

Cowboys win close game with Quinter Bulldogs

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

Everyone at Max Jones Fieldhouse on Tuesday knew it had come down to a last-shot win for Quinter or a squeaker for the Cowboys.

With 2.9 seconds on the clock, Quinter had the ball out of bounds under their basket.

On the inbound, the ball went to sophomore Edward Machen who took the final shot for the Bulldogs.

It came up short, giving the Cowboys the win, 72-71.

The Cowboys will be in action again tonight at Rawlins County when they face the Atwood Buffaloes on the road.

The game will be broadcast on KLOE Radio 730 AM beginning about 5:30 p.m. (Mountain Time).

Cowboy Coach Jon McLean said he thought the boys had flashes against the Bulldogs, flashes of looking good and flashes of not looking so good.

"We were fortunate to win that game," he said. "The last six minutes of the third quarter, we played our best, but I am frustrated with the way we can't seem to put four quarters together."

The Bulldogs used a pressure defense, and in the fourth quarter it seemed to bother the Cowboys, who did not score for nearly three minutes, blowing a 14-point lead.

"We kind of quit attacking and guess the boys thought it was going to be easy after we built up the lead," McLean said.

"Sometimes we did a good job of breaking the press, and then we had trouble with it late in the game when we did not attack it very well and made some mistakes.

"I have to give the Bulldogs credit for working their way back to tie it up at 70-70."

The Bulldogs held the lead early, and the Cowboys first lead was 9-8 with 3:40 left in the first.

The Cowboys hit the next three baskets, but only got credit for two, but there was no protest.

There were five ties in the second quarter and six lead changes.

First quarter basket doesn't get counted

The Cowboys hit the three baskets in a row in the first quarter of Tuesday night's game at Quinter, but only got credit for two.

Everybody but the one who counted, saw the bucket, it seems, but no one complained until it was too late.

"Yes, the scorekeeper missed two points," Goodland Coach Jon McLean said. "It was a layup by Nathan Linin on a pass from Josh Duke, but the scorer did not see it."

The statisticians for both teams, the radio announcers and this reporter marked the points down, and everyone wondered why they did not show on the scoreboard.

McLean said the action was pretty fast and he thought the scorekeepers may have been

marking an earlier basket down and did not catch the next one.

No one stopped the action to check the score, and the game proceeded without a correction.

Goodland High Activities Director Don Smith said if the official scorekeeper does not catch a basket, it can be questioned by either team before the next whistle and the ball is put back in play.

At the time, there was less than two minutes left in the first quarter, and there were no fouls called before the end of the quarter, which ended with a 15-15 tie.

Smith said the score could have been questioned before the second quarter started, but since it was not, it could not be corrected and those points do not count.

Mikey Doll gave the Cowboys a 35-32 lead on a 3-point shot with less than a minute to go, but Machen matched that for Quinter with 30 second left to make it a 35-35 tie at the half.

Quinter took the lead early in the third quarter, and led by 5 points before the Cowboys tied it up at 44 and took a time out with 5:11 left.

After the time out the Cowboys seemed to come to life and took the lead building it up to 11 points by the end of the quarter, 61-50.

As the final quarter started, the Cowboys got a 3-point basket from Greg Farris to make it 64-50. The Bulldogs cut the margin to 9, 68-57, with 5:25 left, but Tanner Smith hit a basket on a pass from Farris to make it 70-57 with under 5 minutes left.

The Bulldogs went on a 13-point

run using the press and several Cowboy turnovers to tie the game at 70 with 1:39 remaining.

Neither team could score for the next minute, but Nick Angelos gave the Cowboys a 72-70 lead with 35 seconds left.

A foul was called on Farris with 17.5 seconds left, and Quinter's Trent Blackwell had a chance to tie the game, but he missed the first free throw and made the second to make it a one-point game, 72-71.

Coach McLean said Blackwell is a good shooter, and that he shot better than any of the Bulldog games before Christmas.

"In the first half, we didn't seem to know where he was," McLean said. "We did a better job in the third quarter."

When the Cowboys got the ball inbound, a quick foul put Duke at



Junior Tanner Smith received a pass from sophomore Greg Farris and scored a basket in the fourth quarter to give the Cowboys a 70-57 lead over the Quinter Bulldogs with 5 minutes left Tuesday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. The Cowboys hung on to win 72-71 over the Bulldogs.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

the free-throw line to shoot a 1 and 1, but he missed and Quinter got the ball.

