

Defense helps in comeback win

By Rachel Miscal
The Goodland Daily News

With exceptional defensive and bench play, the Goodland Cowboys “C” team turned a 12-point deficit into a 53-45 win against Weskan at a home basketball game on Monday.

Coach Travis Witman said the Cowboys had a hard time getting into the game at first, but turned up the volume in the third quarter to snatch the team’s sixth win of the season.

“We started out very flat and had a hard time getting any shots to fall,” he said.

We scored only 6 points in the first quarter. Fortunately for us, Weskan also had a hard time scoring.”

The Cowboys were up by 2 at the end of the first quarter, but allowed Weskan to close the gap in the second. The teams were tied at 20 at halftime and then Weskan took off in the third.

“After being tied at halftime, we came out and turned the ball over the first five times we touched it,” Witman said.

“We quickly got down by 12 points.”

The coach said he decided it was time for a strategy change.

“About mid-way through the third quarter,” the coach said, “I called a time out and we switched defenses from a half-court trap to a full-court man-to-man.”

Witman said the team began to play excellent defense, making several quick turnovers and easy buckets, and

managed to end the third quarter within 1 point of Weskan, for a score of 34-33.

“This was a pivotal point in the game,” he said, “and had we not made this run on them in the third quarter, we would have probably lost the game.”

The Cowboys stayed the line in the fourth quarter, outscoring Weskan 20 to 11. Though the first half of the game wasn’t great, Coach Witman said he was proud of his players.

“I was pleased with the way the team responded and played together when we were down 12 in the third,” he said. “It says a lot about the character of a team that can play their way back into a game.”

The coach said the team’s bench play was excellent, and Josef Felver and Craig Mason came off the bench to contribute some great minutes.

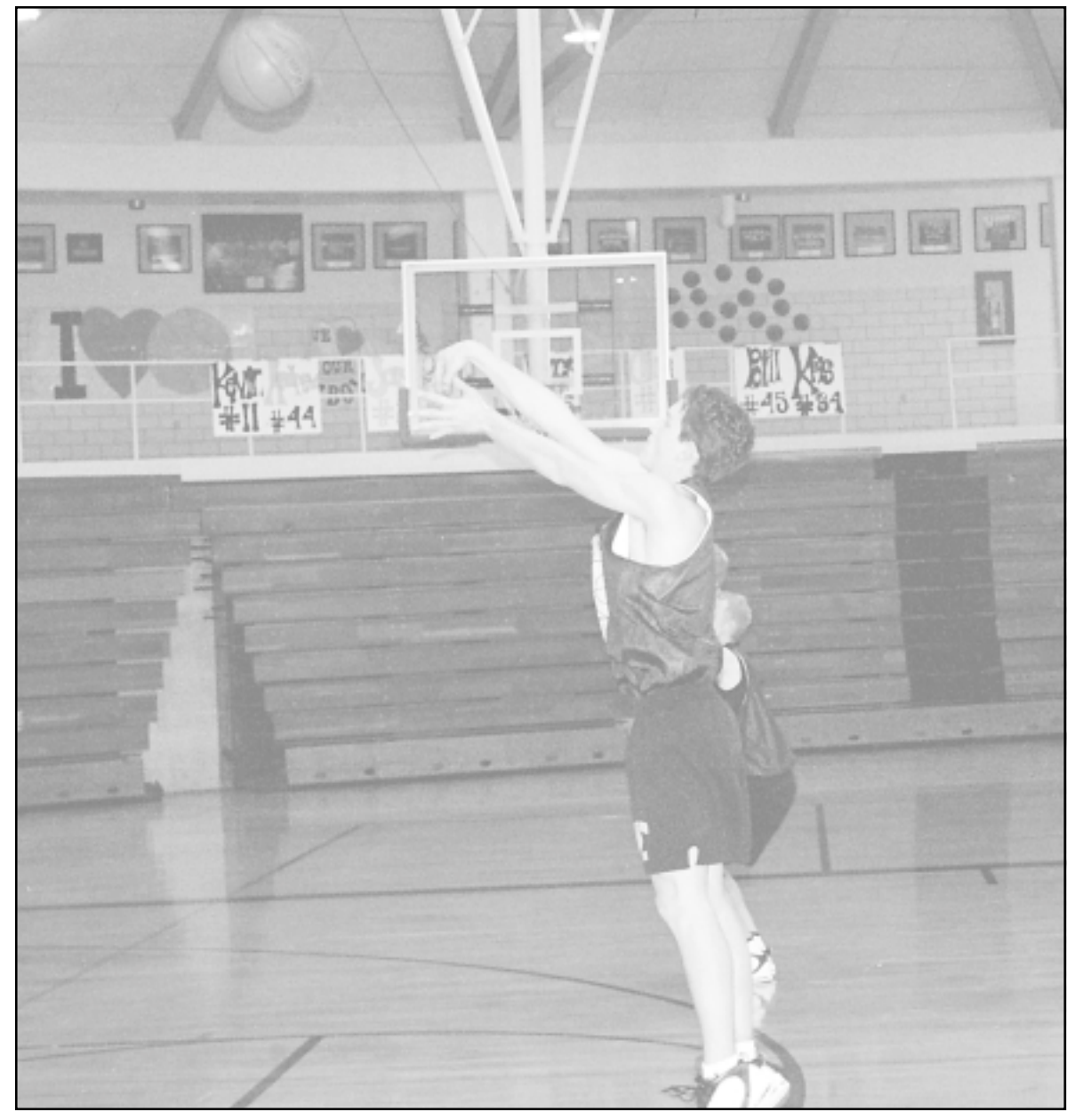
“After the game,” Witman said, “I told the boys that you have to be ready to play whenever you step on the court whether that is at the beginning of the game or after halftime.”

