

Two undefeated teams fall at Max Jones

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Daily News
Call it a trade.
Two undefeated basketball teams

lost Friday at Max Jones Fieldhouse as the Goodland Cowboys gave the Colby Eagles their first loss in a down-to-the-wire 57-56 squeaker,

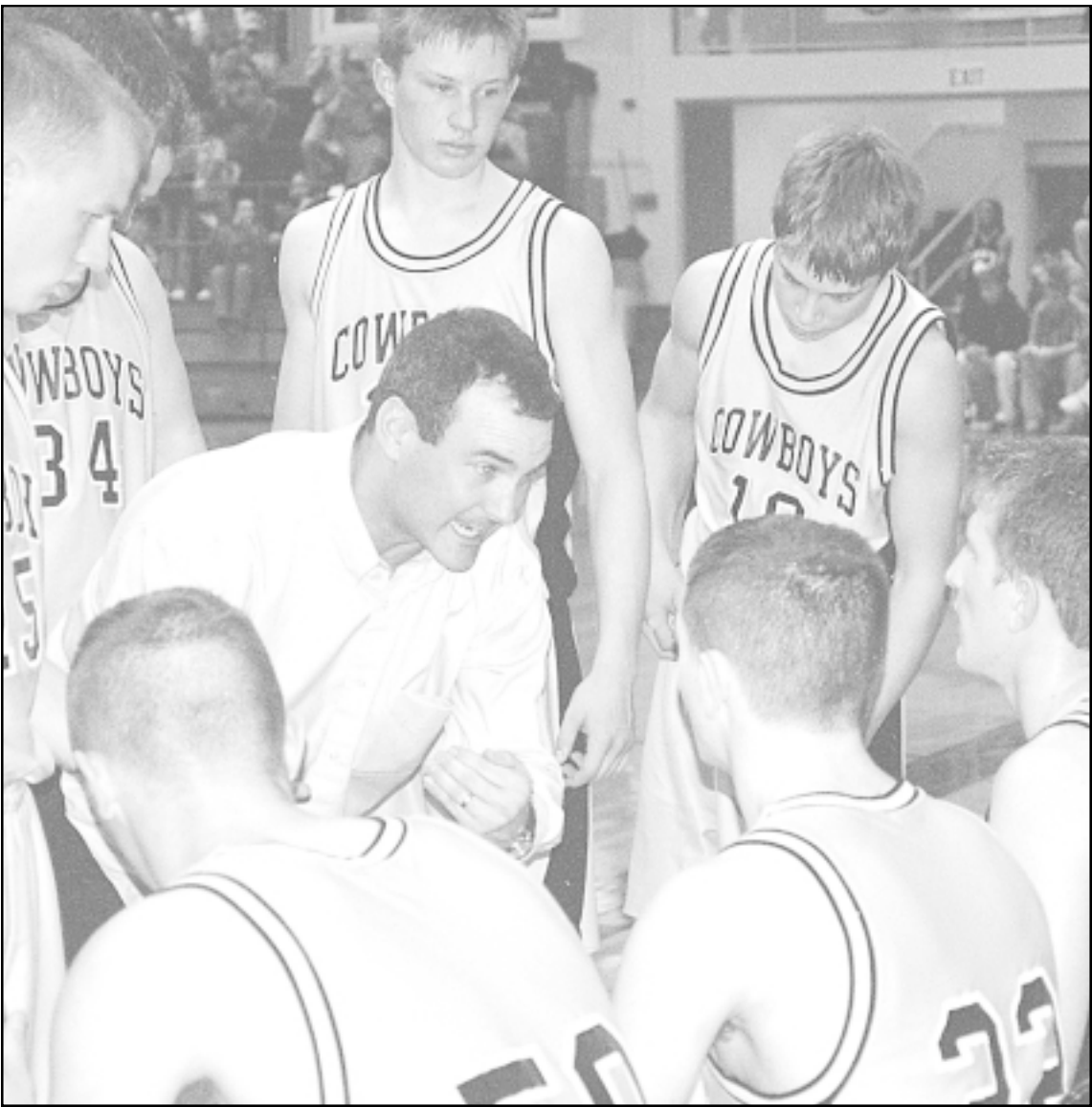
while the Lady Eagles beat the previously undefeated Cowgirls, 60-36.
The games were a match of top teams. In the latest state Class 4A rankings, the Cowboys were listed ninth while the Eagles were ranked seventh. The Lady Eagles are