A jump ball under the Quinter basket with 2.9 seconds left gave the ball to the Bulldogs for the final shot. The Cowboys kept the ball away from Blackwell, and Machen missed to give Goodland the win.

Because of weather and holiday breaks, both teams had been out of action since Dec. 12. The win gives the Cowboys a 5-1 record and drops the Bulldogs to 3-3.

Blackwell led all scoring with 37 points and Machen had 11 for the

Bulldogs.

Nick Angelos and Doll led the Cowboys with 23 points, Farris had 10, Smith 6, Travis Angelos and Linin each had 4, and Duke had 2.

The Cowboys hit 5 of 11 3-point shots while the Bulldogs hit 10 of 28 3-point shots. The Cowboys hit 71 percent from the floor (27-35) and 38 percent of their free throws (3-8). The Bulldogs hit 52 percent from the floor (18-31) and 45 percent of their free throws (9-20).

Coach McLean said expects the Buffaloes to be a tough opponent tonight.

"I think they are an improved team over last year," McLean said. "It is tough to play in their gym, and we have struggled there."

On Monday, the Cowboys will face the Scott City Beavers in a make-up game at Max Jones Fieldhouse with the Cowgirls expected to start at 5:30 p.m. and the Cowboys game to begin about 7 p.m.

McLean said the Beavers have one of the best players the Cowboys will see all year, and they will be tough.

Tournament continues tonight

The Western Kansas Liberty League tournament will play their semifinal and championship games at Max Jones Fieldhouse with action beginning at 2 p.m. today.

In the girls consolation bracket the games will be played in the Junior High Gym.

The first game will be at 2 p.m. Mountain Time with Cheylin facing Weskan, and at 5:30 p.m. Mountain Time Grinnell/Wheatland will face the winner of Thursday's game between Healy and Triplains.

The seventh place game will be played at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday. The fifth place game will be played at 11:30 a.m. on Saturday.

On the championship side the semifinals and championship games will be played on the main Max Jones floor.

The semifinal games will begin at 2 p.m. Mountain Time between Brewster and Sharon Springs, and at 5:30 p.m. Mountain Time Golden Plains will face Tribune.

The championship game will be

played at 6 p.m. Mountain Time on Saturday, and the third place game will be played at 2:30 p.m. on Saturday.

On the boys side the consolation games will begin today at 3:45 p.m. Mountain Time with Grinnell/Wheatland facing Weskan at 7:15 p.m. Mountain Time Triplains will face the winner of the Thursday game between Cheylin and Healy. The fifth place game will be played at 1 p.m. Mountain Time on Saturday, and the seventh place game

will be played at 10 a.m. on Saturday.

The boys semifinals will begin at 3:45 p.m. Mountain Time today with Golden Plains facing Sharon Springs.

The second game at 7:15 p.m. Mountain Time will have Brewster facing Tribune. The championship game will be played at 7:45 p.m. Mountain Time on Saturday. The third place game will be played at 4:15 p.m. Mountain Time on Saturday.

Ex-Cowboy scores 14

Former Goodland Cowboy Jace Herl scored 14 points Saturday to help the Conquistadors of Dodge City Community College defeat Barton County Community College in overtime 83-76.

The Conquistadors are 14-1 overall and 2-0 in the West Division of the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference.

Herl scored 11 points on Jan. 3 as Dodge City won its conference opener over Seward County Community College, 74-64.

Herl, a freshman guard, has played in all 15 games for the Conquistadors scoring 78 points and grabbing 43 rebounds.

accuracy, hitting on 23 of 30 making better than 76 percent of his shots.

Herl also has 35 assists and 15 steals for the season.

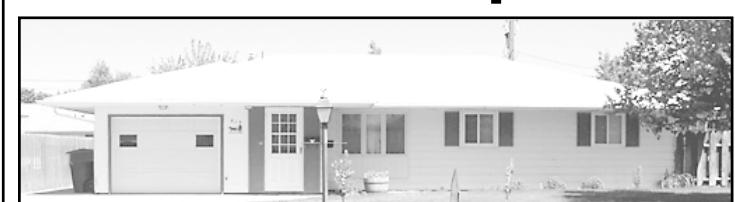
The team travels east Saturday to face the Blue Dragons of Hutchinson Community College.

The Dragons fell to 13-2 after losing to Seward County last Saturday 79-68.

Dodge City is one of three teams ranked No. 15 in Tuesday's National Junior College Athletic Association Division I poll.

Division rival Barton County is the only other conference team in the top 20 at No. 12.

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