

Girls lose 72-44 to Oakley, face Colby today

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

In the home stretch of the season, the Cowgirls 72-44 loss Friday to Oakley dims their opportunity to host the sub-state tournament, and now they face the daunting task of winning their last three games to have the home court advantage.

Tonight, at 5:30 p.m., the Cowgirls are in Colby to face the Lady Eagles, who dispatched the Goodland girls 69-39 in January. Friday, they travel to Hoxie to face the Indians at 5:30 p.m., and 6 p.m., Saturday is the final game of the regular season at Max Jones Fieldhouse against the Hugoton Eagles.

The loss to Oakley was the second straight for the Cowgirls, dropping their season record to 9-8. The Cowgirls lost to Lakin 70-60 last Tuesday.



Cowgirl Dani Bedore tried to keep an Oakley Lady Plainsmen from inbounding the ball Friday. The Cowgirls lost the game 72-44, but travel to Colby today. Photo by Greg Stover / The Goodland Star-News

The game started on a sour note as the first tip off went out of bounds, and Dani Bedore and Brooke Inlow had to try a second time. This time the tip went to the Cowgirls, and Bedore got the first basket.

Inlow gave the Lady Plainsmen a lead, but Whitney Archer hit a 3-point shot to take it back for Goodland.

The game stayed close, with Bedore tying it at 10 with 5:23 left in the quarter and again at 12 with 4 minutes left.

Oakley went on a 10 point run to lead 22-12 with about 90 seconds left. Archer hit a basket at the one-minute mark, Justeen Koehler hit a free throw with 48 seconds left and Bedore fought her way through to the basket to score with less than 20 seconds left. The Lady Plainsmen finished the quarter on a 3-point basket from Emily Pilkington which gave them a 27-17 lead.

The Cowgirls kept trying to close the gap in the second quarter, cutting it to under 10 points on a 3-pointer by Archer. With under five minutes left in the half, the Cowgirls cut it to seven on a short run with baskets by Bedore and then a lay-up by Osborn following a steal by Archer, making the score 31-24.

Oakley stretched it back to 10 points with under three minutes left and Megan Dennis hit a 3-point basket with two minutes left to make it

a 13-point lead, 39-26.

The Cowgirls traded baskets with the Lady Plainsmen for the next two minutes to make it 43-32. Neither team was able to get a shot to fall in the final 38 seconds and the shot at the buzzer went off the rim to leave it 43-32 at the break.

The second half was not good for the Cowgirls, who managed to score just 12 points in the final two quarters, 7 in the third and 5 in the fourth.

Oakley scored 14 in the third and 15 in the fourth for their 72-44 win.

Coach Terry Daise tried several combinations in the game, playing Kaylee Billinger, Megan Leonard, Emily Murray, Melissa Swager, Whitney Carmichael, Lisha Tedford, Lindsay Schields and Nicole Clancy.

Cortney Schields hit a free throw in the third quarter. Koehler scored from the field and Murray scored on a pass from Osborn. Swager got a basket with 50 seconds left to account for the Cowgirl scoring. The score was 57-39 at the end of the third quarter.

Swager hit the first basket of the

final quarter to make it 57-41, but the next point didn't come for two minutes when Bedore hit one of two free throws.

Bedore hit another basket with less than four minutes left and that was the last score for the Cowgirls, as Oakley went on to win 72-44.

