

Cowgirls topple top-rated Lady Eagles

By Greg Stover
The Goodland Star-News
The Lady Eagles of Colby visited Max Jones Fieldhouse on Friday, flying high on the strength of a 6-0 record and a No. 1 state ranking, but went home with ruffled feathers after Goodland whipped them 65-58.

The Cowgirls took a 6-4 lead about five minutes into the first period on a basket by junior Justeen Koehler. After that, Goodland held the lead throughout the game, stretching it to 22 points about halfway through the third period.

Colby fought back in the fourth quarter, though, and trailed by just four points twice during the last two minutes. Solid free-throw shooting by the Cowgirls in the final 20 seconds preserved the victory.

“We played a great game in the first half,” Coach Don Smith said, “and then didn’t play well in the second half.”

“It is a great we got that first big league win. We knew they were going to come back because Colby is a great team.”

“I give our ladies credit for the way they played.” Koehler scored the first points, then the Eagles scored to tie the game and scored again to take a 4-2 lead. A basket by sophomore Dani Bedore tied the game at 4. Koehler then got the lead back for good and the Cowgirls celebrated by scoring the next four points to lead 10-4.

After a basket by Colby’s Jessica Stephens, the Cowgirls scored eight straight to make it 18-6 at the end of the first period. In the second quarter, Goodland outscored the Eagles 14-10 to make the score 32-16 at halftime.

Late in the second period, sophomore Whitney Archer, who was questionable for the game, reinjured her left knee. She recovered enough to play for about a minute late in the fourth period. Archer scored two points and had an assist.

The Cowgirls kept the pace up, scoring 10 of the first 14 points in the third quarter to make it 42-20. However, the Eagles decided it was their turn to dominate and scored 15 of the next 17 to make the score 44-35 going into the fourth period.

With the score 48-40 and about six minutes left, Colby’s Brittany Kersenbrock scored a three-point basket, followed by a basket a short time later by teammate Ashley Barnes to get the Eagles within three at 48-45.

Colby senior Emily Sloan fouled out with nearly three minutes left, taking away a scoring threat and some of the Eagles’ defensive strength.

A pair of free throws by Bedore made the score 58-52 with 70 seconds left in the game and 20 seconds later, she hit on one of two to make it 59-52. Kersenbrock hit another three-pointer for the Eagles with 29 seconds left to close Colby to within four at 59-55.

After a full timeout by Colby coach Tom Beckman, Goodland started to play “keep away,” forcing the Eagles to foul. However, each foul at that point sent a Cowgirl to the charity stripe for two shots. Sophomores Kaylee Billinger and Lindsay Schields and Bedore each in turn hit both.

The Goodland defense stepped up during those critical seconds, keeping Colby scoreless until just before the buzzer, when Kersenbrock hit her last three-pointer to make the final 65-58.

Bedore led all scorers with 27 points, including nine of 11 from the free throw line. Koehler scored 21, 10 in the first quarter. Both Bedore and Koehler grabbed seven rebounds to share the team lead.

