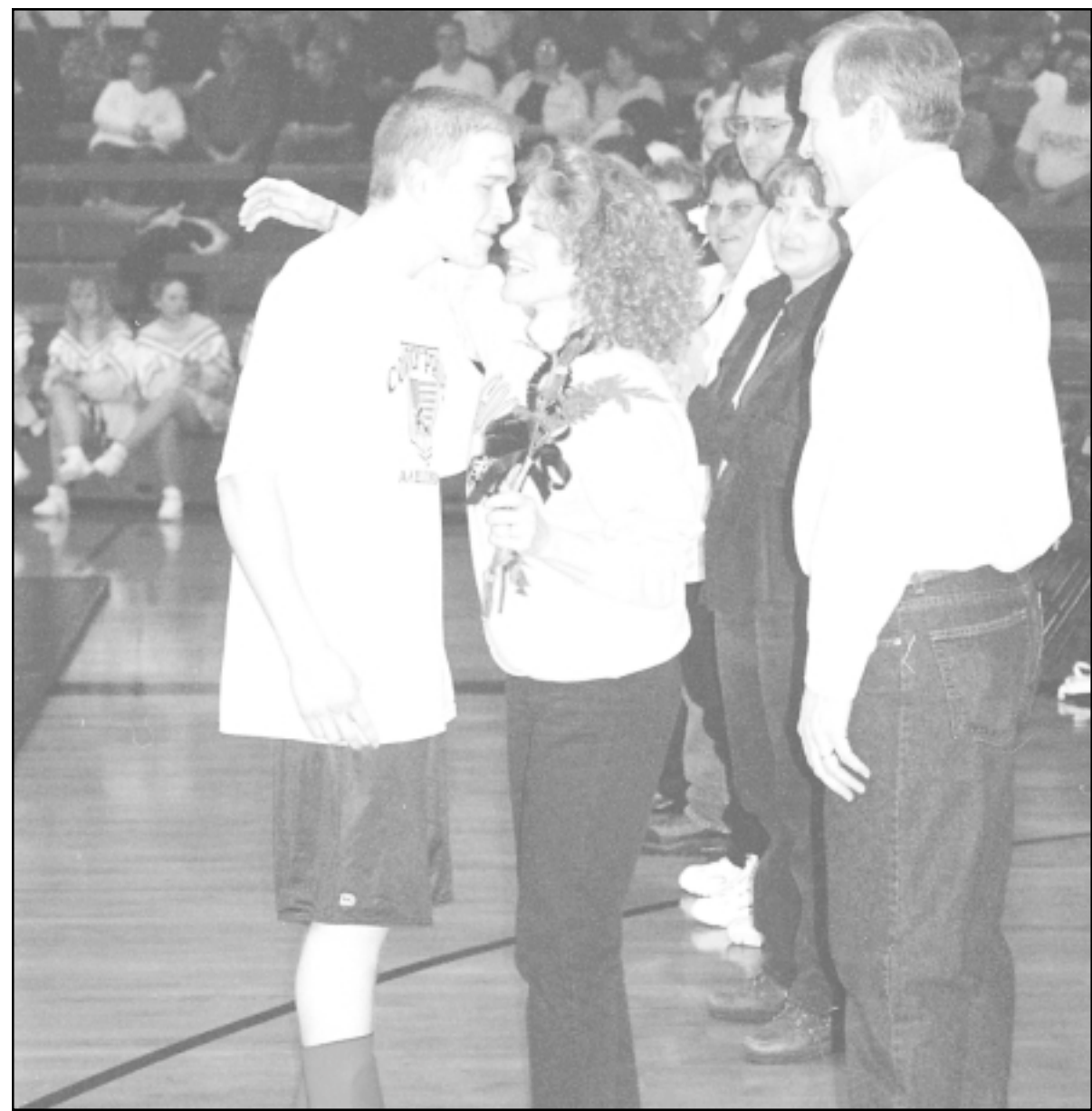


*Don't let your boys grow up to be wrestlers*



Brian Imel hugged his mother, Marilyn, while his father, Terry, watched Friday night at Max Jones Fieldhouse. Senior wrestlers and cheerleaders were honored with their parents between the junior varsity and varsity wrestling matches.  
Photo by Skilar Boland/The Goodland Daily News

# Freshman girls take third

By Rachel Miscall  
The Goodland Daily News

The Cowgirls freshman basketball team took third place at a 9th grade tournament in Atwood on Saturday after losing 58-28 to Atwood in the first round and defeating Norton 42-40 in overtime.

The Cowgirls now have a 2-8 season record, including their victory over Burlington last week in the first round of a home "C" team tournament. The girls advanced to the championship game in that tournament, but it was canceled because of snow.