He said he hopes the players learned a lesson from the game and will be mentally ready to face Oberlin today.

The “C” teams will take the court in Oberlin to dace the Red Devils at 3:45 p.m. Mountain Time.

Brock Lohr led the team in scoring, bringing in 14 points. Wade Taylor was right behind with 12 points, followed by David Livengood, 10; Mason, 6; Lane Winter, 5; and Dan Melia, Jake Johnson and Jason McClung, each 2. Livengood shot one three-pointer.

Practice makes perfect



The boys basketball team practiced Tuesday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. Goodland teams will travel to Oberlin today and face Hugoton Saturday at home. Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Wildcats dominate

The Sharon Springs-Wallace County basketball teams took on Tri-Plains Tuesday, winning both games, the boys 65-51 and the girls 64-31.

The Wildcat boys came out with 23 points in the first quarter, to Tri-Plains’ 6.

Tri-Plains outscored the Wildcats 18-5 in the second quarter, but Sharon Springs led at the end of all quarters.

Corey David of Sharon Springs dominated both teams with 30 points. Keith Krea had, 15; Grady Fischer, 12; Zach Lock, 6; and Josh Voth, 2.

The girls came out strong in the first quarter, outscoring Tri-Plains 22-6. The end of the half had Sharon Springs up 37-14.

They outscored Tri-Plains every quarter.

Bryan Williams and Amy Streit led all players with 17 points.

Corinna Bussen and Andrea Siebert scored 7, Darri Siebert, 6; Ashley Bruce, 4; Lisa Wagoner, 3; Brudie Williams, 2; and Jessica VonLorays, 1.



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Wrestlers have even shot

By Rachel Miscal
The Goodland Daily News

Coach Randy Bahe said the Goodland Cowboys have a one in five chance of winning the Northwest Kansas League wrestling tournament this weekend in Oakley.

“As balanced as the league is this year,” he said, “I think it could be any one of five.”

Eight northwest Kansas teams will attend the annual tournament on Saturday, but Bahe said he thinks only five have a good chance of taking the championship

. Those are Goodland, Colby, Hoxie, Oakley and Oberlin.

The coach said he thinks the Cowboys have a shot at winning if they stay focused. Because the teams are so well-matched, he said, it might come down to luck.

“It depends on how things fall,” Coach Bahe said, adding that the tournament is special because the Cowboys will be competing against teams from their own league.

“Having the thought in mind that this is the league tournament adds a little enthusiasm,” he said.

“It would be nice to come out with a win, but it’s nice to win anything.”

In dual meets earlier this season, the Cowboys beat Oberlin and tied with Hoxie, but they haven’t directly faced wrestlers from Colby and Oakley.

Goodland has had a successful season so far, placing first at two

tough tournaments, including one this previous weekend in Hays.

The coach said the team’s strategy will remain the same.

“We’re just going to plug away,” he said, “just like we have been.”

Bahe said he is hoping a few varsity wrestlers who have come down with colds will be better by Saturday. He said Nick Gray, a 135-pound senior, will not be able to wrestle because of an injury.

The coach said Dustin Klinge, a junior who recently dropped from 140 to 135 pounds, will take his place and Mike Zimmerman, a sophomore, will wrestle in the 140-pound weight class.

