

Cowboys fall to Lakin

By Tom Betz
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The pace was fast at times, but the Cowboys couldn't break through the Lakin Broncos' inside defense and found themselves on the losing end 64-49 Friday night in a game at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

The Cowboys took the lead early in the first quarter 4-3, but the Broncos took over and lead 14-8 at the buzzer. In the second quarter, the Cowboys got a lift from a three-point baskets from junior Greg Farris and senior Preston Dautel, plus two field goals by senior Josh Duke and a field goal and five free throws from junior Brandon Rome, but the Broncos still outscored them 22-17 for a 36-25 half-time lead.

Both teams had trouble with fouls in the first half, with more than 10 called on each side including an intentional foul call against Goodland senior Tanner Smith for pushing off half way through the second period. Cowboys junior Travis Angelos, Smith and the Broncos seniors Braden Barnhardt and Andrew Rosales drew charging calls.

In the third quarter, Smith got a pass from Farris to cut the lead to single digits, 36-27. The Broncos and Cowboys traded baskets, with each team scoring 14 points to make it 50-39 at the end of the period.

Rome passed to Duke in the fourth to cut the margin back to single digits, 50-41, but the Broncos hit the next three baskets to put the lead out to 56-41, and a three-point basket from Lakin junior Wyatt Rice made it 59-43 with 4:45 left. The Cowboys were outscored 14-10 in the final quarter to lose 64-49.

Rome led the Cowboys' scoring with 13 points on four field goals and five free throws in the second quarter. Duke had 10 points on five field goals and Dautel had 10 points on two three-point baskets, a field goal and two free throws in the fourth.

Farris had 9 with two free throws, one three-point basket and two field goals. Smith had 5 with two field goals and one free throw. Angelos had 2 on one field goal.

The Cowboys loss gives them a 2-4 record. The game was the first for the team since the Christmas break and begins a busy January.

The Cowboys will play at 7 p.m. tonight in Quinter to make up a game that was postponed because of snow in December.



Cowboys junior Travis Angelos tried to drive the baseline against Lakin Broncos senior Reed McAtee during a game on Friday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. The Broncos won 64-49.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

The boys then will return to the Max Jones Fieldhouse on Friday and Saturday to face Rawlins

County and Hays High. The Hays game was another of those postponed from December.

Cowgirls comeback comes up a little short

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The Cowgirls battled back twice in the fourth quarter to take a one-point lead, but the more experienced Lakin Lady Broncos were able to surge ahead and win 50-46 on Friday at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

"When we got the lead, I thought we were in great shape," said Coach Don Smith, "but then they ran off about eight points and we fell down defensively to let them win."

Both the Cowgirls and Lady Broncos had trouble scoring early in the game, which was 3-2 in favor of Lakin halfway through the first period. Lakin jumped out in the second half of the quarter to lead Goodland 14-5.

"We have a tendency to have terrible starts for our games, and we find ourselves down eight to 10 points," Smith said. "It is hard to get back into the game. We have on a couple of occasions, but that has not been the trend."

"We need to take what we do in practice and transfer it to the game. Our young ladies need to do a better job in the start to give us a chance to win."

The Cowgirls began scoring better in the second quarter, but were down by 10 at halftime, 30-20.

Smith said he talked about the problem the girls were having keeping Lakin from getting second shots at the basket.

"We showed them with 15 offensive rebounds at half-time," he said. "We did not allow any of those in the second half, and that was a good accomplishment for the girls."

"It wasn't that we played a bad game, but we gave them more than one shot at the basket in the first half. We have to rebound better as a team."

Smith said it was not good to have one person have half of the team's rebounds, noting that senior Sammie Raymer got 14 out of 30 for the night.

Goodland closed the gap to 38-33 in the third quarter, then went on an eight-point run to tie the game at 38 on a three-point basket by Raymer and a field goal by freshman Ashley Archer with 6:47 left in the fourth.

The Lady Broncos retook the lead, but Raymer hit a free throw and a field goal to give the Cowgirls a 41-40 lead with 5:15 left.

