

Cowboys fall to Hays



Ottawa Lady Cyclones senior Kara McFarland (5'11") towered over Cowgirls senior Courtney Sheldon (5'2") during the opening round of the 20th Annual Topside Tip-Off last Thursday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. The Cowgirls lost the game 72-34. McFarland was named to the girls all-tournament team as Ottawa won the championship on Saturday.
Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Cowgirls lose fifth straight

By Pat Schiefen
pjschief@nwkans.com

The Goodland Cowgirls lost their fifth game in a row to Hays High School on Tuesday night at Hays, 60-39.

At the start of the first quarter, the Cowgirls held their own against an aggressive defense by Hays. Hays started double teaming the ball handler, cutting down the number of shots the Cowgirls made, and stealing the ball. At the end of the first quarter, Hays led 19-5.

Goodland's Ashley Archer made three points and Whitney Shields two in the quarter.

Hays widened their lead to 34-16 at the end of the first half. The Cowgirls had around 17 turnovers.

In the second quarter, Archer scored four, M'Lynn Hinger three, Courtney Sheldon two and Alexis Bateman two.

At the end of the third quarter, Hays led 49 to 25. Archer had scored two points, Bateman one and Jade Herl six.

In the fourth quarter, the Cowgirls came to within 13 points of Hays with Herl sinking two three-point shots. But the improvement was short lived with shots not going in. Archer hit three points, Herl with an additional two points and Whitney Shields with three points.

Herl and Archer both made points

in the double digits with Archer 12 and Herl 14. Shields made five, Bateman three, Hinger three and Sheldon two.

The Cowgirls made 33.3 percent of their three-point shots to 11.1 percent of Hays'. They made 35.5 percent of their two-point shots compared to 50 percent for Hays. The Cowgirls made 61.1 percent of their free throws compared to 69.2 percent for Hays.

Archer led the team with seven rebounds, five offensively and two defensively. Hinger had three rebounds, Sheldon one, Jennifer Rome one, Herl three, Bateman one, Chelsie Gausman one and Shields three.

Coach Don Smith said there were a few bright spots in the game but a couple of glaring areas to work on.

"Rebounding continues to be a problem for us," said Coach Smith. "Our defense has not been very good at all."

He said it's hard to win a game when bad rebounding is combined with turnovers.

"We are glad to get a day or two of practice," said Coach Smith. "We are going to try to improve one or two areas at a time."

The Cowgirls' next game is Monday at 5 p.m. against Scott City at Max Jones Fieldhouse. The Cowgirls record is 1-5.

The Cowboys found a way to come back in the first half to make it close, but the third quarter put Hays ahead to win, 56-49 Tuesday in Hays.

The Cowboys, 2-4, will play Scott County at 7 p.m. on Monday at Max Jones Fieldhouse for the last game before the Christmas break.

Against the 5A Hays High Indians, the Cowboys fell behind early in the first quarter but battled back to cut the lead to 14-12. In the second quarter, the Cowboys fell behind again by 10 points, but they came back to hold a one-point lead with less than two minutes in the second. Hays came back to lead 28-26 at half-time.

In the third quarter, the Cowboys could not seem to get a basket as they fell behind 45-32 as Hays out-scored Goodland 17-6.

The Cowboys battled back in the fourth quarter and were able to cut the lead to single digits but ran out of time in the last couple of minutes to lose 56-49.

"I thought our kids had their best performance of the year last night," said Cowboys Coach Brad Bergsma. "I am going to sound like a broken record this year, but we'll continue to find some inconsistency with this group because of our inexperience."

"As they get more comfortable with the pace of the game, we will improve and we saw at Hays. Hays is always very aggressive defensively, and we did a great job of handling it, and matching their effort. "I was proud of our effort and the fact we never gave up."

In the first quarter, the Cowboys fell behind 11-2, and Bergsma took a time out to talk to his team. With three minutes left, the Cowboys were down 14-5, but they went on a seven-point run with senior Adam Duell hitting a basket at the buzzer to narrow the lead to 14-12. Duell had five of his game high 13 points in the first quarter.

In the second quarter, the Indians pushed their lead back up to 10 points, 22-12, before the Cowboys started scoring. The Cowboys went on an 11 point run with Duell hitting a go ahead basket with about two minutes left to give the Cowboys a 23-22 lead.

Hays retook the lead and led 26-23 with a minute left, but a long three-point shot from senior Greg Farris tied the score at 26-26 with 35 seconds left in the half. Hays scored to take a 28-26 lead, and a long shot by sophomore Robert Cowan was no good at the buzzer.

In the first half, the Cowboys shot 34 percent from the floor and hit 4 of 5 free throws. Farris had 11 points, Senior Brandon Rome had 6, Duell 7 and Sophomore Brock Wilkens 2.

The Cowboys started the third quarter with a basket from senior Travis Angelos to tie the score at 28-28. Hays scored to take the lead, but Duell hit to tie it at 30-30. However, the Indians went on a 15-point run to lead 45-30 before Farris hit a shot with less than a minute left to make it 45-32 at the end of the third quarter.

Starting the final quarter, the Cowboys tried to cut the lead, and with seven minutes left, Duell hit



Cowboys sophomore Robert Cowan tried to block an inbounds pass during the third place game on Saturday at the 20th Annual Topside Tip-Off against Wallace County. The Cowboys lost 73-45 to finish fourth.
Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

a three pointer to make it 48-37. With less than five minutes to go, Rome hit a basket to cut the lead to 10 at 52-42.

With time running out, the Cowboys had to foul to get the ball, and with less than a minute left, Duell was fouled when he hit a basket to make it 56-45, but his free throw was no good.

The final Cowboys points came on two free throws by Farris and a field goal by Angelos to make the final 56-49. Duell fouled out of the game with three seconds remaining.

Three Cowboys were in double figures with Farris leading with 17, Duell following with 13 and Rome with 10. The other Cowboys scoring were Angelos 6 and Wilkens 2. Junior Landon Brenner, Cowan and sophomore David Murray played in the game but did not score.

The Cowboys hit 32 percent of their shots and were 8 of 15 on free throws.

The Cowboys had 33 rebounds.

Bergsma said he feels the game against Scott City on Monday will have a different look from what the Cowboys saw at Hays.

"Scott City returns nearly everyone from a good team last year," he said. "They will play primarily 2-3 zone defense and will be very disciplined offensively. Senior Levi Kuntzsch is a good athlete who will play inside and out; Ron Baker is a much improved sophomore who

can handle the ball and shoots well from the perimeter; and Alex Swan is also a good perimeter player.

"Coach Glenn O'Neil does a very good job of always having his kids ready to play tough defense, and they always seem to be good shooters.

"We'll have to play well to get a win, but I think we are getting better and will give ourselves a chance."

Scott City is 1-1 while the Cowboys are 2-4 on the early season.

Junior varsity teams continue home tournament

The Goodland High School junior varsity Cowboys and Cowgirls played the first round of their home tournament Monday and were scheduled to finish the tournament Thursday.

The Cowboys beat Burlington 49-44 and was to play Garden City in the championship game at 7:30 p.m. Thursday.

The Cowgirls lost 44-10 to Burlington and was to face Colby at 3

p.m. Thursday in the game for third place.

The Garden City girls beat Colby 63-42, and the Garden City boys beat Colby 48-35. The Garden City vs. Burlington game

for the girls championship was scheduled for 6 p.m. Thursday, and the Burlington vs. Colby boys third-place game was set for 4:30 p.m.

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