

Cowboys lose substate to Monarchs, 63-49



By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

With 30 seconds left on the clock, the winner was not in doubt. The Goodland Cowboys and the Monarchs looked at each other, reached out and shook hands as time ran out.

Thomas More Prep-Marian of Hays defeated the Goodland Cowboys 63-49 in the Class 4A substate championship Saturday at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

The loss gave the Cowboys a 16-7 season record, while the win pushed the Monarch's record to 21-1.

They will face Atchison (18-4) at 2 p.m. Mountain Time on Wednesday at the Bicentennial center in Salina for the first round of the state tournament.

"We got beat by a good team." Coach Jon McLean said Monday. "Our kids played hard and tried hard. Maybe too hard at times.

"I am really proud of these kids because their hearts and guts kept them in the game in the second half. The Monarchs were clearly outplaying us, but we had it to 7 points in the fourth with a chance to make another comeback. We just couldn't get over the hump."

The Cowboys gave the Monarchs a good game, leading 18-12 after the first quarter.

The Monarchs came back in the second quarter to outscore the Cowboys 19-9 and lead 31-27 at halftime.

"We played an excellent first quarter," McLean said. We were able to get some steals and we did a good job on the boards that allowed us to get some easy baskets in transition."

Midway through the third quarter, the Cowboys cut the lead to two, 33-31, on a three-point basket by

Mikey Doll. However, Monarchs went on a nine-point run to lead 42-31 with two minutes left in the period.

Both Doll and Greg Farris, the Cowboys main three-point shooters, were having trouble getting shots past the aggressive Monarchs defense. Farris had a couple of his three-pointers blocked, and Doll was fouled twice attempting three-point shots.

The first time he was fouled, he made all three free throws to cut the lead to eight, 46-38, with 23 seconds left in the third quarter.

"The second and third quarter we did not do a very good job with our zone defense," McLean said. "We gave up too many lay-ups and offensive rebounds. A lot of that was due to Thomas More's size, and I thought their players just played very well."

Doll hit his second three-point basket to get the Cowboys with five, 46-41, with seven minutes left in the fourth, but the Cowboys fell behind by 10, 54-44, with under five minutes left.

The Monarchs started spreading their offense out and passing the ball around without scoring, forcing the Cowboys to foul to get a chance at the ball.

The Monarchs made their free throws, though. Goodland sophomore Travis Angelos made two great drives for baskets to keep the Cowboys within 12, 60-48, with 1:16 left.

Doll was fouled trying to make a three-pointer with 1:11 left, but only hit one of the three shots to make the score 60-49.

The Monarchs hit three more free throws in the next 30 seconds. The Cowboys could not catch up, and with time running out, senior Nick

Angelos and his teammates reached out to shake hands with the Monarchs as the game ended.

"Ultimately, rebounding and free throws really hurt us throughout the last three quarters of the game," McLean said. "I am extremely proud of this team. To go 16-7 and make the substate finals was a real accomplishment for them.

"Our three seniors will really be missed. Nathan Linin, Nick Angelos and Mikey Doll all did excellent things for our team. I wish those guys nothing but the best.

"If our returning players will work hard, I think we have the pieces to be a very competitive team next year.

"I just really want to thank these kids for an exciting, fun basketball season."

The Cowboys had three players in double figures, Travis Angelos leading with 18, brother Nick at 14 and Doll with 10. Tanner Smith scored 7 points.

Nolan Hoffman lead the Monarchs in scoring with 15. Kyle Hammerschmidt and Trevor Ottley each had 12, while Nolan McNeil and Josh Post each had 8, Kyle Werth 6 and Scott Stramel 2.

The Cowboys hit 41 percent of their shots (16-39) and 53.6 percent of their free throws (14-26). The Monarchs hit 42.3 percent of their shots (22-52) and 78.3 percent of their free throws (18-23).

The Monarchs out rebounded the Cowboys 34 to 23. The Monarchs had 13 offensive rebounds and 21 defensive rebounds to 8 offensive and 16 defensive for Goodland.

The Cowboys had 15 turnovers to 7 for the Monarchs. The Monarchs had 8 blocked shots to 2 for the Cowboys. The Monarchs has 12 steals to 4 for Goodland.

Cowboys senior Nick Angelos had to jump high to shoot over the hands of the taller (6 foot, 8 inch) Trevor Ottley (in back) and Kyle Hammerschmidt (No. 23) of the Thomas More Prep-Marian Monarchs in the substate championship game Saturday. Angelos scored 14 points, but the Cowboys lost 63-49.
Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Cowboy comeback stops Larned Indian attack

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It was a tale of two halves, and the Cowboys won the second on Thursday for a comeback win over the Larned Indians, 52-47, to advance to the Class 4A substate championship Saturday at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

The win lifted the Cowboys record to 16-6 and extended their winning streak to six games. They had won nine of the last 10, with a 51-49-overtime loss at Dodge City on Feb. 3.

