rep. Kenny Wilk, R-Lansing.

Wilk said it is important to legislators and university officials to demonstrate that important research can be conducted in Kansas.

"If you look at the distribution of research money, it would seem intellectual talent is dependent on salt water," Wilk said, noting that most of the federal research dollars go to facilities on either coast.

Both Wilk and Morris were pleased with the turnout and the presentations by the universities.

Morris said a bill is almost ready and he hopes to have legislation to Gov. Bill Graves by early March.

Also Thursday, some of the 60 or so legislators who did not make the trip said they had more pressing business. Others may have been protesting.

Arguing Olympic bobsledders headed to arbitration

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The simmering dispute between bobsled driver Jean Racine and brakewoman Jen Davidson is headed for arbitration. U.S. bobsled federation director

Matt Roy said he expects the dispute to go before the American Arbitration Association, which decides eligibility issues within the U.S. Olympic Committee.

Davidson's attorney, said a hearing date could be scheduled within three days. The USOC has a Jan. 28 deadline to submit names of athletes for next month's Olympics.

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