

Cowgirls reach 100 points

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland Cowgirls reached the century mark for the second time in their history Thursday, defeating the Burlington Lady Cougars 100-35 in the first round of the 15th Annual Topside Tip-off, but couldn't keep their momentum.

They lost in the second round to the McCook Lady Bison on Friday and had to work hard to defeat the Norton Lady Blue Jays on Saturday to finish third in the tournament.

Two Cowgirls were named to the all-tournament team and the team won the free throw contest with 67 percent of their shots. Senior Jessica Osborn was named to the all-tournament team for the second year and Freshman Whitney Archer made the squad for the first time.

In the first round Thursday, the Cowgirls scored first and then kept on scoring as they outpaced the Lady Cougars 32-5 in the first quarter. It was 61-14 at halftime and there were quiet murmurs around about the Cowgirls making it to 100. The scoring pace continued in the third period, with the Cowgirls scoring 20 points. to lead 81-24.

In the final quarter, the Cowgirls closed in on the century mark, but

the closer they got, the harder the points came. Most of the starters were on the bench as the quarter began. Freshman Emily Murray and Sophomore Melissa Swager combined to score the final 11 points in the last four minutes. Murray hit three baskets and Swager had two to bring the score to 99-31 with less than a minute left.

The Lady Cougars sort of went into a stall to keep the Cowgirls from getting the final few points, but they turned the ball over and then they fouled. Swager to give her the chance to hit the 100th point with 24 seconds remaining.

When Swager began to bounce the ball for her first shot, the audience at Max Jones went still and the sound of the bouncing ball echoed. The first shot bounced off, and there was a sigh from the crowd.

As she readied for her second shot, the crowd seemed to decide it had been too quiet. They made a little noise, and the shot swished through the net. There was a roar from the bleachers and the girls celebrated.

The final two points of the game went to Burlington on free throws to make the score 100-35.

The first time the Cowgirls scor-

ed 100 points was in 1991 against Thomas More Prep-Marian High of Hays, and the next year, that Goodland team finished second at the state tournament.

School Board President Dick Short recalled that day because his daughter Amy was on the court. He said it was a thrilling game to watch.

There were four Cowgirls in double figures and 12 girls got to play, with 10 scoring.

"It was good to get a change for all the girls to play," said Coach Terry Daise. "It was a good game for us, and a nice way to start the tournament."

Freshman Dani Bedore was the top scorer with 23 points; Swager had 15; Jordan Frazier 14 and Murray 11 for those in double figures. Osborn had 9 as did Sophomore Justeen Koehler. Freshman Kaylee Billinger had 8, freshman Whitney Archer 6, senior Megan Leonard 3, and senior Cortney Schields 2. Junior Whitney Carmichael did not score but was credited with three assists including one to Swager in the final two minutes. Lisha Tedford played but missed her only shot.



Cowgirl senior Cortney Schields took a shot over two Norton defenders during the third-place game of the Topside tipoff Saturday evening. Goodland won 66-59.
Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

Bison trample Cowgirls 68-58

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The Goodland Cowgirls, coming off a 100-35 stomping of the Burlington Lady Cougars on Thursday, had trouble scoring half as many points the next night against the McCook Lady Bison.

McCook won 68-58 and went on to win the annual Topside Tipoff the next day.

The girls struggled early Friday against McCook, and were down by a point, 32-31 at halftime. Senior Jessica Osborn had four three-point baskets and freshman Whitney Archer had two to combine for 18 points in the first half.

The first quarter was a 14-14 tie, but the Cowgirls went on a short run in the second quarter outscoring McCook 11-5 to lead 25-19 with 5:40 left in the half. Following a McCook time out. the Lady Bison seemed to gain some momentum, but a 3-pointer by Archer held them off 29-21 with less than five minutes to the half.

A short run by the Lady Bison cut

the lead to 29-28 with 1:21 left on a free throw by Jillian Bryant. Junior Whitney Carmichael made it 3 points with less than a minute left. McCook's Lindsay Dame tied it at 31 with a 3-pointer with 35 second left. The final point of the half came on a free throw by Dame with 16 second left giving the Lady Bison a 32-31 lead.

