

# Cowgirls beat Skyline in Topside



By Tom Betz  
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The Goodland High Cowgirls got their first win of the year on Friday, downing the Lady Falcons of Skyline High of Longmont, Colo., 65-56 in overtime in the second round of the Topside Tip-off at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

With the victory, the Cowgirls moved into the consolation championship against the Ottawa Lady Cyclones on Saturday morning, but lost that game 47-32.

In the first round of the annual holiday tournament Thursday, the Cowgirls had faced the Norton Lady Blue Jays, losing 62-36. The Lady Jays were in the championship on Saturday, losing to the defending Class 4A Champion Colby Lady Eagles, 56-49.

Goodland Coach Don Smith said he was glad the Cowgirls were able to get their first victory. Smith said the girls are showing improvement every game.

"I tell them we do everything as a team," he said. "We had a good team effort in the game, and that gave us a team win."

The Cowgirls led for most of the second half against the Lady Falcons and had a

Jade Herl moved away from a Skyline High player to take a three-point shot in the third quarter of the second round of the 19th Annual Topside Tip-off at the junior high gym Friday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. The Cowgirls won the game in overtime, 65-56. Herl was named to the girls Topside All-Tournament Team.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

chance to win in the last few seconds, but the shot would not fall and the game went to overtime tied at 53. The Cowgirls outscored the Lady Falcons 12 to 3 in the overtime to win 65-56.

Goodland had baskets from Jade Herl, Shelbi Hall, Sammie Raymer, Whitney Schields and Erika Gonzales in the first quarter to lead 10-7.

In the second period, however, the Lady Falcons outscored the Cowgirls 19-14 to take a 26-24 lead into the locker room at halftime.

Smith said he told the girls they needed to concentrate on the defense and rebounding in the second half. He said rebounding was one place where Skyline had a big lead in the first half.

The third quarter saw the Cowgirls behind by as many as five points, but Herl, who had a career high 27 points, hit one of her five three-point baskets to tie the score at 35 with 2:28 left.

Raymer broke a scoring drought with a three-pointer at four seconds to give the Cowgirls a 38-35 lead going into the fourth quarter. Raymer was the only other Cowgirl in double figures with 13 points.

In the fourth period, the game was tied four times before Skyline got a three-point lead 53-50 with a minute left.

A few seconds later, though, Herl hit a three-pointer for the Cowgirls to tie the score at 53. Both teams had shots in the last minute, but neither could make a basket.

Smith said the Cowgirls did well in the last quarter and had a chance to win at the end.

"We had a good look and a good play, but

the ball did not bounce our way," he said. "We need to have a little more patience."

Herl started the scoring for the Cowgirls in the overtime with a layup and Schields took a pass from Raymer for another quick score to make it 57-53.

Ashley Archer hit two baskets to make it 61-56, and that forced Skyline to start fouling to get the ball back.

Herl and Raymer each hit two free throws in the last 20 seconds to give the Cowgirls a 65-56 victory.

Smith said the Cowgirls did a good job of taking control in the overtime and getting some key baskets to get a good lead. He said the Cowgirls executed well, and kept their poise as a team. He said things got slower for the Cowgirls when Skyline turned on the press.

Herl had 27 points on 5 three-point baskets, 4 field goals and 4 free throws. Raymer had 13 with one three-point basket 3 field goals and 4 free throws. Gonzales finished with 7 points, Archer 6, Schields 6, Hall, 4 and Courtney Sheldon 2.

The Cowgirls were out rebounded by the Lady Falcons 47 to 37, but Smith said he thought the teams was down by about 20 rebounds at halftime. He thought the girls had done a better job in the second half and it showed.

Smith said the Cowgirls will see a lot of pressure from other teams, but he feels as the girls improve and are able to handle the pressure better, some of that will decrease.

"We are young and inexperienced and other teams will take advantage of that until we can prove we can handle the pressure," he said.

# Goodland starts slow, falls farther behind against Ottawa

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In the Topside Tip-off consolation game Saturday morning at Max Jones Fieldhouse, the Cowgirls found themselves falling behind the Ottawa Lady Cyclones 7-0 and fell farther behind in each quarter to lose 47-32.

"We started out slow," Coach Don Smith said. "I was pleased the girls didn't fold when we were down 7-0 and worked back to take the lead." Freshman Jade Herl hit a three-point basket, Erika Gonzales hit two baskets and Ashley Archer had two free throws to give the Cowgirls a 9-8 lead at the end of the quarter.

