

# Girls take Lakin, 65-55

**By Greg Stover**  
*The Goodland Star-News*  
Coach Don Smith said he expected a tough game from the Lady Broncos in Lakin, and that is exactly what the Cowgirls got Tuesday, needing two overtimes to come up with a 65-55 win.

"Lakin attempted some things against us that no other team had tried," said Smith, "so it should be good experience for the remaining games."

With the win, the girls finished the regular season 15-5 overall and 6-1 in the Northwest Kansas League. The Cowgirls get to play host to the Lady Broncos of Russell next Tuesday at Max Jones Fieldhouse for the first round of the Class 4A sub-state playoffs. Tipoff will be at 5 p.m.

The teams played to a 4-all tie to start the game, then Lakin took the lead and kept it until late in the second period, when the Cowgirls scored seven straight points to tie the game at 23. The Broncos retook the lead on a three-pointer and led 26-24 at halftime.

Thirty-five seconds into the third period, Goodland came back to tie the score at 28 and, a few minutes later, again at 30. After that Lakin went ahead once more until, with 20 seconds left in the period, and the score 34-33, a basket by sophomore Dani Bedore gave the Cowgirls their first lead, 35-34.

About halfway through the fourth period, the game was tied again at 38, then tied again at 42 with 53 seconds left in regulation. Neither team could score, and the Cowgirls faced their first overtime of the season.

The scoring pace slowed down for both teams, as each scored just six points in four minutes making it 48-all going into the second overtime. There the pace picked back up, especially for the Cowgirls as they scored 11 of the first 13 points, then held on for the 65-55 victory.

"The most positive aspects of the game were that we chased Lakin out of their press early with good offense

sive execution and our free throw shooting under pressure late in the game," said Smith. "The Cowgirls were 15 out of 15 from the free throw line during the two overtime periods."

The Lady Broncos fell to 13-7 overall and will face Ellinwood on Monday in the first round of the Class 3A sub-state.

The Lakin scored first, then a basket by junior Justeen Koehler made it 2-0. Lakin went ahead 4-2 but Koehler again tied it up with a basket. After that, the Broncos scored four straight and they later led 12-5. The Cowgirls scored the last five points of the first period, which included a three-pointer by sophomore Kaylee Billinger to close within two at 12-10.

Lakin continued to maintain a scoring edge, building a 23-16 lead with a little over three minutes left. However, another three-pointer by Billinger started a seven-point Goodland scoring run with tied the score at 23.

A three-point basket by Lakin's Kayle Hoover made it 26-23 then, with 15 seconds left, Bedore scored on a free throw to make it 26-24 at halftime.

Goodland caught up with the Broncos at 28 then again at 30. Lakin then scored the next four points, followed by five straight by the Cowgirls to end the third period with a 35-34 Goodland lead.

Bedore scored on a pair of free throws 18 seconds into the fourth quarter to make it 37-34. For more than two minutes after that, neither team scored. Darcy Jennings of Lakin ended the drought by scoring four straight, returning the lead to the Broncos 38-37.

A free throw by Koehler tied the game, then Bedore scored four straight for a 42-38 Cowgirl lead. Lakin then responded with four straight points to make it 42-all and force an overtime.

Bedore led the Cowgirls with 26 points. Billinger scored 14, followed by Koehler with 13. Both junior

Melissa Swager and sophomore Lindsay Schields had four points. Junior Jordan Frazier and sophomore Emily Murray each had two.

Koehler grabbed 12 rebounds to lead the team followed by Bedore with 11.

Jennings led Lakin with 19 points. Shane Rice scored 10, Hoover nine and Megan Moyer eight.

Andrew Melia of Goodland radio KLOE (730 AM) will broadcast Tuesday's game starting with the pregame show about 4:50 p.m.

"We are extremely happy to have a home game to begin sub-state play," Smith said. "The team is healthy and anxious to play."

"Although Russell will come in with a not very impressive win-lost record [3-17] their scores show they have made a lot of improvement. Teams that beat them by 30 points early in the season won by 10 or less the second time they played."



Cowgirl coach Don Smith discussed strategy with his team during a timeout in the third period of Goodland's 65-55 double-overtime win over the Lady Broncos on Tuesday in Lakin. The Cowgirls face Russell at 5 p.m. next Tuesday at Max Jones Fieldhouse for the first round of the sub-state playoffs.  
Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

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