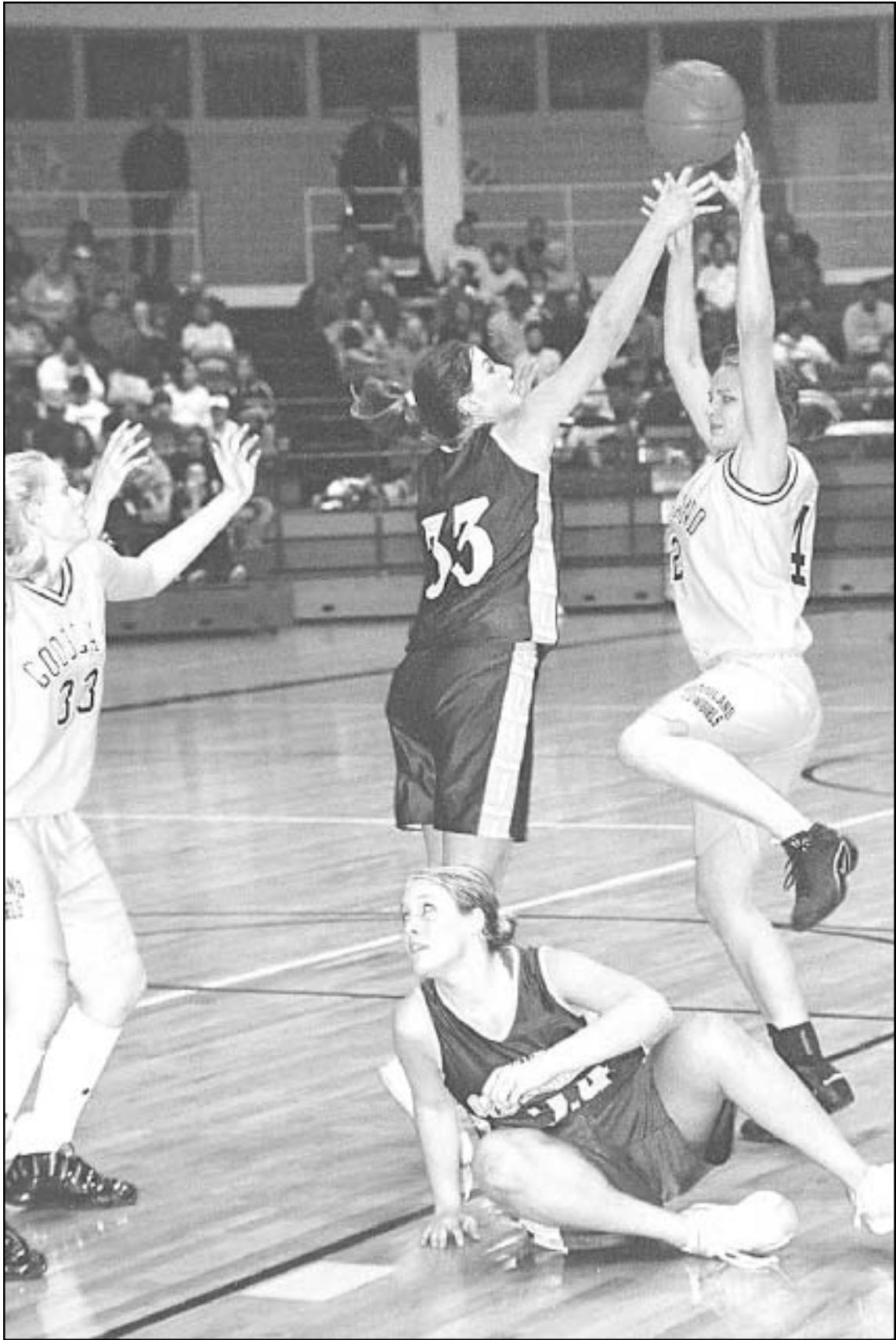
Bedore was the high scorer with 18 points, and Archer was in double figures with 10. Koehler had 7, Swager 4, Murray and Osborn 2, and Cortney Schields 1.

Inlow was high scorer for Oakley with 34, Veronica Kuhlman had 15, Jocelyn Bencken 6, Katie Kersensbrock, Emily Pilkington and Megan Dennis each had 5, and Whitney Hubert 2.

The Cowgirls hit 40 percent (17/43) from the field, 33 percent (2/6) of their 3-point shots and 44 percent (4/9) of their free throws.

The Lady Plainsmen hit 42 percent (25/60) from the field, 75 percent (3/4) of their 3-point shots and 72 percent (13/18) of their free throws.

Oakley out rebounded Goodland 17-13 and the Cowgirls had 15 turnovers to 10 for the Lady Plainsmen.



Cowgirl Justeen Koehler tried to pass to teammate Meilissa Swager over the outstretched fingers of Oakley's Brooke Inlow at Max Jones Fieldhouse on Friday. Photo by Greg Stover / The Goodland Star-News

Junior varsity drops third straight game

The Cowgirls junior varsity lost its third straight basketball game 52-32 to the Lady Plainsmen of Oakley Friday, dropping the girls' overall record to 5-6.

Oakley outscored Goodland 15-11 in the first period, then held the Cowgirls to just four points in the second to take a 31-15 lead at half-time. Oakley continued its domination in the third period, increasing its lead to 45-23 going into the fourth quarter. The Cowgirls did outscore their opponents 12-7 in the fourth, but fell 52-32.

