

# Jackrabbits take both sides of league tournament

**By Tom Betz**  
*The Goodland Daily News*  
The Tribune Lady Jackrabbits started out the evening winning the championship game over the Grinnell Lady Warriors, 71-51, and then Jackrabbits beat the Warriors, 59-34 to sweep the Northwest Kansas Liberty League tournament at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

In the consolation finals for the girls, Winona defeated Weskan, 70-42 for third place. Weskan took third place in the boys consolation finals by defeating Brewster, 70-66.

**Girls championship**  
The Lady Warriors, wearing their red uniforms, played tough in the first quarter, and were leading until the last two minutes of the half, when the Lady Rabbits fought their way back and tied the game at 34-34.

The early score was tied 4-4 in the first, but the Warriors went on a run to lead 23-16 at the end of the quarter. Their biggest lead was nine points, 23-14 just before time ran out.

The Rabbits traded baskets with the Warriors through the first half of the second quarter. Down by six, 32-26 the Rabbits took advantage of trip to the foul line by Shawna Peterson and baskets by Shenna Mortiz and Petersen to draw even at, 32-32, with 1:50 left. The Warriors got a basket about 30 seconds later, but two free throws by Tribune's Kaylean Dittmer tied the score at 34.

Coach Stan Shafer sat his team down on the floor during the break

and talked to them about what they needed to do in the second half.

The Rabbits came out fired up and took an immediate lead on a 3-point basket. This set the tone as they built the lead to 44-34 halfway through the period.

The Warriors were having trouble getting any baskets to fall, but did make a short run at the end of the quarter, including a long 3-point basket at the buzzer to cut the lead to eight, 54-46.

Each time the Warriors cut the lead below 10, though, the Rabbits would push it back up and extended it to 66-48 with two minutes left.

The Rabbits went into a stall game, forcing the Warriors to foul to stop the clock. The Rabbits scored their final five points from the charity stripe while the Warriors final score came on a long 3-pointer as time ran out to make it 71-51.

Peterson led the scoring for the Rabbits with 23, Jentri Dixon had 21, Andrea Schneider 10, Mona Shaver 9, Kristen Crittenden 4, and Dittmer 4.

High scorer for the Warriors was Tanya Beckman with 19, Alicia Ostmeyer 11, Erin Bixenman and Kayla Beckman each had 7, Jessica Wolf 5, and Casey Gormley 2.

**Boys championship**  
The boys championship game started out looking like the girls, with the Warriors taking an early lead, but halfway through the quarter the Jackrabbits tied the game and took the lead, 8-7.

Although the Warriors tried to stay close, they were down 20-10 at



Tribune Coach Stan Shafer (above) sat his team down on the floor at halftime, with the score tied at 34, and talked about what they had to do in the second half. It must have worked, as the Jackrabbits came out and took control of the game to win the Western Kansas Liberty League girls championship, 71-51. Tribune's Brad Cardonell (right) got an easy basket in the third quarter of the boys championship Saturday, which the Jackrabbits won 59-34 at Max Jones Fieldhouse. Photos by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

the end of the quarter, and 29-15 by half time.

Grinnell tried hitting long 3-pointers in the third quarter, including one at the buzzer, but were down 41-27 heading into the final period.

The 3-point baskets helped, but the Jackrabbits continued to pull away and halfway through the fourth had a 50-32 lead.