Coach Mitch Hixson said the game against Sharon Springs has been rescheduled for 3:30 p.m. on Thursday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. The Cowboys "C" team also advanced to the championship round and will take the court Thursday following the Cowgirls.

The coach said the first game on Saturday against Atwood was disappointing, but he was proud of how the team pulled it together when they faced Norton.

He partially attributed the Atwood loss to the fact the Cowgirls were competing against an older team, were missing three players because of illness or vacation and didn't perform up to their potential.

Atwood, which has sophomores and juniors on its C team, has beaten the freshman Cowgirls three times this season.

Goodland started on a solid note, ending the first quarter in an 8-8 tie with the Buffaloes, but lost control in the second quarter, allowing Atwood to take a 16-point lead by halftime, 30-14. The story was the same in the second half, as the Cowgirls were outscored 28-14.

"The only thing I'm going to say about the first game versus Atwood is we didn't compete in the second quarter," Coach Hixson said.

"The game was tied at the end of the first quarter, but then we stopped competing. They built a sizable lead and that was the game."

He said the Cowgirls picked it up in the second half, but were too far behind.

"We worked harder in the second half," Hixson said, "but once you give a good team a big head start, they rarely let you get back in it. It was a good lesson for the team."

The coach said he saw a different team against Norton.

"As disappointed as I was with our performance versus Atwood," he said, "30 minutes later our performance was a complete 180."

Coach Hixson said the Cowgirls played strong against Norton from the first to the last second.

"I can't tell you how proud I am of how the entire team played," he said. "Norton had size and experience edges over us and we just battled and fought them for everything. It was a beautiful

thing." The coach said the Cowgirls' defensive intensity and rebounding was tremendous.

Goodland started in the hole, ending the first quarter down five points and the half four points behind.

The players picked up the pace and charged into the arena in the third quarter, scoring 14 points, compared to Norton's 6.

Norton erased the Cowgirls' 4-point lead in the last half, and the half ended with a 34-34 tie. Goodland took it in overtime, scoring 8 points, compared to Norton's 6 points.

The coach said Jennifer Enfield made the game-winning shot with six seconds on the clock.

"The shot was there and she didn't hesitate," he said, noting the players turned adversity into victory.

"We had three players who didn't make the trip," he said, "so we had eight players. Three of them fouled out against Norton, so in overtime, we were down to five players period. And we didn't back off an inch."

He said everyone contributed to the win, but the team wasn't perfect.

"We need better execution on the offensive end," he said, "more consistency in communication, shooting technique and rebounding, and just continued improvement in practice on our defensive schemes."

In the Atwood game, Emily Burkett scored 8 points; Ciara Abbey, 7; Abby Murray, 6; Whitney Carmichael, 3; and Gami Cloyd and Shannon Showalter, each 2.

Against Norton, Abbey and Enfield each scored 8; Burkett and Cloyd, each 7; Carmichael, 5; Showalter, 4; Murray, 2; and Aubrey Winter, 1.



Jennifer Enfield



Emily Burkett

## St. Louis vows return

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — After a season of excellence, there was only crushing disappointment in the Super Bowl for the St. Louis Rams.

Coach Mike Martz' message to the players after the 14-point favorites lost 20-17 to the New England Patriots on Sunday night was right to the point. "I told them never to forget this feeling, how painful this is," he said. "And that we'll be back."

Odds makers thought the Rams were a lock to win their second Super Bowl in three years. After all, they seemingly had everything. They were the first team in NFL history to score 500 points in three straight seasons. They were the team loaded with megastars.

Kurt Warner won his second AP MVP award in three years this season, Marshall Faulk won in 2000, and Faulk is the Offensive Player of the Year the last three seasons.

They also had the league's third-ranked defense, led by All-Pro Aeneas Williams. That unit featured eight new starters and made remarkable improvement, allowing 198 fewer points than last year.

On the other side of the ball, the no-name Patriots.

"If we played them again next week, we'd probably be the underdogs," coach Bill Belichick said. Las Vegas odds makers have given the Patriots a 15 to 1 shot for next year. The Rams are the 3 to 1 favorites.

But for all the big numbers, the Rams have one Super Bowl title. And neither side of the ball lived up to the billing in the biggest game of the season, which will make for an unsettling offseason.

Instead of a parade through downtown St. Louis on Monday, it was a quiet homecoming.

"With all this great talent, what's the point of letting that go to waste?" tackle Tyoka Jackson said. "Man, what a great opportunity we passed up."

The Rams won by an average of 31-17 during the regular season en route to a franchise-record 14-2 season, and came to believe coach Mike Martz' mantra that the only team that could beat them was themselves.

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