Cowboys take big win over Eagles

There was plenty for Goodland and Colby fans to cheer and boo in the exciting final quarter Friday. Both teams were upset at the referees as the Cowboys pulled out a last second win, 57-56.
“I was excited and the boys played a great game,” Cowboys Coach Jon McLean said. “I was pleased with the game Don Raymer played, and especially his defense against the Eagles’ Jordan Harris by holding him to 13 points when he has been averaging 22 per game. That was a key to the game for us.
“Derrick Raymer played a great game and was a spark off the bench. His shots in the second quarter helped get us back in the game.
“What a night for Aaron Gittinger, he went 0-6 in the first half. He had not really shot well so far this season, but he caught fire in the second half hitting 6-9 and had 8 straight points in the fourth quarter to keep us in the game.
“He is a big part of our team, and it was great to see him playing so well.
With the exception of a few easy baskets, McLean said, the Cowboys made Colby work for their points.
“I was concerned about our performance since this was our first game back from the holiday break,” McLean said, “while Colby had played two games. We were a little rusty in the first half, which could be seen in the missed passes and our problems with the Colby pass. We did better as the game went on.
“I want to thank the fans. They were great, and that was a good atmosphere with all the excitement.
There were some incredible calls by the referees, and McLean said he was proud of the kids because they did not let the calls get to them and didn’t lose their composure.
“I am sure there have been some great Colby and Goodland games,” McLean said, “but not any better than Friday night.”
The Cowboys got the first basket on a pass from Gittinger to Don Raymer, but that was their only lead in the first quarter as they fell behind 12-4 halfway through. Don Raymer and Derrick Raymer each hit baskets to cut the lead to 4, but the Eagles pushed it back to 8 with a steal by Harris who took it the full length of the court with 15 seconds left.
Lance Tedford had a spectacular “buzz” shots when he put up a one-handed shot from near half court that fell through to cut the Eagle lead to 5, 16-11.
In the second quarter, Derrick Raymer hit a basket and then a 3-point shot to bring the Cowboys within a basket with a minute gone. Then Jace Herl took an outlet pass from Don Raymer and took it in for

a layup to tie the score at 18.
The lead changed hands twice, but the Cowboys took the lead with less than two minutes left, 24-23, when Don Raymer made a basked and was fouled. The free throw was no good.
A minute later, Tedford hit a 3-point shot when he was left alone at the top of the key, and with 10 seconds left Herl added a free throw to give the Cowboys a 28-23 lead at the break.
In the third, Colby came back to tie the game at 28 on a 3-point basket by Landon Stover. The game was tied again at 32 when Gittinger hit his first basket of the game and was fouled by Carson McKee. Gittinger hit the free throw for a 3-point play to give the Cowboys a 35-32 lead with 2:30 left in the quarter.
The Eagles battled back to take a 38-37 lead with 1:10 left on a rebound shot by Matt Augustine.
Don Raymer gave the Cowboys back the lead, and then it looked like the Cowboys were going to extend it when Tedford stole the ball and drove the length of the court and his shot went through the net. However, Tedford was called for an offensive charge and the basket didn’t count.
Then a technical foul was called on Goodland and the Eagle’s Augustine hit one of the two free throws to tie the score at 39. The Eagles took the lead, 42-39, on a last second 3-point basket from Harris.
In the first half of the final quarter, Gittinger traded baskets with the Eagles, keeping the Cowboys close as he scored six of his 13 points.
With 3:46 remaining, Colby’s Harris was called for a double dribble and got a technical foul when he said something to the referee. Tedford made both free throws to bring the Cowboys within one, 49-50.
A minute later, Gittinger hit another shot to give the Cowboys a 51-50 lead, and Don Raymer added a basket to make it 53-50.
Free throws by Augustine cut it back to a one point lead with 1:24 remaining.
Again Gittinger took the inbound pass and drove to the basket to make it 55-52 with 1 minute left.
Free throws by Harris cut it back to one point with 49 seconds left.
The Harris intercepted a long pass and Augustine give the Eagles the lead 56-55 with less than 20 seconds left.
The Cowboys got the ball and an outside shot bounced off, but Don Raymer got the rebound and put it in with 3 seconds on the clock to give the Cowboys the 57-56 lead.
Colby took an immediate time out with 1.6 seconds on the clock. When the Eagles tried to throw a

long inbound pass, Tedford intercepted and held the ball as the buzzer sounded to give the Cowboys the win.
During the final timeout, Coach McLean was excited, telling his boys they had the win in their hands.
“I was very excited, and didn’t sleep much that night,” Coach McLean said. “It was a great feeling. I love our kids and it is easy to get excited.”
Don Raymer led the scoring with 18 points. Derrick Raymer had 11; Gittinger 13, Tedford 8 including two 3-point baskets; Jared Doke 4; and Herl 3.
As a team, the Cowboys were 21 of 37 from the field for 56.8 percent and 3 of 6 from 3-point for 50 percent. They hit 6 of 10 free throws for 60 percent.
The Cowboys out rebounded the Eagles 25 to 24, but had 26 turnovers to 20 for Colby. The Cowboys had 8 steals to 11 for the Eagles.
Looking ahead to Atwood, McLean said, “We can’t overlook anybody, but think we will have a chance to play and win a number of games.”



