

Last quarter scoring gives Cowgirls win

The Cowgirls and Oberlin Lady Red Devils played an even first half on Friday night in Oberlin, but the Cowgirls exploded in the fourth quarter to take a 49-36 league win.

"We'll take the win," said Cowgirls Coach Don Smith. "I am not sure if we played again it would come out that way."

Smith had said before the game he thought the two teams were a lot alike and had similar skills.

"We had one spell where we passed the ball really well and got some easy shots that broke the game open," he said.

Both teams went into the game with identical 4-9 records, and appeared to be evenly matched as the lead changed hands four times and was tied once in the first quarter with the Lady Red Devils leading 11-7. Freshman Jade Herl had 5 of the Cowgirls points in the first quarter.

In the second quarter the Cowgirls got a basket and free throw from senior Sammie Raymer to close the gap to 11-10, and within a few second freshman Ashley Archer had give the Cowgirls back the lead 12-11 with one minute gone in the second quarter.

The two teams continued to play evenly with the lead changing hands six times in the second quarter and the first half ended with another tie 19-19. The Cowgirls were out rebounding the Lady Red Devils in the first half.

"I thought we did a nice job on the rebound in the first half," he said. "They got several more offensive rebounds in the second half. I feel the biggest thing for us was the rebounding edge. It was good to win that particular category."

In the first few minutes of the

third quarter the two teams again traded leads and had one tie before the Cowgirls got a six-point run to take a 27-21 lead with four minutes left in the quarter. The Lady Red Devils stayed close and cut the margin to four, 32-28 at the end of three quarters.

In the fourth quarter things got sort of strange with the Cowgirls going on another six-point run to lead 36-28 with 6:19 left.

A technical foul was called on the Oberlin bench and Herl made the free throws to make it a 10-point lead 38-28. Less than a minute later Raymer hit another basket and a second technical foul was called on the Oberlin coach and Coach Terry Ream was told to leave the court. Herl made both of the free throws to make it a 42-28 lead.

In the final minutes the Cowgirls took their time and forced Oberlin into fouling. Herl got the final two points on free throws with less than two minutes left.

Cowgirls Coach Don Smith brought in the younger players for the final minutes as the Cowgirls won 49-36.

"With our sickness we got some good play from our bench," Smith said "Courtney Sheldon and Erika Gonzales had good minutes for us. Erika came in and played very solid defense. She didn't score any points, but she had six rebounds with three being offensive and three defensive.

"We used Alexis Bateman to help rotate people, and adjusted our offense depending on who was on the floor. I felt we could do well if we could hold down some of their better shooters. I think they had one girl in double figures, and she had

not been a main scorer in the past. I think we were able to shut down their big players and hold them to about six points."

Raymer and Herl led the Cowgirls with 15 points each and Archer was in double figures with 12. Shelbi Hall had 4, Bateman had 2 and Sheldon had 1. Sheldon started in place of Whitney Schields who was ill and did not make the trip. Jessica Geist did not make the trip as Smith only had 10 girls for the trip to Oberlin. He said Michelle Smith, who has been mostly on the junior varsity has an injury and is out for the season reducing the Cowgirls numbers.

The Cowgirls out rebounded Oberlin 29 to 25. The Cowgirls hit 10 percent from long range (1 of 10), 53 percent from the floor (17 of 32) and 71 percent of their free throws (12 of 17). Oberlin hit 14 percent from long range (1 of 7), 34 percent from the floor (14 of 41) and 83 percent of their free throws (5 of 6).

"The first thing I will be interested in on Monday is where are we on sickness," Smith said.

Looking ahead he said it will be an extremely challenging week for the girls.

The Cowgirls are now 5-9, and tonight at 5:30 p.m. they face the Garden City Lady Buffaloes at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Friday the Cowgirls will be in St. Francis for another tough Northwest Kansas league match up and then back at Max Jones Fieldhouse on Saturday to face Dodge City.

"As we said before with the stuff that is going around we will be fortunate to get through without losing a couple more of our girls."



Cowgirl freshman Jade Herl pushed the ball up the court against the Lady Red Devils Friday in Oberlin. Herl had 15 points for the Cowgirls in their 49-36 win. Photo by Jim Merritt/The Oberlin Herald

Champion basketball team has 40-year reunion

By Avery Schultz
The Colby Free Press

Even 40 years later, the excitement from winning a state championship could still be felt in the maroon and white gymnasium where the Brewster Bulldogs play ball.

