

Cowboys thumped by Scott City

The Cowboys took the lead early in the first quarter, but the Scott City Beavers took over in the second and went on to win 63-38 Tuesday to drop the Cowboys to 2-3 for the season heading into the holiday break.

The Cowboys had not been in action since the last game of the Topside Tip-off on Dec. 8, which they lost to Norton 35-29 to finish in fourth place in the home tournament.

The game Tuesday got off to a strange start, as it took three tries to do the tip off. Tanner Smith won the

tip eventually, giving the Cowboys the first shot, and he got the first basket to give Goodland a 2-0 lead. He again gave the Cowboys a lead at 4-2 by making two free throws.

The Beavers took the lead with 2:43 left in the quarter, however, and went on an 6-point run to lead 10-4 before Brandon Rome hit a three-point shot and then had a lay up to cut it to 12-9 with a minute left.

The Beavers scored the final points of the quarter to lead 17-9, and kept the lead after that.

In the second quarter, Greg Farris got a pass from Josh Doke for the

Cowboys first points, making the score 20-11 at the six minute mark of the quarter. Farris hit a three-point shot to cut the lead to 20-14 half way through the quarter.

The Cowboys had trouble getting shots to fall while the Beavers were able to extend their lead to double figures, 26-14, before Smith hit a bucket to make it 26-16.

Smith had trouble inside against the taller Scott City players and had several shots blocked. Then he got his third foul and had to sit on the bench.

Farris hit a long distance three-

point shot — to make his total 10 points in the half — to get the Cowboys close at 31-21, but Scott City answered with a long three-pointer to make it 34-21 at the half.

The Cowboys shot just 25 percent in the first half, hitting 8 of 31 field goals with 8 turnovers. Rome had 5 points and Smith had 6 in the half.

In the third quarter, Scott City went on a run, extending its lead to 20 points, 43-23. Despite the Cowboys' efforts, the boys could not climb back. They ended the quarter down 50-33.

The fourth quarter found the

Cowboys slipping even farther behind, as the Beavers won 63-38.

The Cowboys won't be back in action until 7 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 4, when they face Lakin at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

The weather has changed the Cowboys schedule with the junior varsity tournament being rescheduled to Monday, Jan. 7, and Thursday, Jan. 10 from Monday, Dec. 10, and Thursday, Dec. 13.

The Quinter game was postponed from Dec. 14 to Tuesday, Jan. 8. Activities Director Don Smith said there won't be any junior varsity

games, but that the boys freshman teams will play in Quinter at 5:30 p.m. while the Cowgirls varsity are playing. The boys varsity will follow.

The Cowboys will face Rawlins County at Max Jones Fieldhouse on Friday, Jan. 11, with the junior varsity games beginning at 3:45 p.m.

Smith said the Hays High game that was postponed from Dec. 11 would be played Saturday, Jan. 12 at Max Jones with the junior varsity games beginning at 3:45 p.m.

Cowgirls lose 54-47 on road to Lady Beavers

The Cowgirls fell to 1-4 as they head into the holiday break, losing to the Lady Beavers, 54-47, in a road game Tuesday.

The Cowgirls had a lead at one point in the first quarter, but were down by nine at halftime, 30-21. They tried to get closer in the second half, with Scott City leading 44-36 at the end of the third period. The girls traded points with the Lady Beavers in the fourth quarter, managing to cut the final margin to 54-47.

Coach Don Smith said he was disappointed because he thought the Cowgirls could have won the game.

"We tried hard to get back in the fourth quarter and tried to get it under five," he said. "We did get it to four, but just could not get the execution to turn the corner.

"We have things we have worked on that we did not execute. We have to play with more emotion and be more aggressive at times. It is almost a possession-by-possession thing we are struggling with.

"We have time when our people do what they are supposed to do on defense, then have a breakdown and give them an easy basket. We are a young team and we know it will take time. We do see some positives."

Ashley Archer led the Cowgirl scoring with 14 points, 10 in the first half. Erika Gonzales and Jade Herl each had 9, and Herl's points came on three three-point shots.

Sammie Raymer had 6, Courtney Sheldon 5 and Shelbi Hall, 4.

"I don't take losing well," Smith said, "and I want the girls to have that same

feeling. We have to be disciplined to do the things to win.

"I hope the girls feel like that was a game we let get away. We were trying to get back in from the first quarter, but to their credit they did not let us do it.

"We have a size disadvantage, but should not ever be out hustled. You don't have to be big to be aggressive when going after the loose ball and being in place to block someone out. It is the little things that will make us a better team and make the difference in winning.