Bahe said the Cowboys are in a better position than they were last year heading into the league tournament, in which they placed third last season.

“I feel as a team we are wrestling and competing better this year,” he said.

Why?

“Your guess is as good as mine,” the coach said. “The kids are just responding better this year.”

The day-long tournament starts at 8:30 a.m. Mountain Time at Oakley High School, 118 W. 7th, and Bahe encouraged wrestling supporters to attend.

He said the tournament will probably end late in the afternoon.

“I’d sure like to see a Goodland following there,” he said.

Red-hot Mavericks shoot down Nuggets

DENVER (AP)—The Dallas Mavericks have the third-best record in the NBA. Imagine how good they’ll be when Michael Finley returns.

The Mavericks posted their sixth straight victory Thursday night, beating the Denver Nuggets 104-97.

Dirk Nowitzki scored 26 points, including two key 3-pointers in the fourth quarter. Nowitzki also had 10 rebounds, and Juwan Howard had 19 points and 13 rebounds for Dallas (31-12).

The Mavericks are 11-1 without Finley, who is averaging 20.1 points, but is out with a hamstring injury.

“Ever since Michael went down, everybody has stepped up, including myself,” Howard said. “We’re a better club with Michael, so we do miss his presence.”

Tim Hardaway, who scored 16 points, said it is “important for us to

play like this with Michael out so that when he comes back the team will be stronger and better at everything.”

Mavericks coach Don Nelson returned to the bench after missing the last two games to be with his wife, Joy, who underwent successful breast cancer surgery Monday.

“It’s good to be back,” Nelson said. “It’s easier on me to coach than to watch it on TV. That’s more nerve-racking.”

“I thought in the second half we came out with a lot of energy and played a lot better than we did in the first half. I think Juwan Howard was really big for us and got us some baskets when we needed them and established the low game for us. Tim Hardaway came in and gave us that veteran leadership down the stretch. It just all clicked in.”

Raef LaFrentz led Denver with 24

points, 18 in the first quarter. Ryan Bowen had 18 points, 14 in the third. James Posey added 17 points, 14 in the final 12 minutes.

“We played in spurts, and that’s not good,” Posey said. “Consistency is the key. We showed it in L.A. (a 107-91 win over the Lakers on Tuesday), but we didn’t play consistent tonight.”

Nowitzki said the Mavericks tightened their defense in the second half.

“We started guarding Raef and not giving him his open looks, and we did a great job on Nick Van Exel the whole game,” Nowitzki said. “That was the key to the win.”

LaFrentz’s basket cut Dallas’ lead to four early in the final period, but Nowitzki made a 3-pointer with 10:38 remaining.

“Guys we depend on to make shots couldn’t make them,” Nuggets coach Mike Evans said.

Youth wrestling club flexes its muscles in Colby

The Goodland Wrestling Club competed in Colby Saturday, Jan. 12.

Results: **Six and under: first:** Aaron Avelar, 37 pounds; **second:** Cy Paxton, 46 pounds; Taylen Smith, 73 pounds; Ian Bonsall, 61 pounds; **fourth:** Johnathan Peden, 52; Alex Nelson 58; Spencer Smith, 61; **fifth:** Tyler Raby, 55, **participated:** Brook Bahe, Shay Miller, Colton Cooper, Gabriel Ledesma, Jazzmin Weis.

Eight and under: second: Austin Avelar, 49; Laine Herl, 88; **fourth:** Kayler Rietcheck, 70; **participated:**

Derek Matthews, Seth Miller, Mikail Freeman, Jace Cowan, Nathaniel Smith, Jim Roeder.

Ten and under: second: Teather Dautel, 64; Tim Roeder, 70; Paul Starr, 82; **third:** Erik Roeder, 73; Keegan Smith, 82; **fourth:** Ryan Tayler, 95; **participated:** Joel Weis.

Twelve and under: first: Jordan Albers, 76; Prestin Dautel, 76; Casey Henderson, 120; **third:** Michael Klinge, 72; A.J. Stephens, 88, third; Jason Krayca, 110; Nick Smith, 130; **participated:** Michael Ledesma; T.J.

Hawkins.

The members of the club wrestled in Pratt Saturday.

Ten and under: Third: Chance Davis, 79; **participated:** Ryan Taylor.

Twelve and under: first: T.J. Hawkins, 115; A.J. Stephens, 88; **second:** Bobby Daxon, 165, second; **participated:** Ben Davis.

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