

Cowgirls get whipped by Lady Eagles, 56-23

By Tom Betz

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The Cowgirls led for the first five minutes against the Colby Community Building on Tuesday, but the Lady Eagles kept their winning streak alive and whipped the Cowgirls 56-23.

The win clinched the Northwest Kansas League title for the undefeated Lady Eagles, extending their season record to 18-0. Including the wins from the last part of last year the Eagles are 26-0 back to Feb. 17, when they lost to the Cowgirls, 55-50.

The Lady Eagles had a 24-2 record last year, both loses at the hands of the Cowgirls. The Cowgirls beat the Eagles 47-43 in the Topside Tip-off in December 2006, and then again in February of last year.

The Cowgirls lost to the Eagles in substate, 54-44, on March 3 as the Colby girls began their march to the Class 4A state championship.

The magic has not been there this season for the Cowgirls, who lost their previous game against the Eagles 55-26 on Jan. 17.

"We got a good old fashioned whipping," said Coach Don Smith. "It is very tough when the other team is undefeated. They have done a good job of continuing to play at the top of their game."

"They are the top team in Class 4A in my opinion and will continue to be until someone stops them. I find it hard to understand how they can be ranked No. 2, but I know the other top team (Andover Central 17-0) is undefeated, too."

Tuesday, the Cowgirls took an early lead on an opening basket by junior Shelbi Hall and kept the lead with two baskets from senior Sammie Raymer and a free throw by freshman Ashley Archer. After the first five minutes, they let 7-4.

Colby took the lead on a basket by senior Lisa Mazanec, who had eight of her 14 points in the first quarter. She was helped by junior April Gee, who had four of her team-leading 16 points in the first.

The Eagles led 14-7 at the end of the quarter and 23-10 at half time. In the second quarter, the Cowgirls

managed to score just three points, all on free throws, with junior Whitney Schields making one of two and Archer making her two shots.

Goodland scored three points in the third quarter, with Hall making a free throw and Raymer hitting a basket with 5:52 left to stop the Eagles' 23-point scoring run. The Eagles were leading 38-13 at the end of the third.

The Cowgirls found a little life in the final quarter, scoring 10 points, but that did not cut into the Colby lead as the Eagles scored 18 to win 56-23.

With the large lead, the game went to a continuous clock with about four minutes left in the final quarter. Freshman Jade Herl hit three field goals for her six points, and juniors Courtney Sheldon and Erika Gonzales each had a field goal. Gonzales' shot came in the last 15 seconds.

Herl and Raymer each had 6 points while Hall and Archer had 3 each. Gonzales and Sheldon had 2 each and Schields had 1.

Goodland shot 23 percent in the first half and 43 percent in the second for a game average of 33 percent (9 of 27). Colby shot 37 percent in first half and 46 percent in the second half for an average of 41.5 percent (23 of 56).

The Cowgirls had 14 turnovers in first half to four by Colby. For the game, the Cowgirls had 21 turnovers to eight for the Eagles. Colby out rebounded the Cowgirls 34 to 21.

Coach Smith said he thought that with all the offensive rebounding the Eagles got, the actual number is probably closer to 45 or 50 for Colby.

"They did a nice job defensively," Smith said. "We made some mistakes. Our biggest difficulty was getting into our offense and finding some shots."

"At half time, I thought we were still in the game. We had turned the ball over 14 times, but only had 13 shots. We were not any more successful in the second half, but we had less turnovers and got a

few more shots to fall in the fourth quarter.

"Our girls are trying, and we may have an opportunity to face Colby again, but we have to be prepared for the next week. We knew this would be the most difficult stretch of the season."

"We have faced some of the best-ranked teams in a lot of our games."

Looking ahead to a road game against the Lady Indians in Hoxie tonight, Smith said it will be important for the Cowgirls to keep Hoxie from playing the type of game they like.

"Hoxie is another difficult team for us," he said. "We saw a little bit of it against Colby. Hoxie will full-court press us all night. Hoxie wants to play a fast-paced game, and their press is more aggressive."

"The games Hoxie have lost are when they are kept down in the 40s rather than let them run up the score into the 60s."

Smith said it will be senior night in Hoxie, as it was in Colby on Tuesday.