Smith said he is hoping the girls can improve over the Christmas break. He said he thinks they will find out in a hurry in January if they have done a good job during the break.

He said he is pleased with what the girls

are thinking about doing over the holiday. He said they will practice through today and then have off until the end of next week.

He said a number of the girls who played on the team in the past are coming out to scrimmage against his team.

"We have some good girls from the past years and they are going to be there," he said. "It is valuable to us as a team. It is a chance to renew some friendships and some who will be back have some college experience. Our ladies seem to be anxious to get to practice against the more experienced ladies."

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The Quinter game was postponed from Dec. 14 to Tuesday, Jan. 8. Smith said there won't be any junior varsity games, but that the Cowgirls varsity will play at 5:30 p.m. at the same time the boys freshman teams plays in Quinter. The boys varsity will follow about 7 p.m.

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Brewster girls fifth in shootout

By Joey Falkoff

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The Brewster Lady Bulldogs closed out the Sagebrush Shootout with a 2-1 record and a fifth-place finish after a decisive 52-21 win over Golden Plains on Saturday in Brewster.

Brewster jumped out to a 12-4 lead after one quarter and built that to 29-13 at half lead, thanks to a 19-point performance from sophomore Nichelle Erskine that included two three-pointers.

"She was going to have to make one or two before we went out and contested her," said Golden Plains head girls basketball coach Parker Christensen. "We fell asleep. If we came and guarded her, that would leave it open inside, so we were in trouble either way."

Erskine scored only two points in the second half, but still finished with a team-high 21.

Senior point guard Abbie Allen was right behind her with 17 points. Allen scored eight of her 17 in the third quarter, allowing Brewster to open

the second half with a 15-2 spurt and lead 44-15 after three quarters.

"Abbie played, as well as she has all year," said Brewster coach Dean Anderson. "She saw the court real well, played tremendous defense and was our floor leader. She's doing what we asked."

The big lead allowed Brewster to rest some of its starters in the fourth quarter, but the Bulldogs still outscored Golden Plains 8-6 and broke the 50-point barrier for the second straight game.

"We've been playing tremendous defense, but we shot below 24 percent our last two games," said Anderson. "Today we shot around 38 percent. If we can put good defense together with good shooting, we have a chance to fair well. I'm not holding them back. We'll shoot it if it's open."

Also reaching the scoring column for Brewster were Amanda Albers with eight points, Britt Kammer with four and Melissa Baird with two.

With the win, Brewster improved

to 3-1 for the year. A game with Healy Friday was postponed.

The loss to Brewster and a 68-38 loss to Wheatland-Grinnell Friday leaves Golden Plains at 1-4.

"Both games we were playing against a bigger team, but that's not an excuse," said Christensen. "It was a quick turnaround and we came out kind of flat. We have to play a lot better. We can't give up two footers and expect people to miss. We know we're aren't going to be at the top of the league, but the middle tier is our goal. That would be a positive, but we have to put a whole game together."

Brittany Ritter hit the team's only three-pointer and finished with a team-high 13 points against Brewster. Karly Miller had four, while Jacy Moss and Jennie Staats each had two.

Both Brewster and Golden Plains will have three weeks off before they resume their seasons Friday, Jan. 4, when Brewster will play Greeley County, at 6:30 p.m. at Tribune.

Bulldogs lose to Atwood

Thanks to the weather, the Brewster Bulldogs basketball team had an extra week to prepare for their Sage Brush Shootout finals matchup with Atwood.

Maybe that wasn't long enough.

Atwood jumped out to a 20-10 first lead in the first quarter and never let the Bulldogs get within six the rest of the way in a 62-46 win Saturday in Brewster.

"We came out flat and didn't play well together," said Brewster boys coach Jon McKee.

That was apparent on both ends of the floor. A combination of poor shooting and second chance baskets killed the Bulldogs, who are now 3-1 on the season.

"Atwood's a much more athletic team than we've faced," said McKee. "We didn't do well against there

strength. Offensively, it's always frustrating when you don't make shots."

Atwood was able to extend a 29-20 halftime lead to 42-30 after three quarters. Brewster cut that to seven in the fourth, and had a chance to get even closer after Atwood's Jackson Grafel missed a one and one.

Instead, Atwood got the rebound and Elijah Castens hit one of his five three-pointers to extend the lead back to 10.

Brewster never got any closer.

Castens led the way for Atwood with 25 points. Drew Basgall with 14 and Marcus Cahoj with 10 were also in double-figures. Brewster was led by Jance McKee with 22 points. Corey Siruta added 10.

Brewster doesn't return to action until Friday, Jan. 4, against Greeley County at 8 p.m. at Tribune.

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