



Cowboys senior Brandon Rome put up a shot over the outstretched hands of the Ulysses Tigers to score the first basket on Tuesday at Max Jones. The Cowboys lost in the last seconds, 49-48. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

# Cowboys comeback falls short in last seconds against Tigers

By Tom Betz  
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The Cowboys dug themselves a deep hole in the first quarter, came back to lead in the last 30 seconds, but lost to the Ulysses Tigers, 49-48 on a last second basket.

Tuesday's game had been postponed from Thursday, and was the second game for the Cowboys after winning at Imperial, Neb. on Friday.

"I was a little disappointed we did not match their intensity early," Coach Brad Bergsma said. "I will take the blame for that since Ulysses had a new coach and it was their first game. We were not able to get much of a scout on them."

"I think we are going to see some ups and downs from this group all year because of our lack of experience. We are improving, and I've seen a lot of good things from our young guys."

"Most importantly our mistakes are ones we can correct, so we'll continue to work on it. I think we finally realize the time we spend working on free throws in practice is important and shouldn't be used just to rest."

Ulysses started the game playing a very fast paced game and moving the ball quickly, and the Cowboys found it tough to get many open shots while piling up a number of turnovers.

Senior Brandon Rome scored the first basket to give the Cowboys their only lead of the game until Rome hit the last Cowboys basket with less than 20 seconds left in the fourth quarter to momentarily retake the lead at 48-47.

The Tigers went on a 14-point run in the first quarter before senior Greg Farris scored for Goodland with 2:14 left. Farris hit another bucket on a pass from senior Travis Angelos with less than 30 seconds left in the first to cut the Tiger lead to 19-6.

In the second quarter the Cowboys began their comeback outscoring the Tigers

12-8 to cut the lead to 9 points by halftime, 27-18. A last second three-point basket by Farris helped cut the lead to single digits.

Cowboys Coach Brad Bergsma tried out different player combinations bringing in several young players to see if he could find a good match-up. Sophomores Dillon Trachsel, Robert Cowan and juniors Landon Brenner and Kevin Amthor all played and contributed.

The Cowboys started slow in the third quarter, but the Tigers had cooled off as well scoring 3 points in the quarter on a field goal and a free throw. The Cowboys started hitting with 5:24 left in the quarter on a basket by Angelos and then one by sophomore Brock Wilkens.

The Tigers final point of the quarter came on a free throw with about four minutes left to lead 30-24. From there the Cowboys scored the final four points to cut the lead to 30-28 going into the final quarter.

The Tigers got into foul trouble putting the Cowboys in the bonus at the end of the third with seven fouls in that quarter to two for Goodland.

Tigers junior Bryce Moral gave Ulysses some breathing room at the beginning of the fourth quarter with a three-point basket followed by a field goal to make it a five-point lead 35-30. Goodland closed the gap to two points, 35-33 on a long pass to Rome from Angelos and a free throw by Wilkens.

The Tigers again extended the lead to five 38-33, but Wilkens hit a three-point basket to cut it back to two, 38-36 with 4:34 left.

A three-point shot by Tigers junior Cort Malone pushed it back to five, 41-36, but Farris hit two free throws to cut it to three. The Tigers and Cowboys traded baskets and Ulysses led 47-42 with two minutes left.

Free throws by Farris cut the lead to three points, and Rome made a basket with 39 seconds left to cut it to one. Rome had a chance to tie the game with a free throw. He missed, but the Cowboys got the rebound at

took a time out to plan their shot.

When the Cowboys in-bounded the ball Farris took a shot, but it bounced out. Rome got the rebound and put it back in to give Goodland the lead 48-47 with less than 20 seconds left.

Ulysses brought the ball up the court and took a time out with about six seconds left to plan their shot. On the inbounds pass Moral drove straight to the basket and scored to give the Tigers a 49-48 lead.

The Cowboys took another time out with about 3 second left to work out a strategy for a final shot. On the inbounds the ball was passed to Farris who tried a shot from three-quarters of the court, but it was not good giving Ulysses the win, 49-48.

"We have put that game behind us and will focus on Wray and the Topside going forward," Bergsma said. "This year we just hope to keep improving daily, weekly and monthly. This group has done a good job of giving tremendous effort, so we feel like we can have an opportunity to do some special things by the end of the year."

Farris led the Cowboys with 14 points and Rome was the other Cowboy in double figures with 10 points. Wilkens had 9, Angelos 6, Cowan 3, and Trachsel, Brenner and Duell each had 2 points.

The Cowboys hit 35 percent of their shots, had 36 rebounds and 28 turnovers. On free throws the Cowboys hit about 50 percent making 12 of 23 attempts with Rome going 0 for 4 shots. The Cowboys had 12 steals and three blocked shots with one each by Rome, Cowan and Angelos.

The Cowboys play their second round game of the 20th Annual Topside Tip-Off at Max Jones tonight. They will play again on Saturday with the tip of time depending on whether they win or lose tonight.

Tuesday the Cowboys will be in Hays to play the Hays High Indians. The junior varsity will begin at 3 p.m. and the varsity game is expected to tip off about 7 p.m.

