



Colby Lady Eagle Emily Sloan tried to shoot despite the defensive efforts of Cowgirls Justeen Koehler (42) and Melissa Swager (33) in the third quarter of the substate championship game Saturday in Larned. Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

Cowgirls end season with loss to Eagles

By Greg Stover
The Goodland Star-News

It was the final showdown of the season between the Cowgirls and the Lady Eagles of Colby on Saturday, in the final game of the substate tournament in Larned, and it was the Eagles who came out on top, 52-37.

The game was the “rubber match” between the two, as Goodland won 65-58 the first time the teams met, on Jan. 7 at Max Jones Fieldhouse, and the Eagles who won 70-49 on Feb. 15 at the Colby Community Building.

The prize consisted of a trip to the Class 4A state tournament, starting Thursday at the Bicentennial Center in Salina.

“They did a very nice job on offense,” said coach Don Smith, “and were aggressive on defense.”

Goodland took a 4-0 lead on a pair of baskets by junior Justeen Koehler and kept it until the final seconds of the first period, when a basket by Colby’s Ashley Barnes gave the Eagles a 12-11 lead going into the second.

Colby outscored the Cowgirls 9-8 in the second quarter to lead at halftime 21-19. There were four lead changes in the period, three in the first minute.

Sophomore Lindsay Schields tied the game at 21 with a basket to start the third period, then about 55 seconds later scored another one to give Goodland a 23-21 lead. A basket by Barnes tied the game again, then one by teammate Jessica Stephens gave the Eagles back the lead, 25-23, and they kept it throughout the rest of the game. Colby built its lead to eight points by the end of the third, 37-29.

The Eagles continued to widen their lead in the fourth quarter, outscoring Goodland 15-8 to win 52-37.

Colby, now 20-3, will face the Lady Grizzlies of Labette County High from Altamont in the first round of the state tournament.

Goodland kept Colby scoreless in

the opening 90 seconds, while Koehler’s two baskets gave the Cowgirls a 4-0 lead. Brittany Kersenbrock got the Eagles on the scoreboard with a three-pointer to make it 4-3. Goodland’s lead fluctuated between one and three points until, with less than 10 seconds left in the period, Barnes gave Colby its first lead 12-11.

Koehler scored first in the second period to get the lead back for Goodland at 13-12. About a minute later, a basket by Stephens returned it to Colby 14-13. Koehler again got it back for the Cowgirls with a basket to make it 15-14.

Pressure by Goodland on the inbound pass resulted in a quick turnover and a basket by sophomore Dani Bedore for a 17-14 Cowgirl lead. A basket by Mazanec got Colby back to within one, after which a scoring drought lasted almost three minutes.

Stephens broke the lull with a free throw that tied the game at 17 with 1 minute, 14 seconds left in the half. A basket by Barnes about 25 seconds later gave Colby a 19-17 lead. A pair of free throws by Mazanec made it 21-17, then a pair by Koehler got Goodland back to within two at halftime 21-19.

Goodland started the second half with the four straight points by Schields to regain the lead 23-21 while keeping the Eagles scoreless for over two minutes. However, Colby then went on an seven-point run to make it 28-23, regaining the lead permanently. During that run, Bedore picked up her third and fourth fouls and was benched with more than five minutes to go in the third period.

After a basket by Goodland senior Whitney Carmichael made it 28-25, Colby scored nine of the next 13 points to make the score 37-29 going into the fourth period.

A basket by Barnes 12 seconds into the fourth gave the Eagles their first 10-point lead at 39-29. They would widen the gap to as much as 16 points despite the return of

Bedore for the final five minutes and the loss of Colby starter Emily Sloan, who fouled out. Stephens scored the last basket of the game just before the buzzer, making the final 52-37.

Smith said the foul situation with Bedore was one of the key factors in the game where the team needed some other players to step up on offense.

“We had trouble getting the ball through the hole,” said Smith. “We got some good looks at the basket but were not successful scoring.”

Koehler led the Cowgirls with 16 points. Both Bedore and Schields scored six. Carmichael added four points, junior Jordan Frazier three and sophomore Emily Murray two.

Four Eagles scored in double-figure’s led by Mazanec with 13. Stephens, Barnes and Zanae Baird each scored 10.

Goodland advanced to the substate final by beating the Lady Greenbacks of Pratt High on Friday 53-41. After a scoreless opening minute, a basket by Koehler gave the Cowgirls the lead which they kept until the final buzzer.

Pratt got to within one point of Goodland three times early in the game, but never caught up, while the Cowgirls led by as much as 14 late in the game.

Bedore scored 22 points to led the Cowgirls, followed by Koehler with 18. Murray scored six points, Frazier three, and both Schields and sophomore Kaylee Billinger two.

The Cowgirls end their season 17-6 overall and 6-1 in the Northwest Kansas League. The last time the Goodland girls had 17 wins was the 2000-2001.

This will be the Lady Eagles fourth straight trip to the state tournament.

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School calendar for March 9 - March 15

Wednesday - “Gold Day”; State basketball; Central Site Council meeting 4 p.m.; Spring pictures at West, 8 a.m.; city/county recreation at fieldhouse and junior high gym, 7:30 p.m.; State basketball.

Thursday - “Black Day”; Seminar - Stuco and GRACE; Spring pictures at Central school, 8 a.m.; State basketball.

Friday - “Gold Day”; American Field Service State Roundup in Downs; set up for Kansas Kids wrestling tournament at fieldhouse 1 p.m.; 4-H Days in the auditorium and classrooms 3:30 to 10 p.m.; State basketball.

Saturday - American Field Service State Roundup in Downs; Kansas Kids Subdistrict wrestling tournament at fieldhouse; State basketball.

Sunday - American Field Service State Roundup in Downs; X-Pressos in the auditorium 1 to 3 p.m.

Monday - “Black Day”; Social Studies test parts 1 and 2 for the juniors; Black & Gold Booster Club meeting in the cafeteria, 6:30 p.m.; Board of Education meeting at the Administration Building 7 p.m.

Tuesday - “Gold Day”; Seminar - American Field Service; First grade music program in auditorium 7 p.m.; Social Studies test parts 1 and 2 for the juniors.

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