

Cowboys lose by seven after hard-fought road game

By Tom Betz
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The Goodland High School varsity boys basketball team opened the year with a tough loss to Colby, 64-57, at the Colby Community Building on Tuesday.

The loss to Colby brought the Cowboys to a 2-3 record overall and 0-2 in Great Western Activity Conference games. The win was the first of the season for the Colby Eagles, giving them a 1-6 record and a 1-1 league record having lost to Hugoton. The Cowboys are in Hugoton tonight for another tough road game.

Cowboy Coach Don Raymer said the Colby game was not how he wanted to start the new year.

"Colby is a very well-coached team and disciplined team this year," Raymer said. "Eagle Coach Jared Johnson has done a nice job with his young team."

"We missed a lot of opportunities at the free throw line, and did not shoot the ball well. Foul trouble hurt us in the first half, so we need to learn from this experience."

The Cowboys played the Eagles tight in the first half with the teams trading leads and being tied three times. The Eagles were able to score the final points of the quarter to lead 14-11. In the second the Cowboys fought back and managed to tie and take a one-point lead, but the Eagles took it back and were able to hang on to lead 28-27 at halftime.

In the second half the Cowboys fell behind by eight points, but battled back to cut the lead to two. They ended up behind by five at the end of the third quarter, 47-42.

Colby had outscored the Cowboys 19-15 in the third quarter and outscored the Cowboys 17-15 in the final quarter to win 64-57.

Cowboys Gage Ihrig and Ryan Hillmer led the team with 18 points each. Taylen Smith had some early foul trouble and did not score until the third quarter finishing with 14 points. Gunner Helton had 4 points — all in the first quarter. Gannon Ihrig had 2 points and Parker Sieck had 1 point, making one of two free throws.

Gage Ihrig hit four of six three-point shots with three of those in the first half. The third three-point basket tied the score at 26-26.

The Cowboys had problems hitting free throws making nine of 22 attempts, and Hillmer made 4 of 12 attempts. He made two three-point shots including a deep three-point shot near the end of the third quarter to cut the Colby lead to 44-42, but Colby's Reed Stephens hit his only points of the game with a three-point shot before the buzzer to give Colby a 47-42 lead.

"Gage Ihrig shot the ball well for 3, and had 18 points," Coach Raymer said. "Taylen Smith had a



Goodland senior Ryan Hillmer tried to protect the ball while junior Gunner Helton and senior Blaine Luther looked on during the Cowboys' 64-57 loss to Colby High School on Tuesday. Hillmer was 4 for 12, but made two three-pointers. Photo by Kayla Cornett/Colby Free Press

great second half. Gannon Ihrig is starting to become the team's true point guard, which in turn will help Ryan Hillmer out.

"Blaine Luther is starting to get healthy and he will be an asset when he becomes 100 percent. He rebounded the ball really well, and now it is my job to get him more involved in the offense. Parker Sieck gave us some good strong minutes off the bench to help with the foul troubles we had.

"Cy Paxton continues to get better with more and more time on the court, and does a lot of great things for us. He is a young man who goes hard all the time. Gunner Helton has

done great things for us on offense and defense, and we can't have him in foul trouble. He can guard on the perimeter or in the post. He works hard everyday and always looks to improve."

Raymer said the Cowboys need to keep improving in practice, and to take the performance in practice into the game.

Looking ahead to tonight's game at Hugoton, Coach Raymer said it will be a tough matchup.

"Hugoton is a very athletic and quick team," he said. Aggressive and tough defensively. They play hard and look to really push the ball ahead. They have a young man

who reminds me of Brock Wilkens. Tall, about 6'4" and can jump out of the gym.

"Hugoton will be a tough matchup for us. We will have to play extremely well on the road."

Raymer said he told the Cowboys this would be a challenging season and to keep their chins up.

The Cowboys will be on the road at Oakley on Tuesday and will return to Max Jones Fieldhouse on Friday, Jan. 13, to play Holcomb. The boys games start at 3:45 p.m. for the c-team, 5:30 p.m. for junior varsity and 7 p.m. for varsity and can be heard on KKCI 102.5 FM and online through www.nwksradio.com.



Goodland junior Paige Phillips snagged a rebound during the Cowgirls' 52-29 loss at Colby on Tuesday. Phillips scored two points, but fouled out in the fourth quarter. The girls drop to 0-5 overall and 0-2 in the Great West Activities Conference. Photo by Kayla Cornett/Colby Free Press

Goodland girls take 52-29 loss Tuesday at Colby

The Cowgirls varsity basketball team played hard in their game with Colby's Lady Eagles on Tuesday night at Colby, but came up short, losing 52-29.

