

Undefeated

Cubs roll past Mustangs to keep winning streak on track

The Brownfield Cubs solidified their place atop the District 2-2A standings Friday night with a convincing win over the Denver City Mustangs.

Head Coach Dustin Faught worked the Cubs harder than usual during practice last week in preparation for what he felt would be the Brownfield squad's toughest game yet this season.

"We were undefeated coming into the game, which is great on one hand, but dangerous on the other," he said following the win. "We want to have confidence, but we don't want to be cocky. That's how you get beat, so we were careful this week to prepare for anything they might throw at us. They came out swinging, which is what we expected. They really had nothing to lose coming into the game and we had a lot on the line. I'm proud of the win and I'll take it, but I also saw a lot of things we need to work on as we start the second half of our district season."

The Cubs got off to a slow start and let Denver City climb to a 12-4 lead in the opening minutes of the game.

The Cubs came back from the deficit though and finished the first frame on top by one point, 13-12.

Brownfield turned up the intensity in the second quarter and outscored the Mustangs 17-9 in the quarter to up their lead to 30-21 by halftime.

The Cubs' fast pace proved too much for the Mustangs in the second half, must as it has been a factor in each of their district games this season.

A 16-9 scoring run in the third quarter saw the Cubs take a 46-30 lead into the final frame.

The fourth quarter was the only of the game that the Mustangs outscored the Cubs, 15-14, but it wasn't enough to close the gap.

At the end of regulation play, the Cubs took the win -- their ninth in a row and fifth in district -- 60-45.

Brownfield was led on the night by Shacolby Hill, who posted some impressive numbers in the win.

The sophomore led all scorers with 27 points in the game, in addition to three assists.

He was also good for a dozen rebounds against the Mustangs and he notched a pair of steals.

Following Hill's lead was senior Shaun Paiva, who wracked up nine points on the night, as well as six rebounds and one steal.

Elieseo Salas, a junior, was good for seven points in the game, two buckets from behind the arc and one from the free-throw line. He also had three assists, two rebounds and two steals against the Mustangs.

Cole Garcia, also a junior, had six points, all in the second half. He also had one assist and five boards for the Cubs.

Senior Cade Powell hit two three-pointers at key moments to keep the Cubs' momentum headed in the right direction.

Ricky Rodriguez, also a senior, had three points on the night, one assist, two rebounds and two steals.

Rounding out the Cubs' scoring was Jordan Demps, a sophomore, with one bucket in the third quarter.

Demps also had a pair of assists and a pair of steals for the Cubs.

As a team, the Cubs hit 19 of 34 shots from the floor for a 56 percent and five of 14 from behind the arc for 36 percent.

