

# Cowboys advance to playoffs after win

By Tom Betz  
ntbetz@nwks.com

The Cowboys are in Andale tonight at 5 p.m., facing the undefeated Class 4A champions in the bi-district round of the football playoffs, and hope to erase some embarrassment from Goodland's trip to Andale in the bi-district playoffs last year.

Thursday the Cowboys came from 19 points behind in the third quarter to defeat the Colby Eagles 41-33 and with a 2-1 district record the Cowboys advance to the playoffs as the District 16 runner-up. The Ulysses Tigers advance as the District 16 winner with a 3-0 district record.

At the beginning of the fourth quarter Thursday the Colby Eagles appeared to be in command leading 33-14, but a good drive by the Cowboys narrowed the margin to 33-21. Suddenly the Eagles could not hang onto the ball and with 6:51 remaining the Cowboys turned three Eagle turnovers into 27 points to vault over the Eagles into the playoffs.

"That was the craziest game I've ever been involved in," said Cowboys Coach Jonathan Dansel. "It was the greatest comeback I've ever seen."

Dansel gathered his team on one end of Dennen Field after the game and told them he was proud of their effort.

"It was an awesome effort and you owned the fourth quarter," he told the team. "We can play with anyone the way you played tonight. We have something to prove in Andale, and we want to play like the Cowboys we know we can be."

"Last year we did not really play like Cowboys, and we have the chance to prove we are a better team."

Colby's coach Chris Gardner said he was not sure what happened in the final minutes.

"I'm not sure of a lot of things right now," he said. "This just hurts."



Cowboys receiver Tanner Smith (above) reached out for the pass, but it was just off his fingers in the corner of the end zone in the fourth quarter Thursday against the Colby Eagles. On the next play Forrest Trachsel caught a pass from Travis Angleos to score and make it 33-21. That began the Cowboys comeback that resulted in a 41-33 Cowboys win. In the first quarter Cowboys running back Fernando Martinez (right photo) broke free for a 52-yard touchdown to put the Cowboys on the scoreboard 7-6.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News



The blur of action began after the Cowboys Forrest Trachsel intercepted an Eagles' pass with 5:15 left.

On the next play Colby's Heath Stephens intercepted a Cowboys pass from quarterback Travis Angleos at the goal line, and it appeared the Eagles were back in command.

However, two plays later Eagle running back Scott McCoy fumbled and the Cowboys recovered at the

Eagle 1-yard line.

Cowboys fullback T.J. Hawkins pushed his way into the end zone to make it 33-27. Cowboys kicker Ren Scherling made the extra point to close the score to 33-28.

The Eagles started in poor field position on the kick off, and on second down the ball was fumbled on a reverse play, but the Eagles recovered with a loss of seven yards to the Eagles 7-yard line. On

third down Stephens fumbled the exchange from the center and the Cowboys recovered at the Eagles 3-yard line.

Hawkins carried for the Cowboys go ahead touchdown giving them the lead 34-33 with 3:07 left. The extra point try was no good.

Colby's coach kept yelling that there was plenty of time, and the Eagles started to move the ball getting a first down at their 38-yard line

with about two minutes left.

Hawkins had other ideas as he stepped in front of a pass and returned it to the Eagle 5-yard line.

"I just dropped back into coverage and read the quarterback's eyes all the way," Hawkins said.

Hawkins got his third touchdown run to give the Cowboys a 40-33 lead. Scherling's extra point kick was good making it 41-33.

With 1:54 left Colby Coach Gard-

ner told his team there was time to score and get a two-point conversion to tie the game.

The Eagles moved the ball on a 15-yard run by Stephens, but his next two passes were incomplete. The Eagles pulled out a trick play with a backward pass to Stephen Dinkel, but his pass was intercepted by Cowboys Brandon Rome to seal the win.

## Goodland comes back from 33-14 deficit to beat Colby 41-33

The Cowboys comeback gave them the final regular season win over the rival Colby Eagles 41-33, and got them into the Class 4A bi-district playoffs for the second year with a 3-6 record.

