

Cowboys win at buzzer



Cowboy Nick Angelos (23) and Cyclone Ben Harris (4) went after a rebound in the Topside Tip-off championship game Saturday. The Cowboys won at the buzzer, 64-62.
Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News
Twice the Cowboys lost Topside Tip-off titles to the Ottawa Cyclones, but Saturday that changed as Goodland won at the buzzer, 64-62.

To get to the finals, the team had another thrilling game, besting McCook High from Nebraska in an overtime contest.

The championship was the sixth for the Cowboys, who have finished second nine times in the 18 years of the tournament.

Cowboys Junior Mikey Doll and Senior Nick Angelos were named to the all-tournament team, and Doll won the three-point shootout with 11 buckets.

Doll played his best game in the championship against Ottawa, scoring a game-high 25 points with three 3-pointers, seven field goals and two free throws.

Angelos had his best night on Thursday against McCook, where he had 32 points and 12 rebounds. He was in double figures against Sharon Springs and Ottawa with 13 in each game.

"In the fourth quarter against Ottawa, Mikey played as good as anyone in my eight years here," Coach Jon McLean said Sunday. "I was really proud of how the boys played, and it was great to win."

"We did not play well in the first half against McCook, but thought we played well the rest of the games."

"Nick Angelos and Doll had great tournaments. Angelos had a great game on Thursday and two more solid games. I think they will continue to get better."

McLean said he felt Greg Farris

and Tanner Smith had good performances. Smith had 7 points in the championship game, 16 against Sharon Springs and 7 against McCook. Farris had 10 points in the championship, 7 against McCook and 9 against Sharon Springs.

In the championship, the third quarter ended in a 46-46 tie, but the Cowboys took the lead on a basket by Angelos at the opening of the final quarter.

"Our defense was good," McLean said. "We took care of the ball and got some good shots."

There was a scary moment halfway through the quarter when Smith drew a technical foul. The Cyclones converted the free throws to take a 56-55 lead and got the ball.

"I was really proud of how the kids bounced back from that critical point in the game and overcame that to win," McLean said.

The Cyclones missed on their next shot and Farris got the rebound. On the other end, Travis Angelos hit a bucket to regain the lead. It was short lived, as Ottawa's Victor Ojeleye slammed the ball through the hoop to push ahead 58-57.

Back-to-back layups by Nick Angelos and Farris gave the Cowboys a three-point lead, 61-58 with two minutes left. A foul on Ottawa's Chase Moore put Goodland in the bonus and Doll hit the first free throw to make it 62-58. With 20 seconds left, though, Ottawa tied the game at 62.

The Cowboys got the final chance, though. Farris shot, but it bounced out. Nick Angelos got a put back at the buzzer for the win, 64-62. Against Ottawa, Doll had 25

points, Nick Angelos 13, Farris 10, Smith and Travis Angelos 7 and Nathan Linin 2.

The Cowboys out rebounded Ottawa 26 to 24, but the Cyclones had 11 offensive rebounds to 4 for the Cowboys. Goodland had 22 defensive rebounds to 13 for Ottawa.

From the floor, the Cowboys hit 67 percent of their shots (18-27) while the Cyclones hit 57 percent (17-30). From long range, the Cowboys hit 63 percent (5-8) to 23 percent (7-30) for the Cyclones. The Cowboys hit 57 percent of their free throws (13-23) to 50 percent (7-14) for the Cyclones.

One area where the Cowboys had trouble was turnovers, giving the ball away 19 times to 11 for Ottawa. The Cowboys had nine steals to six for Ottawa.

Against McCook, Nick Angelos had 32 points, Smith 10, Farris 7, Doll 6, and Travis Angelos 3.

The Cowboys fell behind in the game, but came back to force overtime, and outscored the McCook Bison 8-6 for the 58-56 win.

The Cowboys led in the first quarter against McCook as Nick Angelos shot their first 15 points and 18 by halftime. In the second quarter, the Bison got the lead and McCook held an eight-point advantage at the half, 30-22.