"It was just a tremendous effort by our kids to make that comeback," Coach Jon McLean said Friday morning. "To hold Larned scoreless in the fourth quarter was awesome. I am really proud of our guys.

"At halftime, I told them championship teams find ways to win. They found a way to win."

Senior Nick Angelos tied the game at 47-47 with his basket at 2:20 left in the fourth quarter.

The Cowboys played tight defense, and a bad pass by the Indians gave Cowboys the ball with 1:29 on the clock.

With 1 minute left, Sophomore Greg Farris hit a 22-foot three-point basket to give Goodland a 50-47 lead.

Goodland pressed the Indians, and Tyler Slagle missed a shot. Goodland got the rebound, and with less than 30 seconds left, the Indians had to foul to stop the clock.

Travis Angelos missed the front end of a one-and-one, and it looked like Larned would get the rebound, but the ball got loose. With a flurry of players wrestling the ball across the floor, it rolled out of bounds. The Cowboys and fans roared when the referee said it was Goodland's ball with 8 seconds left.

McLean called a timeout and told this team to keep control of the ball and not foul.

Larned's Michael Vratil fouled Farris as soon as the ball was thrown in. Farris stepped to the line and sank the front end of a one-and-one to the cheers of Cowboy fans. With a smile, Farris hit the second free throw to give the Cowboys a 52-47 lead.

A desperation three-point shot by Larned missed and Goodland's Mikey Doll got the rebound, which he held for the last two seconds.

Farris' final 5 points won the game for the Cowboys. In all, he had 13 points, hitting 3 of 7 three-point

shots, 1 of 3 field goals and his two crucial free throws.

"Greg Farris played huge," McLean said Friday. "He will remember that three-point shot for a long time. So will I. His two free throws were the icing on the cake."

The Cowboys got the opening lead, 2-0, on a basket by Nick Angelos, but Larned's Dennan Morrow hit four three-pointers and combined with a three-point shot by Brooks Hansen, they had the 15 points for the Indians in the first quarter. The Cowboys battled back to tie at 15 on a basket by Tanner Smith from a pass from Nick Angelos.

Morrow's three-point shooting

put the Indians up 36-26 at halftime. He hit eight three-pointers in the first half, and 30 of the Indians' 36 points were on three-point shots. Of the three field goals, two were inside shots and the third was just inside three-point range by Hansen.

In the first half, the Indians hit nearly 60 percent of their three-point attempts (10-17), but only 43 percent of their field goals (3-7).

Morrow's shooting cooled off in the second half, but he did hit another three-point shot and a field goal in the third quarter to lead all scorers with 29 points.

"Nick Angelos had a tremendous game," McLean said. "His defense was excellent on Morrow in the sec-

ond half."

Goodland was down by nine 47-38 at the end of the third quarter, and Larned seemed content to pass the ball and run time off the clock. The Indians ran over a minute off the clock at the end of the quarter.

The Cowboys started the fourth with a basket by Nick Angelos, a free throw by Doll and a basket by Smith to close the margin to 4 point with 6:20 left. Nick Angelos cut the margin to 2, 47-45, on a pass from Ferris with 2:20 left.

The Indians could not get a basket to fall. Andrew Keast watched two shots bounce out before Nick Angelos got the rebound. The Cowboys turned the ball over, but

Hansen missed and Farris got the rebound. Neither team could score for the next three minutes until Nick Angelos tied the game at 47 with 2:20 left.

"Tanner and Nick both did good things in the post," McLean said. "The second half, our kids did a good job of getting Tanner and Nick the ball."

The Cowboys had four players in double figures, with Smith posting 15 points to lead the team. Farris had 13, Nick Angelos 12 and Doll 10. Travis Angelos had 2 points on free throws.

For the game, the Cowboys hit 50 percent from the floor (20-40) and 80 percent of the free throws (8-10).

The Indians hit 37.8 percent for the game (17-45) and hit both free throws they shot. The Cowboys has six fouls in the game while the Indians had 12, and Hansen fouled out in the last two minutes.

McLean said he thought the Cowboys had a good chance to win if they could get 60 percent of the rebounds. The Cowboys out rebounded the Indians 23 to 13, and Nick Angelos led the Cowboys with 11.

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School calendar for March 7 to March 13

Wednesday: Gold Day, State Basketball Tournament, Elementary Bank Day, PDC Meeting at 3:45 p.m., West Spring Pictures at 8 a.m., 7 p.m. City Country Recreation.

Thursday: Black Day, State Basketball Tournament, Central School Spring Pictures, 6:30 p.m. Elks Hoop Shoot Practice at Junior High Gym, First day of competition for Boys Tennis.

Friday: Gold Day, State Basketball Tournament, 4 p.m. 4-H Days & Talent Night.

Saturday: State Basketball Tournament.

Monday: 6 p.m. Basketball Coaches All-League Selection at Colby, 6 p.m. Board of Education Meeting.

Tuesday: Gold Day, West Site Council Meeting - 4 p.m., Third Grade Music Program at 7 p.m.

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