In the second quarter, Smith said, the Cowgirls had two or three possessions where they lost the ball and gave the Lady Cyclones easy baskets to fall behind 24-19 at the half.

The Cowgirls were outscored 23-13 in the second half to lose 47-32. "We lost a little as Ottawa turned up the pressure," Smith said. "We turned the ball over more than what our goal was."

"We made some mistakes, and Ottawa is good with their defensive

pressure and traps.

"I think the Lady Cyclones will have a pretty good season. They usually do well when they come to this tournament."

Archer was the only Cowgirl in double figures with 10 points on 2 field goals and 6 free throws. Whitney Schields had 6 points, Herl and Sammie Raymer 5 each, Gonzales 4 and Alexis Bateman 2.

The Cowgirls did not get many three-point shots against Ottawa, but did make 3 of the 5 they took.

Smith said the Cowgirls did not get as many three-point shots as they had against Skyline because of the aggressive trapping defense Ottawa used rather than the sagging type defense Skyline had.

### Lady Jays trounce Cowgirls

In the opening round, the Cowgirls fell behind in the first quarter, and were unable to recover, losing to the Norton Lady Blue Jays 62-36.

The Cowgirls were down 16-7 at the end of the first quarter and 35-16 at halftime.

The third quarter was not any better, as the Cowgirls were outscored 15-5 to end the period down 50-21.

In the final period, the Cowgirls did manage to score a few more points, but were outscored 15-12 to give the Lady Jays an easy 62-36 win.

Herl was the only Cowgirl in double figures with 14. She had 2 three-point baskets, two in the second half, where she scored 10 of her 14 points, and was 6 for 6 on free throws. Archer had 8, Raymer, 6, Schields 5, and Courtney Sheldon 3 on 1 three-point basket in the fourth quarter.

Smith said he was a bit surprised by the unorthodox defense Norton used. He said he has played against Norton coach Kevin Jilka for many years and they usually know what to expect from each other.

Smith said he felt the Cowgirls did better against Norton than they had in Imperial, making fewer mistakes and producing a better effort.

Smith said the Norton press was tough in the first half because of the unusual defense that Norton used.

Smith said Friday he expected Norton to be one of the teams in the championship, and the Lady Jays were in the finals Saturday, giving the Colby Lady Eagles a good game

before losing 56-49.

### Cowgirls face Hays on Tuesday

Things don't get easier for the Cowgirls, as they face the Hays High Lady Indians at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday at Max Jones.

Smith said it will be a tough game against a bigger school, and he expects to see a lot of the pressure the Cowgirls have seen in their first four games.

He said the Cowgirls have improved greatly from their first game

in Imperial, and if they had played against them they way they played Ottawa on Saturday, the Cowgirls could have beaten Imperial.

He said it was good to get some of the younger girls in the tournament games. He said they got some good minutes from Bateman and a couple of the others.

The Goodland junior varsity tournament was to begin at 3 p.m.

on Monday. Smith said the Cowgirl have only six girls on the junior varsity team, and he hopes it is a quick game. He said it is not easy to field a team with the low numbers he has out this year, even though there are no other girls sports in the winter.

Smith said he hopes to see more girls come out for basketball, and wants to see the number who are willing to work increase.

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## School calendar for December 11 to December 17

- Today:** Black Day. 3:45 p.m., varsity, junior varsity and C team basketball vs Hays High. 4p.m., West Site Council meeting. 7 p.m., Second grade music program in high school auditorium.
- Wednesday:** Gold Day. 4 p.m., Central Site Council meeting. 11 a.m., senior citizen dinner.
- Thursday:** Black Day. 3 p.m., junior varsity basketball tournament. 2 p.m., eighth grade league basketball tournament. Seventh grade league basketball tournament at Atwood.
- Friday:** Gold Day. 3:45 p.m., varsity, junior varsity and C team basketball at Quinter.
- Saturday:** 8 a.m, Holiday Classic wrestling tournament.
- Monday:** High school band and vocal concert in high school auditorium. 6:30 p.m., Black and Goodland Booster Club meeting.
- Tuesday:** Gold Day. 3:30 p.m., varsity, junior varsity and C team basketball at Scott City.

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