Then Lakin scored four baskets to lead 48-41 with less than 2 1/2 minutes left.

Junior Courtney Sheldon's three-point basket cut the lead to 48-44 with under one minute left. Lakin got an insurance basket with 20 seconds left to make it 50-44, and Junior Shelbi Hall passed to Sheldon for a final basket at the buzzer to make it 50-46.

Raymer led the Cowgirls' scoring with 17 points on one three-point shot, five field goals and four of nine from the free throw line. Sheldon had 11 points off three three-point baskets and one field goal.

Hall had 6 points with a field goal in each of the first three quarters. Freshman Jade Herl had 5 points on one field goal in the first quarter and a three-point basket

in the third quarter. Archer has 4 points on one field goal in the fourth quarter, and made two of three free throws. Junior Erika Gonzales had 3 points on a field goal and one of two free throws in the second quarter. Junior Whitney Schields did not score, missing two free-throw attempts in the second quarter.

The Cowgirls hit 23.8 percent of their three-point shots (5 of 21) and 35.8 percent of their field goals (12 of 34). The Lady Broncos hit 14.3 percent of their three-point shots (1 of 7) and 41.2 percent of their field goals (21 of 51). The Lady Broncos out rebounded the Cowgirls 39 to 30, and had 15 offensive rebounds to 10 for the Cowgirls.

"We have to be better at playing defense if we are going to have a chance to win," Smith said. "We will have games with better shooting, but it is the blocking out and rebounding that make a real difference."

He said there were some positives, and it was great that the girls were able to come back from the 10-point deficit. "They have a desire to win," he said, "but it is the small things that make the difference between winning and losing in a close game."

He said Sheldon gave the team a huge spark. Smith said Sheldon has been practicing well, and she took advantage of that in the game, he said, adding that Sheldon had shown her ability in junior varsity games, especially against Scott City before the break.

"We are young, but we can't use that as an excuse for the whole year," he said.

The game was the first for the Cowgirls since the Christmas break and the first of a busy January that includes the game tonight at 5:30 p.m. in Quinter, which had been postponed in December because of snow. Friday, the Cowgirls face Rawlins County at 5:30 p.m., and Saturday the postponed games against Hays High will be played at 5:30 p.m., with both nights at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

The loss left the Cowgirls with a 1-5 record.

Smith said Quinter had a few girls graduate, but not as many as Goodland. He said they are going to be tough, and that Quinter is not an easy place to play.

"It has been a hard place for us," he said. "I am not sure why, but it has been a tough place. I am sure we are going to see some pressure, and we will have to show we can handle it. It goes back to that first quarter thing, where we have to handle it and then the other team will pull back."

He said the girls did well against the Lakin press in the first half and they called it off, but when Goodland got the lead, Lakin went back to the press and the Cowgirls made more mistakes, giving the Lady Broncos some easy baskets.

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School calendar for January 8 to January 15

Today: Black Day. 4 p.m., West Site Council. 3:30 p.m., Eighth grade basketball against Burlington and Seventh grade basketball at Burlington. 5:30 p.m., junior varsity basketball against Quinter. 7 p.m., varsity basketball against Quinter.
Wednesday: GoldDay. Elementary Bank Day. 4 p.m., Central Site Council. 8:30 a.m., Northwest Kansas League meeting at Colby. 6 p.m., Northwest Kansas Technical College enrollment.
Thursday: Black Day. 3:30 p.m., Seventh and Eighth grade basketball at Oberlin.
Friday: Gold Day. End of Second nine weeks. 3:45 p.m., varsity, junior varsity, C team basketball against Atwood. Family, Community and Career Leaders of America Flag Ceremony and Money Grab.
Saturday: 9 a.m., varsity wrestling at Oberlin. 8:30 a.m., junior varsity wrestling at Hays Junior Prairie Classic Wrestling. 7 p.m., American Field Service evening.
Monday: No school, teacher professional day. 7 p.m., Goodland School Board meeting. 3:45 p.m., varsity, junior varsity and C team basketball against Scott City.

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