

Cowgirls struggle with Lady Buffaloes height



Cowgirl Hope Cochran (left) found her shot blocked by Atwood's Hillary Chvatal on Tuesday at Max Jones. Cowgirl Jennifer Rome (above) tried to shoot past the arm of Atwood's Nicole Connell.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

By Tom Betz
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Two tall girls from Rawlins County made basketball a tough game for the Cowgirls and the Lady Buffaloes were able to defeat Goodland 45-34 on Tuesday at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

The blocking, rebounding and shooting of Buffaloes 6 foot 2 inches junior Hillary Chvatal made it tough for the Cowgirls as she had 24 of the Atwood 45 points and 21 rebounds. She had 8 offensive rebounds and 13 defensive. She was credited with 4 blocked shots, but many times when a Cowgirl would penetrate inside Chvatal would simply stop a shot and force a turnover.

Cowgirls Coach Andy Scheopner said the height was a problem for his team.

The Cowgirls have three games left in the regular season with a game tonight at Hugoton (4-11) and games at Max Jones Fieldhouse on Tuesday and Friday against Scott City (6-11) and Ulysses (3-14).

Goodland is currently fourth in the Great Western Activity Conference behind Colby (15-2 and 7-1 in league after losing to Holcomb 47-44 at Colby on Tuesday), Holcomb (14-3 and 6-1 league) second and Scott City (4-4 league) third. The Cowgirls have a chance to move into third place in league with a couple of wins in the final games. A third place finish would insure the first sub state game would be at Max Jones.

Coach Scheopner watched as the Cowgirls had an early 4-0 lead, but the Lady Buffaloes cut into that at the free throw line to make it 4-3.

The Buffaloes tied the game at 7-7 with 2:14 left in the first on two free throws.

Goodland led again 9-7, but the Buffaloes scored the final two baskets to take an 11-9 lead.

Neither team did a lot of scoring in the second quarter, but the Buffaloes outscored the Cowgirls 8 to 4 to lead 19-13 at halftime. The Cowgirls tried to take advantage of Buffaloe miscues caused by the Goodland press, but the Cowgirls were unable to convert the turnovers into points.

The Cowgirls tried to cut into the Buffaloes lead in the third quarter,

but when they cut it to 5 points at 21-16 the Buffaloes responded with a 3-point shot to make it 24-16.

With under four minutes left Paige Phillips hit a shot to make it 24-18. With 1:47 left two free throws by Jennifer Rome cut the lead to four at 24-20, and it appeared the Cowgirls were coming back with a steal and basket by Phillips to cut it to 24-22.

The Buffaloes went on a 5-0 run to end the quarter leading 29-22.

Atwood began the fourth with a basket by Keshia Green to make it 31-22 with 7:25 left.

A foul on Jade Herl got her to the free throw line to end the Buffaloes scoring run as she hit both to make it 31-24 with 7:12 left.

Chvatal was fouled on a shot by Phillips and made a three-point play with a free throw to make it 34-24 with 6:15 left.

Ashley Archer finally found a way to the basket to make it 34-26 at 6:05.

The Buffaloes started passing the ball around with 5:16 left, and Rome got two fouls to put the Buffaloes at the line in the bonus. With 4:37 left Green hit one free throw for Atwood to make it 35-26.

A foul on Herl put Chvatal at the line where she hit two free throws to make it 37-26.

Rome hit a basket to make it 37-28. Another foul on Herl put Green at the line and she hit two free throws to make it 39-28.

Another Atwood basket made the lead 41-28 with 2:25 left.

Archer had another shot blocked by Chvatal and the Buffaloes started spreading things out and passing the ball around. Archer got another steal and this time was able to score to make it 41-30.

Goodland took a time out with 1:22 left. M'Lynn Hinger got a steal, but the Buffaloes got it right back to make it 43-30, and with 40 seconds left led 45-30.

In the final 20 seconds Herl hit a basket and then got a pass from Archer for a final basket to make the final score 45-34.

Listen to the action tonight on KKCI 102.5 FM or on line at nwkansasradio.com.

Maverick wrestlers named all academic

Northwest Tech Maverick wrestlers qualified two for the National Junior College National Championships, and two were named Academic All-Americans.

Coach Steve Lampe was pleased Caleb Crump won the Regional Championship and Ricardo Valdez placed fourth to qualify for the national tournament to be held Friday and Saturday, Feb. 25-26 in Spokane, Wash.

Crump is a first year student in Business from Mountain View, Ariz. Valdez is a HVAC/R student from Rio Rico, Ariz.

"I have to commend these men on a very difficult season and congratulate them on their accomplishment on qualifying for Nationals," said Coach Lampe, "These are the first wrestlers in the history of Northwest Tech to qualify for Nationals, such an exciting time for the Mavericks!"

Another award given to Crump was the Academic All American Award.

Another Maverick Wrestler who received the Academic All American Award was Daulet Aliev. Aliev is a first year Business student who came to Northwest Tech from Uzbekistan. Aliev has been named the Student of the Month in his program.

To receive the honor of the Academic All American Award, the wrestler must have a Grade Point Average of 3.0 or greater. This award will be presented to these men at Nationals on behalf of the NJCAA Coaches Association.

Individual results from West Central Zone Powell, Wyo.
Alex Akers (fifth place) – 125 pounds – lost a 7-3 decision to Garrett Jones of Labette. Lost a 9-4 decision to Jeff Vesta of Neosho.
Aliev – 157 pounds – lost 3-1

decision to Keegan Smith of Pratt. Lost major decision 9-1 to Zach Oppenheimer of Northwest.

Crump (regional champion) – 165 pounds – won by fall (6:46) over Chase Hollenbeck of Colby. Won by major decision 13-5 over Dylan Bushby of Western. Won championship in 2-1 decision over Kyle Buckley of Labette.

Lorenzo Delgado – 174 pounds – lost 3-0 decision to Tracer Hudson of Pratt. Lost 7-6 decision to Edwin Gutierrez of Neosho.

Taylor Wuthnow – 197 – lost

by fall (5:52) to Simas Norkus of Western. Won 3-2 decision over Jon Arnold of Neosho. Lost 4-3 decision to Blake Steiret of Colby. Won by default over Brandon Smith of Pratt.

Valdez (fourth) – 285 pounds – won 7-3 decision over Brandon Dudley of Pratt. Lost by fall (5:42) to Reno RedLeaf of Labette. Lost 4-2 decision to Fabian Guerrero of Colby.

Northwest Tech wishes the Mavericks the best of luck at Nationals in Spokane. For more informa-

tion on the wrestling team and schedule, please go to our website at www.nwktc.edu or call 1-800-316-4127.

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