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Cowboys beat Cougars, 76-61

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News The Goodland Cowboys got a rude awakening at the start of their basketball game Tuesday against Burlington at Max Jones Fieldhouse, but found their rhythm in the second half to win their home opener 76-61.

during the game," said Coach Jon McLean, "and I'm really proud of them for that."

The Cougars started the scoring with a near-perfect "Ally Oop" play, and after two minutes led 6-0. Burlington kept the lead until a free throw by junior Landon Williams tied the game at 10 with about 90 seconds left in the first period.

Senior Jon Beeson's basket with seven seconds left on the clock broke a 12-all tie and gave Goodland a two-point led going into the second quarter.

The Cougars came back to tie the game at 18, but fell behind again until about halfway through the period. Then a basket by Cassidy Hallagin gave Burlington a 26-25 lead.

The lead changed hands four times after that, then with the Cougars leading 36-35, Goodland senior Wyatt Dautel hit a three-pointer just before the buzzer sounded to give Goodland a 38-36 halftime

In the third period, with Goodland leading 42-38, the Cougars scored six straight points to regain the lead 44-42. However, Dautel's third three-pointer returned the lead to the Cowboys 45-44. This time, they kept it.

Dautel's basket started a ninepoint run by the Cowboys, with the last two coming on a goal-tending call on Burlington's Loren Queen. After that, Goodland outscored the

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Cougars 8-4, giving the Cowboys a 59-48 lead going into the final period.

The Cowboys scored the first four points of the fourth quarter for a 15-point lead at 63-48, and after that, both teams scored 13 to make the final 76-61.

The win put Goodland at 2-0 for "I thought our kids really hustled the season while Burlington fell to 1-1 going into the Topside Tip-Off, which started Thursday.

Dautel scored 22 points, including six of seven at three-point range, to lead the Cowboys.

Senior Jase Herl and junior Nick Angelos both scored 17. Senior Derek Fenner had 10 points, Beeson seven and Williams three. Herl led in rebounds with 14, fol-

lowed by Angelos with eight.

Dautel grabbed six, Williams four and Fenner and junior Mikey Doll had three.

Wyatt shot the ball awfully well. and Jase was a monster on the boards," McLean said. "Derek and Jon gave us some great minutes off the bench."

Goodland outrebounded Burlington 38-27 even though the Cougars had three of the four tallest players on the court.

"We got hurt on the boards in the first half, but controlled them in the second," said McLean. "This allowed us to get out and run the floor.

"I was very pleased with the improvements our kids made from our first game We looked like a completely different team."

On Tuesday, the Indians of Hays High will call at Max Jones Fieldhouse. The boys game should begin about 7:30 p.m.

The Cowboys go on the road next Friday to face the Bulldogs of Quinter, opening play in the Northwest Kansas League.



Junior Nick Angelos (No. 23) scored on a layup during the fourth period of the Cowboys' game against Burlington on Tuesday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. Angelos scored 17 points and grabbed eight rebounds to help the team win its home opener 76-61. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Topside Tip-Off continues

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News The 17th annual Topside Tip-Off basketball tournament continues at 2 p.m. today at Max Jones Fieldhouse with a pair of girls games, one on the main court and the other in the junior high gym.

The winner of Thursday's Ottawa/Norton matchup will face the winner of the Weskan/Burlington game on the main court while the two losing teams will play on the back court.

The Cowgirls will play around 6 p.m. against either McCook or Holyoke, depending on the results of Thursday's games.

"I believe that it is going to be a very competitive field," said Cowgirls coach Don Smith. "Of course, we would very much like to finish the week as champions of our own tournament."

Smith said there is good balance among the team this year and the championship will be hard fight. He said he feels the Lady Blue Jays of Norton Community High will be the team to beat, as they have four returning starters from a team that went 17-5 last year and won the Mid-Continent League.

This is the third year the same eight teams are playing in the Tip-Off. The only other time that happened was from 1995 to 1997. Other teams in the field this year are Burlington and Wray from Colorado, and Weskan from Wallace County.

"This tournament is going to be really wide open and competitive on the boys side," said Cowboys coach Jon McLean. "There are probably five teams that could win it. It should be some exciting basketball."

The Cowboys, the defending champions, will take the court around 8 tonight, also against either McCook or Holyoke.





Back Row (left to right): Scott Angelos, Jack Dennis, Jack Eklund, Ron Lucas, Dan Brenner, Heather McDonald. Front Row (left to right): Shelly Angelos, Dale Neill, Jody Lapotice, Kathy Cochrane, Dolly Irvin, Debbie Martin, Karen Ginther.

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