At the start of the second half, the Lady Bison went on a run of their own to extend their lead 39-31 in the first two minutes of the quarter. The Cowgirls were not playing sharp, and the Lady Bison were out rebounding them both on the offensive end and the defensive end.

The shooting problems continued for the Cowgirls, who found themselves down 59-36 at the end of the third quarter after being outscored 27-5 in the period. Archer had her third 3-pointer of the game and freshman Kaylee Billinger had the only other basket.

The Cowgirls battled back in the final eight minutes, but it was too late. They managed to cut the lead

to eight points twice in the final minute, sparked by two more 3-point baskets from Osborn. She had a chance to tie the team's 3-point record, but her last two attempts rolled out.

The Lady Bison hit the final free throw with 10 seconds left to win 68-58 and move on to face the Ottawa Lady Cyclones in the championship Saturday. McCook won, 47-46 in a thrilling finish.

Osborn was the high scorer with 22 points and Archer was the other team member in double figures with 12 for her four 3-point baskets. Freshman Dani Bedore had 7, sophomore Justeen Koehler 6, freshman Emily Murray 4 and Carmichael, Jordan Frazier and Billinger each had 2. Senior Cortney Schields had 1 point.

The Cowgirls were out rebounded 49-26 by the Lady Bison. McCook had 22 offensive rebounds and 27 defensive to six offensive and 20 defensive by the Cowgirls.

Cowgirls beat Norton for third

By Tom Betz
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Saturday afternoon, the Goodland Cowgirls faced the Norton Lady Blue Jays in the third-place game of the Topside Tipoff, and won it 66-59.

The Cowgirls fell behind in the first quarter, 15-10, but managed to come back in the second quarter, outscoring Norton 25-11, and then hold on to the lead in the second half to win.

As they had Friday, the Cowgirls started the game flat and making too many mistakes while Norton was showing a good inside game.

Halfway through the second quarter, the Cowgirls put on a spurt with baskets by freshman Dani Bedore and 3-pointers by freshman Whitney Archer and senior Jessica Osborn to retake the lead 24-22. The Lady Jays tried to stay close, but two more 3-pointers by Archer gave Goodland a 35-26 lead at halftime.

In the third quarter, the Lady Jays were able to tie the score at 36-36 with 3:26 left, but after a Norton time out, the Cowgirls seemed to catch new life and scored the next seven points to make it 43-36 with 2:30 left. It was 48-42 at the end of the quarter.

With about five minutes left in the final quarter, the Lady Jays had pulled close again at 50-49, but that was as close as they could get. The Cowgirls played well enough to stay ahead, and with two minutes left held an 11 point lead, 62-51.

The final Goodland points of the game were on a basket by Osborn on a long pass from Archer and then two free throws by sophomore Justeen Koehler to make it 66-54. The final Lady Jay scores were a 3-pointer and a basket to make it 66-59.

Three Cowgirls were in double

figures with Archer and Bedore each having 18 and Koehler 12. Osborn and freshman Emily Murray each had 7, and Kaylee Billinger and Cortney Schields each had 2.

In the first round against Burlington the Cowgirls hit 63 percent of their free throws, 19/30. In the game against McCook, they hit 75 percent, 6/8; and in the third place game against Norton they hit 70

percent 14/20 for a tournament total of 39/58 for 67 percent to win the free throwing title.

The Cowgirls will travel to Quinter on Friday for their final game before the Christmas break, with tip off at 5:30 p.m. Mountain Time for the varsity.

The Cowgirls Junior Varsity tournament this week was canceled because of a winter storm on Monday.

Brewster All-Star Booster Club

December 17- December 23

Wednesday - First semester exams.

Thursday - Junior high basketball at Grinnell 3 p.m., first semester exams.

Friday - 6:30 and 8 p.m. high school basketball at Sharon Springs, first semester exams.

Monday - First semester exams.

Tuesday - Half day of school, end first semester, first semester exams, no basketball practice.

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