

Wildcats advance in Dighton regional

Freshman Kyle Elder came up big again for the Sharon Springs Wildcats in a 53-47 victory against Wheatland on Tuesday night.

Elder's hard work inside the lane has become a trademark in his first high school season, and things were no different during the first round of Class 1A regionals.

Elder scored 29 points, more than the rest of the Wildcats combined, to lead the team.

Twelve of Elder's points came in the first quarter as Sharon Springs jumped out to a 19-10 lead.

Kyle O'Connor helped to get the Wildcats going with a three-pointer and Grady Fischer added four

points in the quarter.

Elder slowed down during the second quarter, but only slightly.

He had three more field goals and went 2-for-2 from the charity stripe before the Wildcats headed into the locker room at halftime with a 29-23 lead.

In the third quarter, free throws

were a large factor in the Wildcats maintaining a 43-35 edge.

O'Connor and Kevin Heyl both went 2-for-2 on free throws in the third quarter.

Kellen Davis also made his first of two three-pointers to keep the Wildcats ahead.

Davis and Elder were the only

Wildcats to score in the final quarter.

Davis made his second three pointer and a free throw while Elder added six points.

Although Wheatland outscored the Wildcats 13-10 in the second quarter and then 12-10 in the fourth, the lead the Wildcats had built in the

first period served them well.

Elder had 29 points, Fischer 10, Davis seven, O'Connor five and Heyl two, both on free throws.

The Wildcats advance to play against Tribune tonight in Dighton at 5 p.m. Mountain. If they beat the Jackrabbits, they'll play the winner of the Weskan-Grinnell game.

Lady Wildcats lose heartbreaker to Weskan

By Brenda Kirkham
The Goodland Star-News

The realization of their situation started to sink in for the Sharon Springs Lady Wildcats at the beginning of the third quarter against the Weskan Lady Coyotes in the first round of Class 1A regionals.

And that reality wasn't a pretty picture. It took just a little too long for the Wildcats to kick into gear, and they ended their season with a 48-41 loss to their down-the-road rivals.

At halftime, Sharon Springs trailed 30-10. The Sharon Springs crowd sat in stunned silence through most of the first half as the Wildcats struggled to even execute the fundamentals. Numerous trav-

eling calls took the Cats out of the game early. Seniors Darci Siebert and Renee Rains accounted for seven of the Wildcats first half points.

The second half started out in the same fashion. At least until 1:23 remained in the third quarter. That's when the Wildcats decided enough was enough and started pouring in the points.

Siebert hit a shot that started a 10-0 run for Sharon Springs. Rains then found Ashley Bruce for Bruce's first of three treys to close the gap to 39-21. Rains suffocating defense on the Weskan guards frustrated the Coyotes into turnovers and fouls that only helped the Wildcats' cause. Siebert connected on an in-

bounds pass to Bruce, who hit a three-pointer. Then Bruce topped off the quarter by driving the lane and getting the basket to bring the Wildcats back within 13 points by the end of the quarter.

The break in action between quarters didn't cool off Bruce's hot hand. Less than half a minute into the final quarter, she made another shot on a drive to the basket. An emphatic "Get in there" from a Sharon Springs spectator sitting in the stands prompted the ball through the hoop as it sat on the rim and finally fell through. Alisha Welsh fouled Bruce on the shot, and she made the free throw to close the gap to just 10.

Weskan again started to pull

away but a free throw from Siebert, but a key bucket by Brandi Bertrand kept the Wildcats within striking distance.

The Coyotes spread their offense as far as they could to take time off the clock and frustrate the Cats, so Sharon Springs Coach Dan Shupe told his team to go to man defense.

With two minutes left, Siebert again hit a shot to keep the Wildcats alive.

Then on the in-bounds for Weskan, Sarah Hill somehow managed to come up with the ball and fed it to Siebert who again laid in the ball to bring the score to 45-37.

Although Hill had no points, she had a sixth sense for finding the open player and again got the ball

top Bruce, who hit a three-pointer with 59 seconds remaining. Sharon Springs immediately took a time out to talk about strategy for the final minute, but the Wildcats wouldn't score again.

So despite a valiant comeback, Sharon Springs' season came to an end.

Rains, Siebert and Bruce carried the team on their backs and Bertrand was the only other Wildcat to even score. Rains showed fierce determination on the defensive end in her final high school game. Siebert left everything she had on the court, struggling just to catch her breath in the final seconds.

With an inexperienced roster, the Wildcats looked to Siebert most of

the season as their leader and backbone. Although it wasn't her last high school game, Bruce also played her last game in a Sharon Springs uniform since she will be moving this summer.

The cross-county rivalry didn't keep Weskan from recognizing the extra effort the Wildcats expended during the final two quarters, and several Weskan players hugged Bruce as she cried after the loss.

Bruce led the Wildcats in scoring with 17 points, 16 of those coming in the second half; Siebert had fourteen points; Rains had six; and Bertrand rounded out the scoring with four.

Weskan moved on to face Tribune Thursday night at Dighton.

Class 4A regional tourney starts Monday in Colby

By Darrel Pattillo
The Goodland Star-News

The road to the state basketball tournament in Salina goes straight through Colby.

Barring any major upsets, the Goodland Cowboys are headed for another match-up next week with the Colby Eagles for the sub-state championship.

Both Goodland teams are in the bottom brackets; both Colby teams are the No. 1 seeds.

The No. 4-seed Cowboys (13-7) will play Hugoton (8-11) Monday night at the Max Jones Fieldhouse in Goodland. If they get by Hugoton, and Larned (14-5) beats Concordia (8-11), it'll be Cowboys and Indians when Goodland plays Larned in Colby.