"What we have to do in the next two weeks is keep our heads up and play the best we can," he said. "We have a chance to take some good things from this season and grow for next year. We have a good opportunity to advance with the girls we could have returning and be very competitive."

"It takes the parents and community to help support the girls."

With substate looming, Smith said he thinks the Cowgirls will probably be on the road for the first round on Monday, Feb. 25. He said the state formula will decide who plays where on Wednesday, and it would take some great wins and some losses by other teams to give the Cowgirls a home game.

"We expect to be on the road," he said, "but will have to wait to see what happens."

Other teams in the substate include Russell (0-16), Hugoton (3-13), Ulysses (8-7), Pratt (2-15), Nickerson (11-5), Kingman (7-8) and Colby (18-0).



Cowgirls freshman Jade Herl (right) and junior, Shelbi Hall (left) blocked a shot by Colby's Tasha Wagoner during a game Tuesday at the Colby Community Building. The Cowgirls lost 56-23.

Photo by Joey Falkoff/Colby Free Press

Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS

1. Talladega event
5. Egypt's Anwar
10. Ayatollah's home
14. Pundit Colmes
15. Maker of the RDX SUV
16. Nautilus skipper
17. A condor has a big one
19. "___ difference!"
20. NASA "walk"
21. Pal of Tarzan
22. Walk a beat, say
24. Frank topper
26. Soccer stadium cheer
27. Really funny joke
34. Liver output
37. Missing judge of note
38. Source of iron
39. Start of a carol
41. Justice Fortas
42. Notorious Bugs
44. Kitten's cry
45. Vase fillers
48. Suit part
49. Way to cross the pool
52. Homer's outburst
53. Tallest hoopster, usually
57. Not out
60. Knight's title
61. Have, to a Scot
62. Begin another hitch
63. Exercise class wear
67. ___ End (London section)
68. Place for a mike
69. Castaway's home
70. Torah holders
71. Some native Oklahomans
72. Fit snugly

Chickening Out

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
17			18						19				
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62					63	64	65				66		
67						68					69		
70						71						72	

American Profile Hometown Content

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DOWN

1. More inexperienced
2. Still in the game
3. Place for a lock
4. Chang's twin
5. ___ ode
6. Ranch unit
7. Expected in
8. Celestial altar
9. Frog-to-be
10. Marching together
11. Hitchcock's "___ Window"
12. Magazine supply
13. Year-end air
18. Window surrounding
23. Firehouse sound

25. Tabloids pair
28. Tennis court surface
29. Something to kick
30. Be in control
31. Sponge opening
32. Notable times
33. Monopoly payment
34. Broadway failure
35. Pastry prettifier
36. The Brat Pack's Rob
40. ___ salts
43. Quiznos fixture
46. Shakespeare's Moor
47. Tea parties, e.g.
50. Takes as one's own

51. Deborah of "The King and I"
54. "One of ___ days, Alice ..."
55. Some nobles
56. Put back to 000
57. ___ 51 (super-secret spot)
58. Salty drop
59. Corn throwaway
60. 'Pea (Popeye's kid)
64. Wolf down
65. Mail ctr.
66. Clock div.

The crossword puzzle brought to you by:

SPORTS TELEVISION SCHEDULE

Saturday

- 10 a.m. 22/28 ESPN College Basketball Georgetown Hoyas at Syracuse Orange from The Carrier Dome
- 11 a.m. 7/11 CBS College Basketball Virginia Tech Hokies at North Carolina Tar Heels from The Dean Smith Center
- 11:15 a.m. 23/29 ESPN2 NASCAR Nationwide Series Camping World 300 from Daytona International Speedway
- 12 p.m. 22/28 ESPN College Basketball Louisville Cardinals at Providence College Friars from The Providence Civic Center
- 1 p.m. 7/11 CBS PGA Tournament Northern Trust Open: Third Round from Riviera Country Club; Pacific Palisades, Calif.
- 1:30 p.m. 4/6 ABC College Basketball Teams TBA from Site TBA
- 2 p.m. 22/28 ESPN College Basketball Arkansas Razorbacks at Mississippi State Bulldogs from Humphrey Coliseum
- 30/27 FXSP Women's College Basketball Arizona State Lady Sun Devils at Stanford Lady Cardinal from Maples Pavilion
- 4 p.m. 22/28 ESPN College Basketball Texas Longhorns at Baylor Bears from The Ferrell Center
- 5 p.m. 28/40 TNT NBA Basketball NBA's Greatest Slam Dunk Contest: Airborne from New Orleans Arena
- 6 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 College Basketball Old Dominion Monarchs at Virginia Commonwealth Rams from Siegel Center
- 6:30 p.m. 28/40 TNT NBA Basketball 2008 All-Star Saturday Night from New Orleans Arena
- 7 p.m. 22/28 ESPN College Basketball Michigan State Spartans at Indiana Hoosiers from Assembly Hall