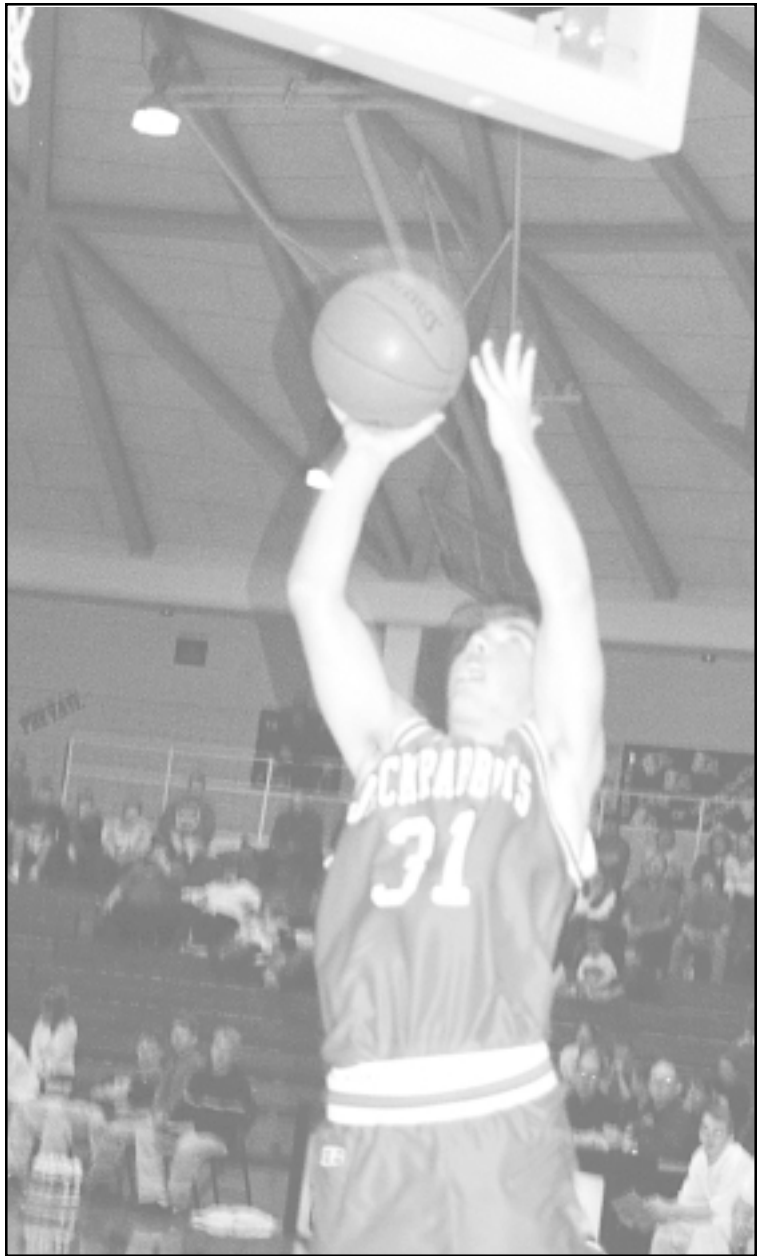
The Jackrabbits went into a stall game, forcing the Warriors to foul or give up an easy basket. In the late minutes, the Jackrabbits were 10 of 14 from the charity stripe.

With two minutes left, Coach

Matt Engel took most of his starters off the floor. The final three points came on a free throw and a nice play from Josh Gooch to Travis Doty to give the Jackrabbits a 59-34 win.

Stacy Cavenee was the leading scorer for the Jackrabbits with 16, Brian Crittenden had 13, Henry Sloan 14, Gooch 10, and Cole Robertson and Doty had 4 each.

High scorer for the Warriors was Scott Wolf with 12, Jared Beckman had 7, Kevin Schoendaler 6, Nathan Goetz 4, Chase Ostmeyer 3, and Jason Ostmeyer 2.



## Sharon Springs defeats Healy Eagles, 48-39

**By Brenda Kirkham**  
*The Goodland Daily News*  
For the second time in a week, the Wallace County Wildcats met up with the Healy Eagles, this time in a consolation game of the Western Kansas Liberty League tournament on Saturday.

This time, the Wildcats made sure they took care of the Eagles before the game went into overtime. But unlike the earlier meeting, Wallace County pulled out the 48-39 victory, improving its record to 3-6.

At halftime, Wallace County had a slight edge 19-18. By the end of the third quarter, that had been extended to 35-25.

The Wildcats' defensive scheme was very similar to what they had done against the Eagles in the previous week, but Coach Larry O'Connor made one very

productive change.

"Watching on tape, I didn't think they handled the pressure real well as far as the guards bringing the ball up the floor," O'Connor said about the earlier loss to Healy.

So the Wildcats put more pressure on the Eagles' ball handlers and the change paid off in the form of 21 Healy turnovers.

Freshmen Kyle O'Connor and Kyle Elder and sophomore Reid Rains led the Wildcats in scoring with 11 points each. O'Connor also had five steals. Kevin Heyl added five points along with his team-high six steals; Grady Fischer had four points and nine rebounds; Bailey and Blake Fischer both had two points; and Brady Larson and Kellen Davis rounded out the scoring with one point each.

## Gannon goes to first Super Bowl after near-flawless game

**By Greg Beacham**  
*AP Sports Writer*

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Rich Gannon left the locker room as Tim Brown was entering through the back door. They didn't exchange a word — just a high-five and a glance to remind each other that the real celebration is still a week away.