But Cowboy coach Jon McLean isn't really looking past Hugoton.

"This is the time of year when

anything can happen," he said.

"Hugoton's a good team, and we aren't taking them for granted."

For the No. 4-seed Cowgirls (15-5), the road to Salina first goes to Hays.

The Cowgirls will play Pratt (7-12), at the designated site in Hays. Pratt is more than 150 miles from Goodland, so the teams are meeting halfway, and will play at Hays High at 6 p.m. Mountain time.

It won't be any easier after that for the Cowgirls. If they beat Pratt, they'll play the winner of the Larned (16-3)-Hugoton (5-14) match-up.

Here are the first pairings for the Class 4A sub-state tournament, which starts Monday and concludes next Saturday, March 8, at Max Jones. All times are Central.

Boys

Colby (16-4) versus Ulysses (4-

15) at Colby, 7:30 p.m. Scott City (12-7) versus Pratt (9-10) at Scott City, 7 p.m. Larned (14-5) versus Concordia (8-11) at Larned, 7 p.m. Goodland (13-7) versus Hugoton (8-11) at Goodland 6:15 p.m.

The next round for the boys will be on Thursday at the Colby Community Building; game times haven't been announced yet. The championship game will be Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

Girls

Colby (19-1) will play Ulysses (1-18) at 6 p.m. Monday night because both Ulysses teams play Colby. The rest of the girl's first round games are on Tuesday.

Scott City (14-5) will play Concordia (8-11) Tuesday night in Colby at 7 p.m. Larned (16-3) plays Hugoton (5-14) at 7 p.m. in Larned. Goodland (15-5) plays Pratt (7-12) in Hays at 7 p.m.

Class 1A regional games shift to Goodland for semifinals, final

March Madness starts a little early this year, with the already underway Class 1A basketball regional shifting from home sites to the Max Jones Fieldhouse this weekend.

Last night, the Brewster-

Cheylin and Triplains-Golden Plains girls semifinal games were to be played; the boys semifinals are tonight. The boys matchups are: Jennings versus Herndon, at 6 p.m. and Brewster and Golden Plains play at 7:30.

Saturday, the girls championship game will be played at 6 p.m. The boys will play at 7:30.

Monday, the Cheylin girls beat Northern Valley, and the Golden Plains girls beat Jennings to advance.

dart results

Wednesday Nite Darts Week 18 Confused over Diggin It 13-3 Acme Darts over Dart Sharks 12-4 Bad A's over Lounge Lizards 10-6 Silver Bullets over 3MTA3 10-6 4th Round Outs: Paul Simons 2,	Melody Abbott 1 Wins: Kevin Delano 6, Paul Simons 5, Cindie Yarger 4, Duane Hanke 4, Audrey Huthansel 4, Lana Jackson 4, Tina Wilson 4, Tony Dickey 3, Mel Bracelin 3, Eric Smith 3, Mike Yarger 2, Jeff Badgett 2, Nan Coffman 2, Teresa	Dickey 2, Melody Abbott 2, Chris Dawdy 2, Louie Yarger 2, Nikki Quain 1, Mark Sieck 1, Christie Powell 1, Angel Corke 1, Rodney Corke 1, Carlene Hachmeister 1, Crystal Phillips 1, Barbara Phillips 1, Monty Phillips 1, Cassandra Dawdy.
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Grant Lady Mustangs win two at 'B-team Fun Day' tournament

By Darrel Pattillo
The Goodland Star-News

The Grant Junior High 8th-grade basketball B-team did something no team has been able to do this year: defeat a Colby Middle School team.

On Feb. 15, the Lady Mustang 8th-graders had a 'B' team "fun day" in Goodland, and the Goodland girls won two games, including a 37-33 overtime contest against the Lady Eagles.

"The girls had a great tournament," said Coach Andy Scheopner. "They probably played the best they have all year."

After taking a 12-8 lead into the locker room at the half, the Lady Mustangs began to pull away, scoring 12 points to Colby's nine in the third period. But the Lady Eagles stormed back in the fourth, outscoring Goodland 12-5 to tie the game at 29. In the overtime, the

Lady Mustangs were able to score eight points to Colby's four to win it 37-33.

Amber Cowan led the Lady Mustang scoring effort with 11 points. She also had five rebounds, three assists, and eight steals. Nicolette Clancy also scored in double figures, with 10 points. She had six rebounds and 2 steals.

Nicole David scored six points, hauled down seven rebounds, and had two steals. Crystal Hernandez had four rebounds and three assists. Kerri Bellamy had five rebounds, two assists, and three steals. Candice Meissinger scored two points, had two rebounds, and a steal. Sandy Johnson scored six points, had a rebound, and a steal. Whitney Dautel scored a basket, had three rebounds, and three steals.

In their other B-team game, the Lady Mustangs held the girls from Scott City scoreless in the second

and fourth quarters to earn a 26-8 victory. Goodland, in fact, held the Scott City team to just two points in the last three periods.

Only four Lady Mustangs scored, but the team hauled down an impressive 40 rebounds.

Leading the team was Clancy with 14 points, nine rebounds, and a steal. Dautel recorded five rebounds and two steals. Johnson scored six points, had a rebound, two assists, and two steals. Meissinger grabbed seven rebounds and had a steal.

Bellamy scored four points, had seven rebounds, and two steals. Hernandez had two rebounds and three steals. David had four rebounds and a steal, Hannah Burkett has two rebounds, an assist, and a steal. Amber Webster had a rebound, and Cowan had two points, two rebounds, four assists, and nine steals.

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