Sunday

- 10:30 a.m. 22/28 ESPN PBA Bowling 2008 Pepsi Championship from Omaha, Neb.
- 11 a.m. 7/11 CBS College Basketball Ohio State Buckeyes at Michigan Wolverines from Crisler Arena
- 60/79 UNIV F'tbol Liga Mexicana Chiapas FC Jaguares vs UNAM Pumas desde Universitario
- 11:30 a.m. 30/27 FXSP Women's College Basketball Oklahoma Lady Sooners at Baylor Lady Bears from The Ferrell Center
- 1 p.m. 7/11 CBS PGA Tournament Northern Trust Open: Final Round from Riviera Country Club; Pacific Palisades, Calif.
- 1:30 p.m. 30/27 FXSP Women's College Basketball Tennessee Lady Volunteers at Vanderbilt Lady Commodores from Memorial Gymnasium
- 8/8 NBC NHL Hockey Detroit Red Wings at Dallas Stars from American Airlines Center
- 2 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 Women's College Basketball Texas Tech Lady Red Raiders at Texas A&M Lady Aggies from Reed Arena

- 5:30 p.m. 30/27 FXSP College Basketball Duke Blue Devils at Wake Forest Demon Deacons from Joel Memorial Coliseum
- 6:30 p.m. 28/40 TNT NBA Basketball 2008 All-Star Game from New Orleans Arena
- 8 p.m. 30/27 FXSP College Basketball UCLA Bruins at USC Trojans from L.A. Sports Arena

Tuesday

- 12:30 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 UEFA Champions League Soccer 1/8th Finals, Leg 1 Inter Milan at Liverpool Reds from Anfield
- 5 p.m. 22/28 ESPN College Basketball Purdue Boilermakers at Indiana Hoosiers from Assembly Hall

Wednesday

- 12:30 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 UEFA Champions League Soccer 1/8th Finals, Leg 1 Milan AC at Arsenal Gunners from Arsenal Stadium
- 5 p.m. 22/28 ESPN College Basketball North Carolina Tar Heels at North Carolina State Wolfpack from RBC Center
- 7 p.m. 22/28 ESPN NBA Basketball Los Angeles Lakers at Phoenix Suns from US Airways Center
- 23/29 ESPN2 College Basketball Kansas State Wildcats at Nebraska Cornhuskers from Devaney Sports Center

Thursday

- 5 p.m. 22/28 ESPN College Basketball Teams TBA from Site TBA
- 23/29 ESPN2 College Basketball Massachusetts Minutemen at Rhode Island Rams from The Providence Civic Center
- 6 p.m. 28/40 TNT NBA Basketball Miami Heat vs Houston Rockets from Toyota Center
- 7 p.m. 22/28 ESPN College Basketball Teams TBA from Site TBA
- 23/29 ESPN2 College Basketball Michigan Wolverines at Minnesota Golden Gophers from Williams Arena
- 8:30 p.m. 28/40 TNT NBA Basketball Seattle SuperSonics vs Portland Trail Blazers from The Rose Garden Arena

Friday

- 12:30 p.m. 2/2 PBS High School Wrestling 2008 3-2-1A State Quarter and Semi Finals
- 6 p.m. 22/28 ESPN NBA Basketball Washington Wizards vs Cleveland Cavaliers from Quicken Loans Arena
- 7 p.m. 23/29 ESPN2 Friday Night Fights Richard Gutierrez vs Jose Varela from Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.
- 7:30 p.m. 30/27 FXSP College Hockey Alaska-Anchorage Seawolves at Denver Pioneers from Magness Arena
- 8:30 p.m. 22/28 ESPN NBA Basketball Boston Celtics vs Phoenix Suns from US Airways Center