Halfway through the third quarter, the Cowboys were down by 10, but went on an 11-2 run to close to within one, 38-37.

With one minute left, the Cowboys were down 50-47, but Doll was fouled trying to make a 3-point shot. He hit one of three free throws to cut the lead to two. Nick Ange-

los got a steal with 30 seconds left and after a time out, he hit a basket to tie the game at 50.

In overtime, Farris hit a 3-point shot that gave the Cowboys the lead, and about a minute later, he hit two free throws to make it a five-point lead, 55-50.

The Bison tried to be patient, but again Farris came up big with a basket to make it 57-50 with under a minute left. McCook's Josh Cherry hit a 3-point basket to cut the lead to four, 57-53. To get the ball back, McCook fouled Travis Angelos, who hit one of two free throws to make it 58-53. In the last 18 seconds, Cherry hit another 3-point shot for McCook, but the Cowboys were able to hang onto the ball to run out the clock for a 58-56 win.

McLean said he thought Linin and Josh Duke did a good job for the team off the bench, and that Andrew Taylor played well against Sharon Springs.

Taylor played most of the third quarter while Nick Angelos sat on the bench after getting a technical in the first half.

"This is something the boys have to learn," McLean said about sitting Nick Angelos down for a quarter. "I felt it was a good time to get that across."

McLean said he thought the Goodland student section was fantastic throughout the tournament and showed great support.

Tonight, the Cowboys (4-0) face Hays High at 7 p.m. Mountain Time in Hays. Coach McLean said he does not know much about the Hays team, but knows it will be a tough matchup.

Cowgirls win seventh Topside title, whip Colby, 47-43

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

In a scene that might be repeated several times this season, the Cowgirls and Colby Lady Eagles faced off in the finals of the 18th annual Topside Tip-off on Saturday. This time, the Cowgirls came away with a 47-43 win.

The win gave the Cowgirls their seventh tournament title and a 4-0 start for the season. It was the first year in the tournament for the Colby teams.

The Goodland girls will be in action at 5 p.m. Mountain Time tonight as they face Hays High on the road.

The Cowgirls and Lady Eagles will meet again at least once and possibly three more times during the season, including the Orange and Black Classic in Colby on Jan. 18-20, and substate in March.

To reach the championship, the Cowgirls got a career-high 33 points from Archer to run past the Weskan Lady Coyotes 63-49 on Thursday. Archer shone again in the final minutes of the game Friday, with the Cowgirls winning 46-44 over the Norton Lady Blue Jays.

Billinger hit key 3-point shots in the games against Weskan and Norton, and was in double figures in both games at 10 and 11.

Murray was in double figures in the Weskan game with 16 and had 12 rebounds. She had 11 points against Colby and led the Cowgirls with 11 rebounds. Murray had seven rebounds in the Norton game to match her seven points.

Leading the Lady Eagles were Lissa Mazanec and Ashley Barnes, who were named to the all-tournament team. Barnes was the leading scorer for Colby with 14 points, but the Cowgirls kept Mazanec down to 6 points as she hit just 25 percent of her shots (3 for 12).

"We are extremely happy to get a championship," said Coach Don Smith on Sunday, "especially this year, which I think was one of the best Topside tournaments we have had on both sides. We did some little things at the end to allow us to pick up victories."

Smith said it was good to have Billinger, Archer and Murray on the all-tournament team, but the other varsity players were important.

"The young ladies contribute in so many ways that if you just watch the points scored, you may miss some of the better play on the floor," he said. "Murray has been great with her rebounding and Billinger gives us some good offense and is good on defense."

"Lindsay Schields had her best game against Norton because of her defensive play. Sammie Raymer came in and gave us a good effort, and Stephanie Sheldon gave us

some effort and did well on defense.

"I thought we had good defense on Friday and Saturday. We had better rebounding in second half of championship and played better defense."