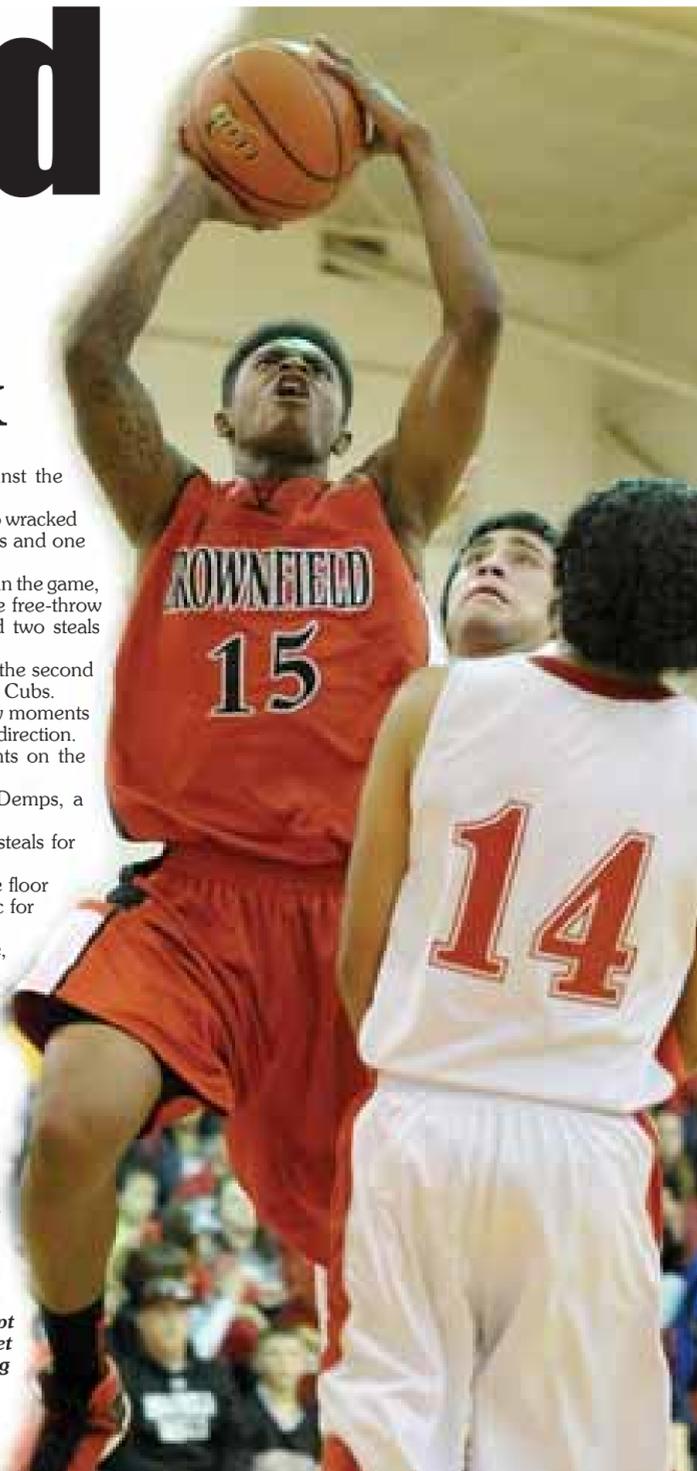
Brownfield shot 50 percent from the charity stripe, netting seven of 14.

A key factor in the dominating win was Brownfield's performance on the boards.

The Cubs wracked up 21 total defensive rebounds.

The Cubs will be back in "The Pit" Tuesday night when they host the Lamesa Golden Tors to open Round 2 of the District 2-2A schedule.

"We're in good shape, but we still have some big games on the calendar that we have to be prepared," Faught said. "We're on top and we want to stay there, so we're going to have to work twice as hard to protect that spot."



Shacolby Hill leapt high for a bucket over a Mustang defender.

Lady Cubs overcome slow first half to top DC Lady Mustangs

The Brownfield Lady Cubs have dropped several games by fewer than five points in District play this season, but Friday night's contest with the Denver City Lady Mustangs saw a different outcome.

A blistering third quarter run along with a first-rate performance by senior Tabby Casteneda pushed the Lady Cubs to a five-point victory over the hosting Lady Mustangs, upping the Lady Cubs district record to

2-5, a week into Round 2 of the district schedule.

"Tabby had a great night for us," said Head Coach Derek Faught following the close game. "We started out so slow, I wasn't sure what we were going to do, but they came out in the third and turned it on. That's why we won this game."

The Lady Cubs scored just eight points in the first quarter and a paltry four more in the second to head into the locker room trailing, 17-12.

However after the break, the Lady Cub came out on fire and posted a 14-0 scoring run to take the lead away from the ski trip.

At the end of the third frame, the Lady Cubs had scored 18 points, to the Lady Mustangs' eight.

The squads headed into the closing quarter with Brownfield leading, 30-25.

Both teams netted 15 points in the closing period, but the host team couldn't overcome the five-point deficit they built up in the third.

Brownfield recorded the 45-40 win at the close of the game.

Casteneda's 18 points led all scorers in the game.

Mallorie Ellis followed her lead with nine points, while Lexi Cruz tallied six.

Sloane Holt had five points in the game.

Notching three points each were Tessa Hope and Ashlee Zambrano.