Friday, Brewster's 1968 Class BB championship team was honored during the Bulldogs' game against Golden Plains.

"A few missing and gray hairs, but we're pretty much the same guys," said Bill Deeds during the reunion with team members.

Members of the team were Roger Blau, Jim Childers, Anthony Classi, Bill Finley, Charles Lehman, Jim McKee, Lance Reid, Steve Thummel, David Wicks, Bill Deeds and coach Don Dawes.

All were in attendance Friday except for the late Roger Blau.

In 1968 in Dodge City, the nine players and their coach were prepared to take on the Lucas Demons for the title. The Bulldogs had made it to the state tournament the previous year but were beat in the first round by the Burden Raiders 75-72.

Brewster beat Lucas 59-51 for the title. Brewster started the tournament beating Corning 72-53. In the semifinal round, Brewster defeated Argonia 52-43. Deeds, McKee and Thummel were all named to the all-tournament team.

The Bulldogs finished the season 24-3. The three losses were consecutive, Shawnee Mission North, Dodge City and Cimarron. 1968

was the last year Class BB existed.

After the Brewster-Golden Plains boys' game Friday, the team, coach, family members, friends and others gathered at Hunter Hall in Brewster for a reception. Yearbooks and other memoirs of the team's incredible year were on display.

"The enthusiasm of the entire community was great," Lehman said. "We had all played together for four years and there was a certain awareness on the court. It was kind of like winning was our destiny. We might have been behind at halftime, but we had the confidence to succeed during every game."

Leham said Dawes' leadership on the floor was key.

"Don Dawes' calm direction and guidance helped keep us all very

focused on the game," he said.

Lehman also explained how much of a great experience it was to have a winning team from a small town.

"Basketball for Brewster has always been a social outlet for the young and old," he said. "Basketball games allow everyone to get connected."

Jim McKee, whose son Jance now plays for the Bulldogs, said there was plenty of emotion during the anniversary.

"Being here is definitely an experience you wouldn't want to miss," he said. "It's nice to reminisce about what a good time we had."

"We were a very close bunch when we were playing. There wasn't just one person who played better

than anyone — we just worked really well together. Since most of us had played basketball together since the sixth or seventh grade, it was just kind of like we knew where the other guys were going to be on the court."

Coach Dawes agreed: "The guys all got along well together. They were a very tight-knit group, and it's nice that they all made an attempt to get back here tonight."

He described the guys' teamwork: "There might have been other teams that were better, but they had to prove they were better when they played us. Out of all my years of

coaching, this team was probably my favorite."

Being a part of a tradition like Brewster basketball has obviously impacted all of these men and is rooted deep within the town of Brewster and its residents.

"It's nice to see that the townspeople still get behind the teams like they used to," Deeds said.

Wrestling Enthusiast Meeting

Wednesday, January 30, 2008, at 7:00 PM, in the Goodland High School cafeteria. Anyone interested in wrestling is encouraged to attend!



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School calendar for January 29 to February 5

Today: Gold Day. 3:30 p.m., Eight grade basketball against Scott City and seventh grade at Scott City. 5:30 p.m., varsity and junior varsity basketball against Garden City.

Wednesday: Black Day. PDC Screening. Family, Community and Career Leaders of American District A elections at Norton.

Thursday: Gold Day. 3:30 p.m., Seventh- and eighth-grade basketball against Atwood. Regional scholars bowl. 5 p.m., junior varsity basketball at Colby junior varsity tournament. 3:30 p.m., junior wrestling triangular at Quinter with Colby.

Friday: Black Day. 5:30 p.m., varsity and junior varsity wrestling against St. Francis. 5:30 p.m., varsity and junior varsity basketball at St. Francis.

Saturday: 9:30 a.m., junior varsity wrestling at Stratton Wrestling Tourney. 1 p.m., KSHSAA Regional Piano Festival at Hays. 1 p.m., varsity, C team and junior varsity basketball against Dodge City.

Monday: 6 p.m., National Honor Society Interviews.

Tuesday: Black Day. 4 p.m., eighth grade basketball at Burlington and seventh grade basketball against Burlington. 2 p.m., junior high wrestling at Cheyenne Wells Tournament. 7 p.m., third grade music program in high school auditorium.

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