In the championship on Saturday, Barnes opened the scoring for the Lady Eagles, and had six of her 14 in the first quarter, which was tied three times. Murray tied the game at 6 with about two minutes left, then Archer hit back-to-back baskets to give the Cowgirls a 10-6 lead. Barnes hit the next two baskets, including one at the buzzer, to tie the game at 10.

In the second period, the Lady Eagles went on an eight-point run to lead by six, 20-14, with four minutes left. Archer cut it to four, but



Archer



Billinger



Murray

Barnes got the last shot to give Colby the 24-18 lead at halftime.

The Cowgirls were having trouble scoring from the field in the first half, hitting 28 percent of their shots to 40 percent for Colby.

Better shooting and some aggressive steals by Archer and Murray brought the Cowgirls back and tied the score at 26 halfway through the period.

A 10-point run capped by baskets from Archer and Nicolette Clancy gave the Cowgirls their first lead of the second half, 30-26. The third quarter ended with the Cowgirls

leading 32-31.

Colby's Aubrette Stephens, who won the girls 3-point shootout with 12 baskets, hit her only 3-pointer of the game to tie it at 34 with about six minutes left.

Barnes got a basket to give Colby a lead, but Archer answered and it was tied again a 36. Two free throws by Paige Stephens gave the lead back to Colby, but Billinger's basket tied it again at 38.

Two free throws by Archer made it 40-38 with 2:10 left, and the Cowgirls' defense held up.

Billinger added a basket and was fouled by Barnes with 1:30 left. Billinger hit the free throw for a 3-point play, giving the Cowgirls a 43-38 lead.

Murray hit a layup with less than 20 seconds left to make it 45-40, but Colby's Rishonna Martin cut the Goodland lead to two with a 3-point basket with 10 seconds left.

Archer's final two free throws with three seconds left put the game

out of reach, 47-43.

Archer led all scorers with 18. Murray had 11, Clancy 8, Billinger 7 and Lindsay Schields 3.

Barnes led Colby with 14, Martin 7, Mazanec 6, Taylor Young and Aubrette Stephens 5, Paige Stephens 4 and Tasha Wagoner 2.

The Cowgirls out rebounded the Lady Eagles 29 to 25. The Cowgirls finished hitting 42.5 percent from the field to 39 percent for the Lady Eagles.

The Cowgirls hit 81 percent of their free throws (13-16) to 71 percent for Colby (5-7). Colby had 14 team fouls to nine for the Cowgirls.

In the first-round game against Weskan, Archer had 33, Murray, 16, Billinger 10, Clancy 3, and Raymer 1.

The game was tied 28-28 at the half, and the Cowgirls outscored the Lady Coyotes 17-2 in the third for a 45-30 lead. The Cowgirls were outscored 19 to 18 in the final quarter, but won 63-49.

Against Norton, Billinger had 11, Schields, 10, Murray and Raymer 7, Archer 6, and Clancy 5.

In a low-scoring game, Norton was leading 9-8 at the end of the first period, but Goodland lead 16-15 at the half.

The game was tied at 25 with three minutes left in the third quarter, then the Cowgirls outscored the Lady Blue Jays 9-4 to lead 34-29.

In the final quarter, Norton hit a 3-point shot with under a minute left for a 44-43 lead, but a basket by Archer got the lead back and the final point of the game was a free throw by Billinger to make the score 46-44 at the buzzer.

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School calendar for December 13 through 19

Wednesday: Black Day, 11 a.m. Senior Citizen Dinner, Central Site Council Meeting 4 p.m., PDC Screening

Thursday: Gold Day, JV BB Tourn (H) 3 p.m., 8th League BB Tourn. @ Colby, 2 p.m., 7th League BB Tourn. @ St. Francis, 2 p.m.

Friday: Black Day

Saturday: Holiday Classic WR Tourn. (H) 8 a.m.

Monday: 8 a.m. Western Kansas AD Meeting @ Dighton 8 a.m., HS Band & Vocal Concert - HS Auditorium 7 p.m.

Tuesday: Black Day, V-JV-C BB (H) Scott City 3:45 p.m.

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