The next game for the Cowgirls is 5:30 p.m. tonight at Hugoton.

In the first quarter of the game Colby dictated the game using pressure defense to force turnovers. Sophomore Hope Cochran scored the first point of the game for the Cowgirls from the free throw line. At that point Colby had five points. The girls had a hard time hanging onto the ball as well as problems with traveling. Most of the shots they had came up short. Brianna White contributed a pair of two-point baskets to give the Cowgirls five points at the end of the half. Colby led 22-5.

In the second quarter the Cowgirls fared better, matching Colby's scoring. However, they were unable to gain much ground on Colby. The score stood at 32-15 with Colby leading at the end of the first half.

During the third quarter the Cowgirls continued to have trou-

ble hitting the basket, hanging onto the ball and not traveling. At the end of the quarter Colby led, 42-21.

The fourth quarter the Cowgirls continued the battle ultimately losing, 52-29. Paige Phillips fouled out.

Brianna White was the top scorer for the Cowgirls with nine points. Cochran scored seven. M'Lynn Hinger score four. Berkley White scored three. Taryn Bedore, Phillips and Megan Siruta each scored two points.

The Cowgirls hit 28 percent of their shots. They had a total of 26 turn overs.

The Cowgirls have a record of 0-5 overall and 0-2 for the Great West Activities Conference.

"The girls played really hard!" said Coach Andy Scheopner. "We just have to cut down on our turnovers. The good thing is that we see improvement and we just have to keep getting better."

Scheopner said the Goodland High c-team won in overtime, while the junior varsity girls lost by just three points.

K-State's bowl comes amid exciting season

It's been a string of exciting bowl games over the past few days alone, and Kansas State fans are wondering how tonight's Cotton Bowl will measure up.

In the first blowout of bowl season, the West Virginia Mountaineers ran roughshod over Clemson in Wednesday's Orange Bowl, winning the game 70-33.

West Virginia already had 49 points by the end of the first half, the highest scoring half in bowl game history. Clemson had only managed 20 points by that time.

The Orange Bowl also had its share of comedy. West Virginia's Darwin Cook collided with the Orange Bowl mascot after scoring one of the team's five second-quarter touchdowns. Also in the second quarter, after Clemson apparently

scored a go-ahead touchdown, Cook notice the ball had come lose. He grabbed it and ran for a touchdown of his own.

Most of the other bowl games have been close matches. Michigan beat Virginia Tech by a field goal in overtime in the Sugar Bowl on Tuesday.

Virginia Tech had more than double Michigan's total yards, but couldn't match the Wolverines in scoring. They were down 17-6 in the third, closed it to 17-9 on a field goal and a touchdown. Down 20-17 in the fourth, they tied it up with a field goal with 3:58 left to play.

Virginia Tech had an opportunity to pull ahead, but third-string kicker Justin Myer, who had connected on four field goals in regulation, missed a 37-yard attempt. The Wolverine's

made their own 37-yard field goal to win the game, it's first bowl game win since 2000.

In Monday's Fiesta Bowl, Oklahoma State edged out Stanford by a field goal in overtime. The Cowboys survived a missed field goal attempt in the final three minutes minutes of regulation by Stanford kicker Jordan Williamson and another in overtime. Their own Jordan Sharp connected from 43 yards to win.

The Cardinals gained 590 yards on offense in star quarterback Andrew Luck's final college game, 200 more yards than the Cowboys, but they couldn't pull off the win.

In the highest-scoring Rose Bowl ever played, the Oregon Ducks beat the Wisconsin Badgers by 7, 45-38. With 2 seconds left and 25 yards to

go, Wisconsin quarterback Russell Wilson spiked the ball to try and stop the clock and set up a pass to the end zone, but the clock hit zero and after a review, the officials ruled the clock had run out.

And that's just a few.

As for the No. 8 Wildcats and the No. 6 Razorbacks, both teams are 10-2 coming into today's bowl game. Arkansas averages 4.3 more points per game and allows fewer points, but Kansas State has a better division and conference record. Kansas State averages more rushing yards per game, while Arkansas leads in passing yards.

The game — at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas — will kick off at 6 p.m. tonight on Fox.

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