

Boys break even in hectic weekend

By Doug Stephens
The Goodland Daily News
 The Cowboys had a busy weekend, losing in Oberlin Friday, 88-70 , but beating Hugoton 69-59 Saturday at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Goodland came out strong in the first quarter against Oberlin, out-rebounding the Red Devils and almost catching up with a three-pointer by Lance Tedford, bringing it to 8-9. The Devils got ahead again, but the Cowboys came back with a Raymer rebound and putback and a quick shot by Lance Tedford, putting Goodland up by two with a minute left in the first.

The Red Devils tied, then jumped ahead with Ryan Ruf of Oberlin making a quick, catch-and-shoot trey.

Kris Rubio came right back with one of his own, ending the quarter tied at 19. The two teams stayed neck and neck through most of the third quarter, with Goodland up a point with four minutes left in the half.

Oberlin went up by one, they came up with a five point play, Rub making a three-pointer and Rusty Grafel getting two foul shots from a Bryan Mai foul under the basket. Goodland fought back and with a Rubio to Gittinger bucket brought it within four.

Rubio did make a buzzer-beater to end the half and bring it to 41-36. Oberlin outscored Goodland 22-17 in the second quarter with Don Raymer leading Cowboy scoring with 12 in the half, followed by Gittinger and Melia at six.

The second half had Goodland giving another run for it, making it a one point game with back-to-back Riebel treys. They couldn't keep it up, and finished out the quarter down 59-52.

The last quarter had the Red Devils outscoring Goodland 35-18. Both teams were in foul trouble, and most of the quarter was spent at the free throw line, where Goodland couldn't keep up.

Grafel of Oberlin led all scoring with 30, followed by Rub at 25.

Goodland scorers were Raymer 21, Riebel 18, Melia 12, Rubio 8, Gittinger 6, and Tedford 5

The boys came out weak Saturday, ending the first quarter against the Hugoton Eagles down 18-9.

Treys by Tedford and Riebel put them within four, 26-22, halfway through the second quarter. Arebound and putback attempt by Rubio resulted in two free shots and Gittinger brought it up with a point.

Hugoton led 36-33 at the end of the half.

Gittinger came out with a shot just inside the three-point line at the new half, bringing them with one, and Goodland finally pulled ahead with the last basket of the quarter, putting them up 46-45.

Two quick shots in the fourth put Hugoton up by 2, and Gittinger followed it with a three-pointer, gaining a lead the Cowboys kept the rest of the night.

After a jumping drive by Riebel which put Goodland up by three, Hugoton called a time-out. Goodland defense held and the Eagles were forced to put up a trey, which bounced off the bottom of the backboard.

On the Cowboy counter-play, Melia was fed by Mai, and although he almost lost control, he managed the lay in from inside.

Towards the end of the game, ball-handling and passing became sloppy, with both teams picking up numerous turnovers.

Rubio seemed to get more than his share of fouls at the end, at one point being badly manhandled, and almost put into a headlock by a Hugoton player.

A frowning Jamie Ripple of Hugoton threw the ball away as the buzzer sounded, not even trying for a desperation shot, allowing Goodland to come up with a 10-point win.

The weekend puts the Cowboys' record at 5-8. They next play at 6:30 Mountain Time, Friday at St. Francis.



The Cowboys' Andrew Melia tried to get past the Hugoton defense Saturday night at Max Jones Fieldhouse. Photo by Skilar Boland/The Goodland Daily News

sports briefs

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Thomas Johansson accomplished what he thought was an unattainable goal.

Jennifer Capriati pulled off an unthinkable comeback in her chosen sport.

In an Australian Open filled with upsets and pullouts due to injury, Johansson delivered a fitting conclusion, beating Marat Safin 3-6, 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (4) in the men's final on Sunday for his first Grand Slam title.

The ninth-seeded Safin, a former world No. 1 and the 2000 U.S. Open champion, was the only Grand Slam winner still in the men's draw after he beat Pete Sampras in the fourth round.

The luck of the draw gave Johansson a bit of confidence.

"I thought I had a small chance to win — he can break a leg on the court," said Johansson, seeded 16th.

"I never thought I was going to be a Grand Slam winner, but the way I've been playing the last two weeks has been great. I played my best tennis in just about every match."

Johansson had never advanced beyond the quarterfinals of a Grand Slam event when he arrived at his 25th major.

Safin was the first opponent Johansson faced that was ranked higher than himself.

Andre Agassi, the winner in 2000 and 2001, withdrew before the tournament started because of an injured wrist.

Top-seeded Lleyton Hewitt, weakened by chicken pox, lost in the first round.

Johansson became the first Swedish champion since Mats Wilander in 1988, and the first to win a Grand Slam singles title since Stefan Edberg at the 1992 U.S. Open.

"You cannot compare anything to this," Johansson said. "You've seen it on TV. But I never knew I was going to stand there at the court today."

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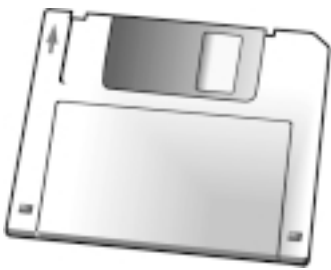
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