But Brown and the rest of the Oakland Raiders knew they wouldn't be headed to the franchise's first Super Bowl since the 1983 season without the relentless, grim-faced Gannon, who was nearly perfect as Oakland beat Tennessee 41-24 on Sunday.

"Rich did it for us again," Brown said. "He can do it with his arm and with his feet. He's not as fast as Steve McNair, but Steve McNair is going home."

From a smart adjustment on the game's first play to a scrambling fourth-quarter touchdown that broke Tennessee's will, the 37-year-old Gannon commanded the AFC title game right to the finish, when

he kneeled down inside the Oakland 10 to kick off an ecstatic celebration in front of the Raider Nation.

Of course, Gannon didn't take much part in that celebration, beyond congratulating his teammates. He has an aversion to personal reflection that borders on an obsession, and he wouldn't say more than a few words about his own thoughts on making his first Super Bowl.

"I don't feel like I finally made anything," Gannon said. "I finally got the chance to play in the big game, but if we can't go out and play a solid football game next week, then it's all for naught."

Gannon completed 29 of 41 passes for 286 yards, three touchdowns and no interceptions while also leading the Raiders with 41 yards rushing. He completed his first 12 passes, and his receivers dropped at least four perfectly thrown balls.

He staked the Raiders to an early lead, coolly led them back ahead when the Titans rallied, then put the

game away with two fourth-quarter touchdown drives, rushing for a score on the first one.

Former Raiders quarterbacks Ken Stabler, Jim Plunkett and Darlye Lamonica all had big performances in previous conference title games. With another cerebral, accurate afternoon of work, Gannon was more efficient and effective than any of his silver-and-black predecessors.

The Raiders lost to Baltimore two years ago in Gannon's first AFC title game; Gannon left with an injury when 400-pound Ravens behemoth Tony Siragusa belly-flopped on him. This time, Gannon stayed out of trouble — and he earned a trip down the coast to San Diego.

The Raiders' passing offense was tops in the NFL this season, and they quickly made sure the Titans knew it. Incredibly, Oakland called just one rushing play in the first three quarters, although Gannon made several scrambling runs into Tennessee's secondary.

Oakland coach Bill Callahan and offensive coordinator Marc Trestman relied on their quarterback to control the offense. The Raiders used a no-huddle scheme at times to keep the Titans' defense working hard, while Gannon made several of his typical line-of-scrimage adjustments to change plays according to the defense.

Whenever the Raiders seemed ready to fall apart this season — whenever their precarious combination of aging veterans and raw youth wasn't mixing — Gannon held them together. With his arm, his leg, his cool head under pressure, Gannon took charge. Under the pressure of a title game, nothing was different.



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### Goodland All-Star Booster Club

**January 21 - January 28, 2003**

**Tuesday, Jan. 21** - Scholars' Bowl at Scott City 3 p.m.; 2nd Grade Music Program at Grant High School Auditorium 7 p.m.

**Wednesday, Jan. 22** - "Black Day", Seminar-STUCO & GRACE, Scholars Bowl at Scott City 3 p.m.; 2nd grade music program practice, auditorium, 10 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.; Department Head Meeting 7 a.m.

**Thursday, Jan. 23** - "Gold Day", Seminar-FCCLA, Orange & Black classic Basketball Tournament at Colby. Girls versus Ulysses 4:15 p.m. at Community Building, Boys versus Scott City 7:45 p.m. at Colby High School; Financial aid night for Seniors, cafeteria; 7/8 Basketball at Oakley 3:30 p.m.

**Friday, Jan. 24** - "Black Day", Varsity Wrestling at Hays 2 p.m.; Orange and Black Classic Basketball Tournament at Colby. Girls play at 2:30 p.m., Boys play at 4:15 p.m.

**Saturday, Jan. 25** - Varsity Wrestling at Hays; Junior Varsity Wrestling at Hill City 8 a.m.; Orange and Black Classic Basketball Tournament at Colby, times to be announced; Mustang Wrestling Tournament 9 a.m.

**Sunday, Jan. 26** - K of C Free Throw, High School Gym 1-3 p.m.; Taylor's Basketball Team, High School Gym 5-6:30 p.m.; Open Gym, Max Jones Field House, 1-3 p.m.; Junior Olympics Volleyball, Junior High Gym, 1-3:30 p.m.

**Monday, Jan. 27** - Board of Education Meeting

**Tuesday, Jan. 28** - "Black Day", Seminar - GAA and G-Club; Governance Committee Meeting; NHS Interviews; 7/8 Basketball versus St. Francis 3:30 p.m.

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