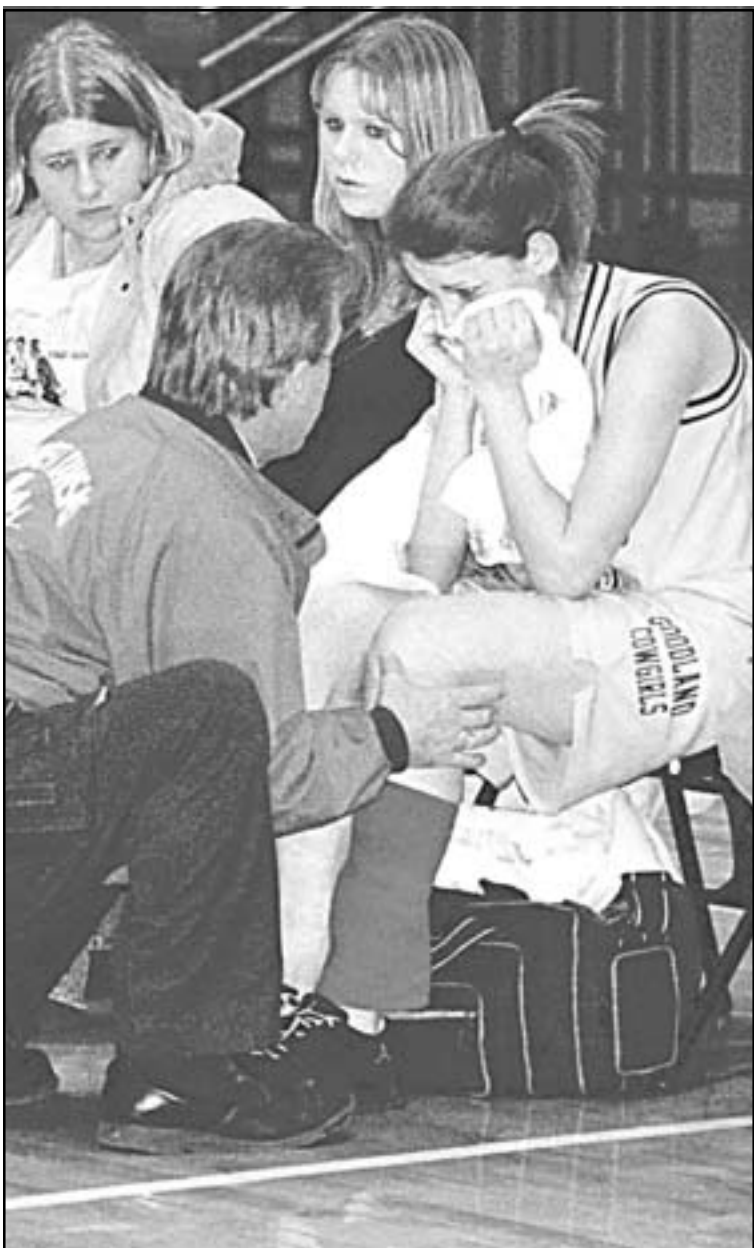
Billinger scored eight points and Schields three. Murray, Archer and junior Melissa Swager each had two. Murray led the team in assists with six and Schields in steals with three.

Kersenbrock led Colby with 19 points, including 12 from behind the three-point line. Barnes scored 12 points and Sloan eight.

Goodland improved its record to 7-1 for the season and 2-0 in the Northwest Kansas League. Colby dropped to 6-1 overall and 2-1 in the league.

Coach Smith said he does not know how serious the injury is to Archer, but the doctors are doing further examinations.

“I shouldn’t have let her come



Whitney Archer (above) was checked by emergency medical technician Bruce Gleason after she went down in the second quarter of the Goodland-Colby basketball game Friday with an apparent knee injury. Archer tried to work it off and went back into the game late in the fourth quarter, but was only able to play for about a minute. Justeen Koehler (right) hit one of her shots from outside in the first half against the Lady Eagles. Koehler had 15 of her 21 points in the first half as the Cowgirls defeated the Lady Eagles 65-58 at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Photos by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

back in,” Smith said, “but she kept saying she could play and we were getting close. I know she wanted to help her team.”

Another injury that night was to Nicolette Clancy who may have broken her ankle in the junior varsity game and was wheeled out on

a stretcher. Smith says they will find out today about the x-rays.

The Cowgirls’ next action tips off around 5:30 tonight at Max Jones Fieldhouse against Stanton County High of Johnson City for a game postponed from last Tuesday due to weather.



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School calendar for Jan. 12 - Jan. 18

Wednesday - “Gold Day”; Seminar - Junior class all prom committee meeting and DECA school clean up; Central Site Council meeting 4 p.m.; city/county recreation at fieldhouse and junior high gym 7:30 p.m.

Thursday - “Black Day”; Seminar - DECA and FCS; wrestlers depart for Basehor-Linwood 3 p.m.; seventh and eighth basketball in Goodland against Oberlin 3:30 p.m.; junior high wrestling in Oberlin 4:30 p.m.

Friday - “Gold Day”; Seminar - Softball meeting in cafeteria; varsity wrestling at Basehor-Linwood; basketball in Atwood, 3:45 p.m.

Saturday - Varsity wrestling in Basehor-Linwood, junior varsity wrestling in Hays 8:30 a.m.; American Field Service lock in in the Library and gym.

Sunday - Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition at the high school gym 12 to 3 p.m.; All Star Volleyball match at the fieldhouse 7:15 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Monday - No School; 1/2 day Teacher in service; 1/2 day Teacher workday.

Tuesday - “Gold Day”; Seminar - STUCO; seventh grade basketball in Wray 4:15 p.m.; eighth grade basketball in Wray 4:15 p.m.; Scholar’s Bowl in Scott City 3 p.m.

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