Sophomore Melissa Swager led Goodland with 11 points, followed by freshman Nicolette Clancy with seven. Freshman Lindsey Schields added four points, and junior Jennifer Enfield and sophomore Megan Rubio both scored three. Freshmen Alicia Studer, Stephanie Sheldon and Emily Murray each had two points, and freshman Amber Cowan scored on a free throw.

Swager led the team in rebounds with seven.

Last Tuesday, the Cowgirls came from behind to tie Lakin at 26 after

three periods, but were outscored by the Lady Broncs 19-11 in the fourth and lost 45-37.

Clancy led the Cowgirls in scoring with 10 points and in rebounds with 10. Sophomore Lisha Tedford and Murray both scored six, Schields added four and freshman Kaylee Billinger had three. Studer, Enfield, Swager and Cowan each scored two.

On Feb. 7, the Cowgirls lost to Hays 31-27 and on Feb. 6 they defeated St. Francis 48-43. Goodland lost to Oberlin 24-22 Feb. 2 in the

first round of a junior varsity tournament hosted by Colby.

The Cowgirl C team won its third game of the season Friday, beating Oakley 19-17 in a two-quarter game. The team is now 3-4 overall.

Enfield and Cowan both scored five points to lead the team. Rubio added three, and Studer, Sheldon and sophomore Andrea Grieve each scored two.

Last Tuesday, the C team fell to Lakin 44-31. The Cowgirls were led by Studer and Cowan who both scored eight points. Freshman

Whitney Dautel and Clancy scored four points each, while Grieve had three. Both Sheldon and Enfield scored two.

On Feb. 6, the C team lost to St. Francis 40-37.

The Cowgirls junior varsity was to have played Oakley on Monday in Colby for third place of a tournament which started Feb. 2. All three Cowgirls teams will be in action today in Colby against the Lady Eagles, with the C team tipping off at 3:45 p.m. (Mountain Time) and the varsity about 5:30 p.m.

sports short

Youth basketball tournament in Goodland April

Goodland will be the host of a Mid-America Youth Basketball tournament April 3-4 for third-through 12th-grade boys and girls teams.

Teams participating in the tournament are guaranteed three games. The deadline for registration is March 19. For more information call (785) 899-2808.

For more information about program as a whole call (316) 284-0354 or e-mail mayb@mayb.com.

Cowboy C team continues to roll

By Greg Stover
The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland boys "C" team won its 10th straight game Friday night in Max Jones Fieldhouse 68-45 over the Plainsmen from Oakley High School.

The freshman Cowboys are now 11-3 for the season and head to Colby this afternoon to play the Eagles. Tipoff is at 3:45.

Prior to the Oakley game, the coaches agreed to play only three quarters. Goodland charged out to a 24-13 lead after the first period and doubled its lead at 50-28 at half-time. The Cowboys outscored Oakley 18-17 in the third to make the final 68-45.

Nick Angelos and Jerrod Goodman both scored 14 points to lead the Cowboys, followed by Taylor Frazier with 13. Mikey Doll added eight points, and sophomore Kalan Lambrecht and Landon Williams both scored seven. Tyler Hillmer had five points.

Thursday afternoon in the high school gym, the C team won its ninth game 48-47 over the Jackrabbits of Greeley County High School. The Cowboys paid the Rabbits back for a 44-36 loss in Tribune Jan. 8.

Goodland trailed throughout most of the first half, going into the locker room down 27-19. The Cowboys fought back and outscored Greeley County 13-9 in third to narrow the Rabbit lead to 36-32.



Coach Don Smith (center, kneeling) discussed strategy with the Cowboy C team Thursday during the second half of Goodland's game against Greeley County. The strategy apparently worked, as the Cowboys came from behind to take a one-point lead and held on for a 48-47 win over the Jackrabbits. Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

Goodland tied the score at 36 in the fourth period with 6:40 on the clock. Soon afterward, the Cowboys took the lead 39-36 on Doll's third basket from behind the three-point line. Holding onto a one-point lead at 48-47 with about a minute left, Goodland slowed the pace down to run time off the clock.

The Rabbits got the ball back with 10 seconds, but the Cowboys defense rose to the occasion. A last-second desperation shot by Greeley County fell short and Goodland had its ninth win.

Angelos led the Cowboys with 15 points, followed by Doll with 13, including four three-point shots.

Goodman also scored in double-digits with 11. Williams added six points, freshman Nathan Linin two and Lambrecht scored on a free throw.

The C team will play two other road game this week to close out its regular season. The Cowboys travel to Hoxie on Friday, then to Benkelman, Neb., Saturday to play Dundy County High School.

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