

Cowgirls defeat Monarchs, move on

By Greg Stover
The Goodland Star-News
The Cowgirls basketball team had a great substate tournament, and finished with a 52-37 win over Thomas More Prep-Marian in the championship Saturday in Scott City and earning a spot in this week's state Class 4A championships.

The Cowgirls, the No. 5 seed, will take on the Lady Jaguars of Andover Central High at 7:15 p.m. (Mountain Time) Wednesday at the Bicentennial Center in Salina in the first round of the state tournament.

In Saturday's final, the Lady Monarchs had the advantage in the first half leading 13-12 after the first period and 22-18 at halftime. However, trailing 29-24 with over two minutes left in the third quarter, the Cowgirls took charge scoring nine of the next 11 points and held a 33-31 lead going into the final period.

That momentum continued in the fourth quarter as Goodland outscored the Monarchs 19-6 making the final score 52-37.

Goodland started the substate tournament last Monday with a 66-35 win over the Lady Beavers of Scott Community High in front of the hometown fans at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Thursday at Al Billinger Fieldhouse in Scott City, the Cowgirls faced the Lady Eagles of Colby for the third time this season in the semifinals. The teams split their games during the regular season with the visiting team winning both times.

The long-time rivalry was no less intense at a neutral site as the teams battled for 32 minutes with Goodland winning by a point 32-31. The combined margin of victory for all three games was four points.

Colby scored first on a basket by Lissa Mazanec after which neither scored for nearly four minutes. The Eagles scored three more points before junior Emily Murray put Goodland on the scoreboard with a basket making the score 5-2.

After that both teams scored six points to make the score 11-8 going into the second period. The Cowgirls outscored Colby 7-6 in the second and trailed by two at halftime 17-15.

Junior Whitney Archer scored the first basket of the second half to tie the game at 17 then after over two minutes of scoreless play Murray scored to give Goodland its first lead of the game 19-17.

However, the Lady Eagles responded with six straight points to reclaim the lead 23-19. The Cowgirls then returned the favor scoring six straight retaking the lead 25-23. Mazanec scored with about 50 seconds left in the third to make it 25-23 heading into the final period.

Archer broke the tie with a basket 20 seconds into the fourth quarter but Mazanec scored four straight to give Colby a 29-27 lead. Archer hit a three-pointer putting Goodland back in front 30-29 which was followed by over four minutes of scoreless play.

Billinger broke the scoring drought with a pair of free throws with 61 seconds left in the game. Colby's Jessica Stephens stole the ball and scored to get the Eagles within one, 32-31, with about 20 seconds left on the clock.

Colby fouled three times in the final seconds and although Goodland failed to increase their lead at the free throw line, the Eagles could not capitalize on their opportunities. Colby tried to move the ball down the court in the final

three seconds but the Cowgirls intercepted a pass near midcourt to seal the win.

Archer led Goodland against the Eagles with 13 points. Billinger, Murray along with seniors Justeen Koehler and Melissa Swager all scored four points. Sophomore Samantha Raymer had three points.

Mazanec scored a game-high 14 points to lead Colby.

The substate final Saturday, the Lady Monarchs took a 3-0 lead on a three-pointer by Sharlie Staab but two minutes later Billinger scored from behind the arc to give the Cowgirls a 7-5 lead.

A basket by Sheri Hertel with just over a minute left in the first period put the Monarchs back in the lead 11-10 after which the teams exchanged baskets to make it 13-12 going into the second quarter.

Archer scored a basket putting the Cowgirls in front 14-13 with Koehler scoring about a minute later to increase Goodland's lead to 16-13. A basket by Raymer made it 18-13 but the Monarchs responded with nine straight points to close out the period and take a 22-18 lead at halftime.

Thomas More-Marian led throughout the third quarter except for the final 15 seconds when Billinger hit from three-point range from the top of the key to put Goodland ahead 33-31.

Goodland scored six of the first eight points of the fourth quarter for a 39-33 lead. After a basket by Hertel made it 39-35, the Cowgirls scored 13 straight points and led by 17 with less than a minute left.. Hertel scored with 25 seconds scoring for the final points of the game as Goodland won 52-37.

Murray scored a game-high 16 points to lead the Cowgirls in scor-



Junior Emily Murray (with ball at right) looked for an open teammate Saturday in the substate title game against Thomas More Prep-Marian.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

ing for the first time this season. Billinger and Archer both scored nine, with Koehler scoring eight.

Schiels had six points, and both Swager and Raymer scored two. Hertel led the Lady Monarchs

with 10 points followed by Staab with nine.

Girls seeded fifth in tournament at Salina

The Goodland High girls basketball team is seeded fifth in the state Class 4A championship tournament which starts Wednesday at the Bicentennial Center in Salina.

The Cowgirls take on the fourth-seeded Lady Jaguars of Andover Central at 7:15 p.m. Wednesday. The Jaguars are 19-4 for the season while Goodland is 18-5.

Goodland radio KLOE (730AM) will broadcast the game live with Andrew Melia calling the action. Andover Central advanced to the

state championships by beating Augusta High Saturday 44-29 in the substate final in Augusta.

The Jaguars defeated Andover High School 55-37 last Monday then beat Circle High of Towanda 67-60 Thursday in the semifinals.

Goodland coach Don Smith said the Jaguars' offense is centered around senior Kari Kincaid who scored 37 points Thursday against Towanda.

He said the team shoots a lot of three-pointers and has a real good

post player, which gives them an excellent inside-outside combination.

The Lady Jaguars are members of the Arkansas Valley/Chisholm Trail League and have won their last six games.

The Cowgirls earned their way to the state tournament by first beating Scott City 66-35 last Monday at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Thursday in Scott City, Goodland edged Colby 32-31 in the substate semifinals then beat Thomas More Prep-Marian 52-37 Sat-

urday in the title game.

The Cowgirls are led by senior Justeen Koehler, who has seen action in 22 of 23 games for Goodland averaging over 14 points per game. She scored a career-high 33 points on Feb. 10 against Oakley and has led the team in scoring 11 times this season.

Also scoring in double figures is junior Whitney Archer with 11 points per game in 22 appearances.

She scored a season-high 25 points to lead the Cowgirls last

Monday against Scott City and led the team with 13 points the following Thursday against Colby in the substate semifinals.

Juniors Kaylee Billinger and Emily Murray have played in all 23 contests for Goodland this season with both averaging over seven points per game.

Billinger scored a season-high 16 points last Monday against Scott City and scored 10 or more in eight other games.

Murray scored a season-high 16

to lead the Cowgirls Saturday against the Lady Monarchs in the substate final.

Should the Cowgirls win Wednesday they will face either Labette County or Chapman at 5:30 p.m. Friday.

Labette County is the tournament top seed with a 21-2 record. Chapman, 14-9, is seeded No. 8. Iola High, seeded second, is the only returning team from last year's state championship.

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School calendar for March 8 - March 14

Wednesday - "Black Day"; West spring pictures; Site Council meeting Central School, 4 p.m.; City/county recreation, 7:30 p.m.; State Basketball in Salina.

Thursday - "Gold Day"; State Basketball in Salina; Central School spring pictures.

Friday - "Black Day"; State Basketball in Salina; end of third nine weeks.

Saturday - State Basketball in Salina.

Monday - No school; Board of Education meeting, 7 p.m.

Tuesday - "Black Day"; West Site Council meeting, 4 p.m.

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