Lady Cub Destiny Jimenez went for a loose ball along with Denver City players in Friday night's game, which Brownfield won. The Lady Cubs will be back in action Tuesday when they host the Lamesa Golden Tors.

Broncos, Lady Broncos split decisions Friday night

Meadow won again Friday night, and won big.

The Broncos somehow turned a slight halftime deficit into a stampeding 80-51 home victory over Lorenzo. And after the Broncos' frustrating Petersburg loss Tuesday, the win was well-needed for getting their confidence levels back up about their increasingly-likely playoff stretch.

The home team was down 0-7 midway through the first quarter until they sank three straight lay-ups to nearly tie the score, then scored fairly evenly with the Hornets throughout the rest of the first half.

They picked up in the second, though, and didn't stop. Nearly every basket sank while their lead grew steadily and the clock ticked.

"I think in the first half we didn't play really well, but it might have been a hangover from Tuesday," said Coach Kyle Johnson. "In the second half we played the way we're capable of playing."

Scorers included Brandon Flores 5-2 2-2 18, Ralph Urias 4-2 14, Mason Davila 7-0 0-2 14, Tyler Harrison 5-0 10, Christian Herrera 4-0 1-4 9, Adrian Flores 3-0 6, Zach England 2-0 1-3 5 and Trey Herrera 1-0 2-2 4.

The Lady Broncos were less successful with a 46-51 loss to Lorenzo. They couldn't seem to defend early in the game, and suffered more than a few stinging turnovers from the Lady Hornets.

They were down 10-17 at the end of the first quarter, then barely ahead in the second when

senior Bethany Flores landed a three-pointer, and back down 28-34 at halftime and 34-41 at the end of the third.

"Our defense was definitely lacking in the first half, (but) we played better in the second," said Head Coach Ryan Bobo. "Bethany Flores had the best game she's probably ever had."

Scorers included Tamara Vela 3-1 5-6 14, Lexy Silva 3-0 8-13 14, Flores 2-1 2-2 9, Kelsey Saenz 3-0 6 and Katlen Davila

1-0 1-1 3. The Broncos landed 16 of 22 free-throw attempts for 73 percent and the Lady Hornets 16 of 20 for 80 percent.

The Broncos and Lady Broncos will travel to Wilson Tuesday, then be back home Friday to host Ropes. While Petersburg has nearly clinched the boys district championship, the Broncos and Eagles will likely contend for the number-two spot.

The Lady Broncos, at 6-5 in district at 14-14, could still have a slight playoff chance.



Lady Cub Destiny Jimenez went for a loose ball along with Denver City players in Friday night's game, which Brownfield won. The Lady Cubs will be back in action Tuesday when they host the Lamesa Golden Tors.



Lady Bronco Lexi Silva looked for the basket Friday night against Lorenzo in Eagle Gym.

Lady Wildcats get "ugly" win, boys team falls to Sands

Wellman-Union's Lady Wildcats pounced onto a herd of Lady Mustangs Friday night and returned home with another win.

The victory - their second in a row in a constantly-improving 4-7 district season - was 23-15

in Sands and came down to the last few minutes. The Lady 'Cats were behind 4-5 at the end of the first quarter, 6-9 at halftime and 11-14 at the end of the third, but scored 12 points in the fourth while the Lady Mustangs landed only a single

free throw.

"The win was ugly but effective," said Coach Todd Ellis. "We finally woke up and played like we can and won the game in the fourth quarter."

Senior Tori Browne led the Lady 'Cats with six points.

The boys team suffered a 75-19 loss that did not reflect their efforts.

They clawed quite a fight against the top-ranked Mustangs, but were still down 7-29, 14-48 and 19-59 during each of the first three quarters, respec-

tively, and didn't score at all in the fourth.

"The score didn't show, but we did much better," said Head Coach JoeBob Ussery. "We did a lot of good things, (but) we still need to knock down shots and turn over the ball less."

Scorers were Luis Gonzales 7, Vincent Tedford 5, Martin Loewen 3, Kirk Martin 2 and Nathaniel Steiger 2.

The Wildcats and Lady 'Cats will be back home Tuesday to face Grady, another highly-ranked team.