Coach Jon McLean urged his Cowboys to stay focused late in the fourth quarter Friday. The boys managed to defeat the Colby Eagles, 57-56, on a last-second basket to topple the Eagles from the unbeaten ranks.

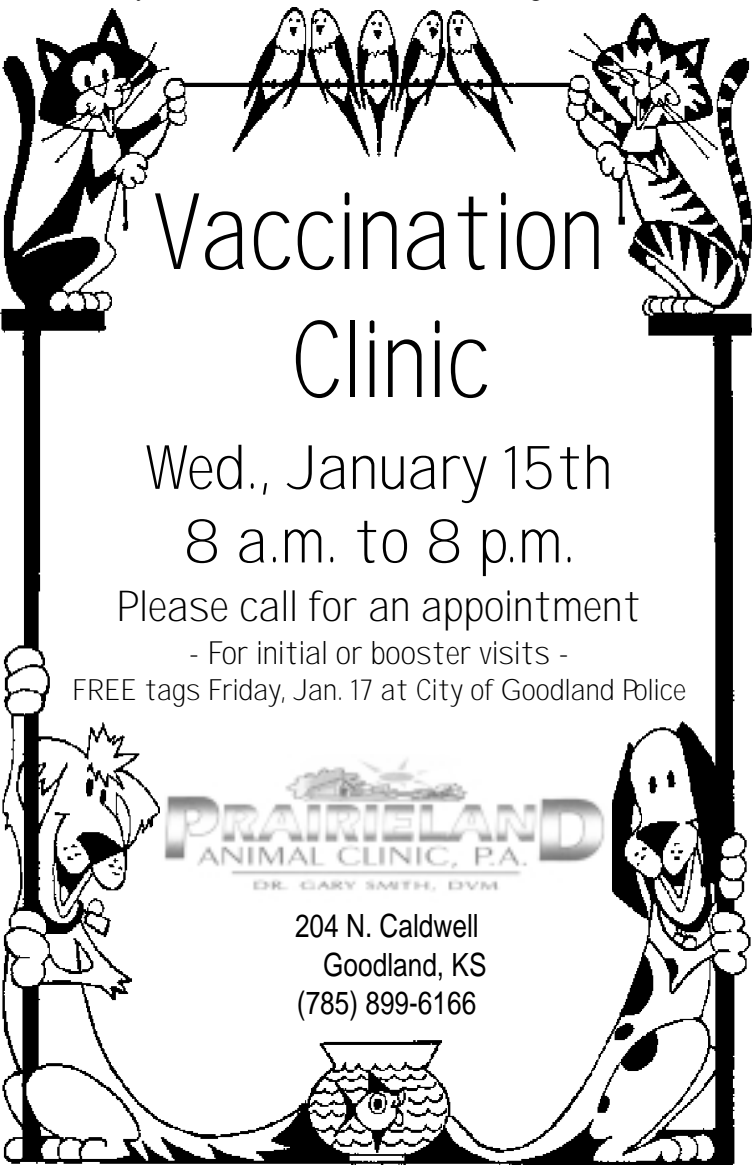
Photos by Skilar Boland / The Goodland Daily News

Cowgirls take first loss in an undefeated season



Cowgirl Tess Schultz wrestled with a Colby Lady Eagle on Friday as the Eagles knocked the Cowgirls out of the undefeated ranks.

McCoy hit two baskets and Osborn got another 3-pointer to stay close and Justeen Koehler got a pass from Stone to cut the lead back to single digits, 41-33, with under two minutes left in the quarter.
Livengood said she was impressed with Koehler’s play as a freshman. The Cowgirls were down by 12 at the end of the third quarter, 46-34.
The Eagles started taking control in the fourth quarter, and there was a rash of foul calls against the Cowgirls. The Eagles outscored the Cowgirls 14-2 in the final period for the 60-36 win.
McCoy let the team with 12 points; Stone had 11, Osborn 9 and Koehler 4.
Looking ahead to the Lady Buffaloes of Atwood, Livengood said the girls will have to play well, but they should have a chance to win.
“There are not going to be any easy games,” she said, “as we are in the heart of our season.”



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