# Cowgirls lose to aggressive defense by Lady Tigers, 44-30

By Pat Schiefen  
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In a make up game on Tuesday night at Max Jones Fieldhouse the Cowgirls lost to the Ulysses Lady Tigers, 44-30, in a game where the Lady Tigers were very aggressive and tight in their man-to-man defense.

The game started with the ball rolling around from the tip off with Goodland throwing the ball in and Ulysses stealing the ball. Ulysses missed the outside shot. When Goodland's turn came their first shot missed but rebounded the ball. Ulysses' Amber Kissell made the first foul against Cowgirl Ashley Archer. Archer made both baskets from the free throw line for the first points of the game.

The first quarter continued with missed shots and turn overs by both sides. Cowgirl Jade Herl made two three-point shots and Whitney Schields made two. The score at the end of the first quarter was Goodland, 10-8.

The second quarter started with Ulysses passing the ball from one to another and eventually missing the shot. When Goodland got the ball Ulysses stole it and Janni Metterhoff made two points tying the game 10-10.

Ulysses slowly built up its lead to end the half leading 20-12. Cowgirl Alexis Bateman made the only basket for Goodland in the second quarter.

Archer made two points in the third quarter for Goodland. The period was filled with stolen balls and missed shots. Ulysses pulled ahead making the score 28-14.

The fourth quarter started with lots of turnovers. The scoring picked up with both teams scoring 16 points. Archer scored five points, Courtney Sheldon six, Chelsie Gausman two and Schields three.

The final score was 30-44 with Goodland losing.

"We struggled," said Coach Don Smith. "Our floor game was not very sharp."

"Ulysses did a very good job at rebounding. We didn't show enough



Cowgirls junior Alexis Bateman got an open shot over the Ulysses Lady Tigers in the fourth quarter of the game on Tuesday. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

patience and poise for the offense to work. Ulysses was very aggressive and dominated the board.

"Our rebounding was not good but our floor game gave us the most trouble."

As a team the Cowgirls had 20 rebounds with Archer making seven, Sheldon two, Jennifer Rome three, Herl three, Bateman two, Gausman one and Schields two.

The Cowgirls made 37.5 percent of their three-point shots, 25 percent of their two-point shots and 56.3 percent of their free throws.

Archer led the scoring with nine points, Sheldon had six, Herl had six, Bateman had two, Gauman had two and Schields had five.

Topside Tip-Off action for the Cowgirls started at 6 p.m. on Thursday at the Max Jones Fieldhouse

against the Ottawa Cyclones. The Cowgirls play again tonight and on Saturday.

"The game with Ulysses should give us a little bit of help going into the Topside," said Coach Smith.

The Cowgirls will play the Hays High Lady Indians on Tuesday in Hays with junior varsity games beginning at 3 p.m. and the varsity tip off about 5 p.m.

## More basketball action tonight in 20th Annual Topside Tip-Off

Basketball action at the 20th Annual Topside Tip-Off tournament began Thursday and continues today through Saturday.

The boys bracket was scheduled to begin at 2 p.m. Thursday with Ottawa vs. Norton in the junior high gym at Max Jones. Burlington vs. Wallace County (Sharon Springs) was scheduled at 4 p.m. in the fieldhouse, McCook was to face Weskan at 6 p.m. in the junior high gym and Goodland was to open at 8 p.m. against Wray, Colo., in the fieldhouse.

The Cowboys basketball team opened the season on the road after their home opener was snowed out. Goodland beat the Chase County Longhorns 57-49 in Imperial, Neb., last Friday. They lost 49-48 against Ulysses Tuesday in their rescheduled home opener.

The Cowgirls beat Chase County 52-42 last Friday but lost 44-30 to Ulysses Tuesday.

The girls bracket was to begin with Wray vs. Wallace County at 2 p.m. Thursday in the fieldhouse. McCook vs. Norton was scheduled for 4 p.m. in the junior high gym, Goodland was to face Ottawa at 6 p.m. in the fieldhouse and Weskan vs. Burlington was set for 8 p.m. in

the junior high gym.

The winners of the boys' Ottawa vs. Norton and Burlington vs. Wallace County will play at 4 p.m. tonight in the fieldhouse, while the losers will play at 4 p.m. in the junior high gym.

The winners of McCook vs. Weskan and Goodland vs. Wray will play at 8 p.m. tonight in the fieldhouse, while the losers will play at the same time in the junior high gym.

The girls winners of Wray vs. Wallace County and McCook vs. Norton will play at 2 p.m. today in the fieldhouse, while the losers play in the junior high gym.

The winners of Goodland vs. Ottawa and Weskan vs. Burlington

will play at 6 p.m. today in the fieldhouse, while the losers play in the junior high gym.

The girls' fifth-place game will be at 11 a.m. Saturday in the fieldhouse, and the seventh-place game will be at the same time in the junior high gym. The boys seventh-place game will be at 1 p.m. Saturday in the junior high gym, and the fifth-place game will be at 3 p.m. in the junior high gym.

The girls third-place game will be at 1 p.m. Saturday in the fieldhouse, and the boys third-place game will be at 3 p.m. in the fieldhouse.

The girls championship game will be at 5 p.m. Saturday in the fieldhouse, and the boys championship game will be at 7 p.m.

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