The game was not pretty for either side in the first half as the Cowboys started the game with a Travis Angleos pass interception that Thomas Wieland pulled in at the Cowboys 39. The Eagles moved the ball down to inside the Cowboys 20, but fumbled on third down. The Eagles recovered and settled for a field goal try that was wide right.

The Cowboys were unable to

move the ball and had to punt. The Eagles again were deep in Cowboys territory and had a first and goal at the Cowboys 1-yard line, but the Eagles fumbled and the Cowboys recovered.

The Cowboys were unable to move and the Eagles had their next possession at the Cowboys 27. This time Mitchell Tuma held onto the ball and scored on a 14-yard run. The extra point by Stephen Dinkel was good making it 7-0 with 6:08 left in the first quarter.

The Cowboys started on their 20-yard line. Angelos kept for nine yards. On second down Goodland's

Fernando Martinez put out his hand to stiff arm an Eagle and caught the facemask. The Cowboys were penalized back to their 21-yard line.

On the next play Martinez gained 7 to the 28. On third down Martinez broke free and ran 72 yards for the touchdown to bring the Cowboys within 1-point 7-6. The extra point try was no good.

The next Cowboys drive got to the Eagles' 5-yard line, but senior Casey Henderson fumbled and the Eagles recovered at their 2 at the end of the quarter.

The Eagles faced a third and 8 from the 4 when Heath Stephens

broke up the middle and went 96-yards for the touchdown and with the extra point the Eagles had a 14-6 lead.

Later in the second quarter the Cowboys again had a first down at the Eagle 5, but Henderson fumbled and Colby recovered.

The Eagles moved the ball out to their 46, but Tanner Kriss fumbled and Hawkins recovered for the Cowboys. The Cowboys were unable to move and punted to the Eagles. The Eagles scored their third touchdown on a 53-yard pass from Stephens to Tuma making it 21-6 with 1:04 left in the half.

The Cowboys started at their 15 after Henderson fumbled and then recovered the kick off. Angleos carried for 60 yards to the Eagles 20. The Cowboys moved to a first down at the 3-yard line on a pass to Henderson with 16 second left in the quarter. Martinez carried to the 1-yard line, and Angelos spiked the ball with 3 seconds left. Angelos reached the ball across the goal line on the final play of the half. Henderson carried for the two-point conversion and the Cowboys had closed to within 7 at 21-14.

In the third quarter the Eagles took three plays to score with Ste-

phens carrying from the 44 to make it 27-14. The two-point conversion was no good.

The teams traded punts. The Cowboys were moving into Eagle territory again when Henderson fumbled and Colby recovered at their 29.

It took the Eagles eight plays to move down the field with Travis Parker scoring on a pass from Stephens to make it 33-14 with 1:10 left in the third quarter.

From that point Colby started moving backwards and the Cowboys comeback began.

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### School calendar for October 31 to November 6

- Wednesday:** Gold Day. PDC screening.
- Thursday:** Black Day. 4 to 8 p.m., parent teacher conferences.
- Friday:** No school. 8 a.m. to noon, parent teacher conferences.
- Saturday:** Boys varsity football at regional. 8 a.m., KMEA junior high band and choir at Hays High School. 8 a.m., KMEA district high school band and choir at Fort Hays State University.
- Sunday:** Daylight Savings Time ends.
- Monday:** Fall athletic buffer week. 3:45 p.m., Family, Community and Career Leaders of America wiffleball tournament. 3 p.m., junior high scholars bowl.
- Tuesday:** Gold Day. Junior high picture retakes. North school picture retakes. 3 p.m., high school scholars' bowl at Oberlin. 4 p.m., West Elementary Site Council meeting. 3:30 p.m., 7th and 8th basketball vs. Hoxie. 6 p.m., Herb Swartzkoff basketball clinic.



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