

# Cubs blow past Tors

Brownfield Cubs Head Coach Dustin Faught had reason to worry heading into Tuesday night's Round Two battle with District 2-2A rival Lamesa. His Runnin' Cubs finished the first half of their district schedule last week unscathed and with an undefeated record. Then Monday the team learned that they were ranked in the Texas Association of Basketball Coaches' Top 25 poll.

On top of that, the Golden Tors were looking for revenge after suffering a district-opening loss to the Cubs three weeks ago on their home turf. Cub Gym was filled almost to capacity with one of the largest crowds in recent memory.

All that added up to one big target on the Cubs' backs and Coach Faught said before the contest that he hoped the team's recent success, accolades and hype wouldn't go to their heads and affect their fast-paced style of play.

In the end, none of it mattered to the Cubs. They didn't only beat the Golden Tors, they dominated them for four quarters on both sides of the ball to come away with a statement-making 80-54 win.

"We were just on tonight and we played our game and stuck to our plan," Faught said after the win. "We knew coming in that in order to win, we had to control the tempo and make them play our game. Tonight was the best we've looked so far and we had the fastest hands I've seen in a while. We just overwhelmed them and they got tired and frustrated and we took advantage of that."

The game got off to a furious start with both teams racing from one end of the court to the other, but failing to get a shot to drop for almost two minutes of the first quarter.

Lamesa opened scoring with a free throw, but Brownfield was quick to regain the lead and begin to pull away.

Brownfield's student body, filling "The Pit" to capacity, paid little mind to the action on the court during the opening action, instead making a show of reading the latest edition of the *Brownfield News*.

Their studious habits ended with an uproar though when the Cubs reached 10 points on a shot from behind the arc by senior Ricky Rodriguez. The Cubs had their fans' full attention and riotous support for the remainder of the game.

Lamesa was visibly shaken as the Cubs continued to force turnovers and convert them into points, enough to run up a 15-point lead by the end of the first quarter -- Brownfield on top, 28-13.

The Tors were in foul trouble early, with the Cubs shooting in the bonus with more than a minute left in the first quarter.

Unfortunately, the Cubs hit just four of 10 attempts at the charity stripe in the opening period. Lamesa appeared to threaten the Cubs momentum in the opening minute of the second frame, knocking down a quick, unanswered six points to pull within single digits, 28-19.

**Brownfield Cub Korey Nolan found his way to the basket under pressure in the first half of Tuesday night's District 2-2A match-up with the Lamesa Golden Tors. The Cubs proved too much for the visiting squad.**

But, despite subbing five players at a time, the Tors failed to keep up with the Cubs' blistering speed and the second quarter took much the same course as the first, with Brownfield outscoring the visitors, 26-14 in the period.

At halftime, the Cubs took a 54-27 lead into the locker room.

Lamesa couldn't find an answer after the half either and the Cubs continued to increase their lead through the third quarter.

Brownfield was on top by more than 30 points, 71-39, heading into the final frame.

The Cubs let up in the fourth and spent much of the period managing the clock, which allowed Lamesa to close the gap slightly, but not enough to threaten Brownfield's lead.

The quarter went to the Tors, 15-9, but at the buzzer, the Cubs got the win, 80-54.

"This was a big win and I'm very proud of my guys," Faught said. "They put it all out there tonight and did what we practice and what we preach. If we continue to play like that, we're going to have some fun this year."

Brownfield's defense was on point Tuesday, smothering Lamesa inside and forcing a whopping 16 steals in the contest.

The Cubs were led on the night by Rodriguez, who racked up an impressive 20 points, two assists and two rebounds. Three of the Cubs' steals were his.

Rodriguez hit 80 percent of his shots from the floor and 100 percent at the free throw line.

"Rick had a stellar game tonight," Faught said. "That's what makes us so potent is we have several guys who can have a good night and take control of the game."

Following his lead with double digits were senior Shaun Paiva with 12 points, sophomore Shacolby Hill with 11 and junior Eliseo Salas with 10.

Paiva also dominated defensively Tuesday, credited with six steals on the night, a block and four rebounds.

Hill tallied three assists, two rebounds and two steals to help propel the Cubs to victory.

Salas also had an assist, a rebound and a pair of steals.

Sophomore Korey Nolan pitched in with eight points against the Tors, as well as an assist, a pair of rebounds and a steal.

Sophomore Jordan Demps was good for seven points, two assists, two rebounds and one steal.

Junior Cole Garcia contributed to the Cubs' win with six points, an assist, four rebounds, and a pair of steals.

Malcolm Rainwater, a junior, had four points for the Cubs and was a force underneath the bucket with two assists, four rebounds and a pair of blocked Lamesa shots.

Senior Ryan Caballero had one basket in the game for two points.

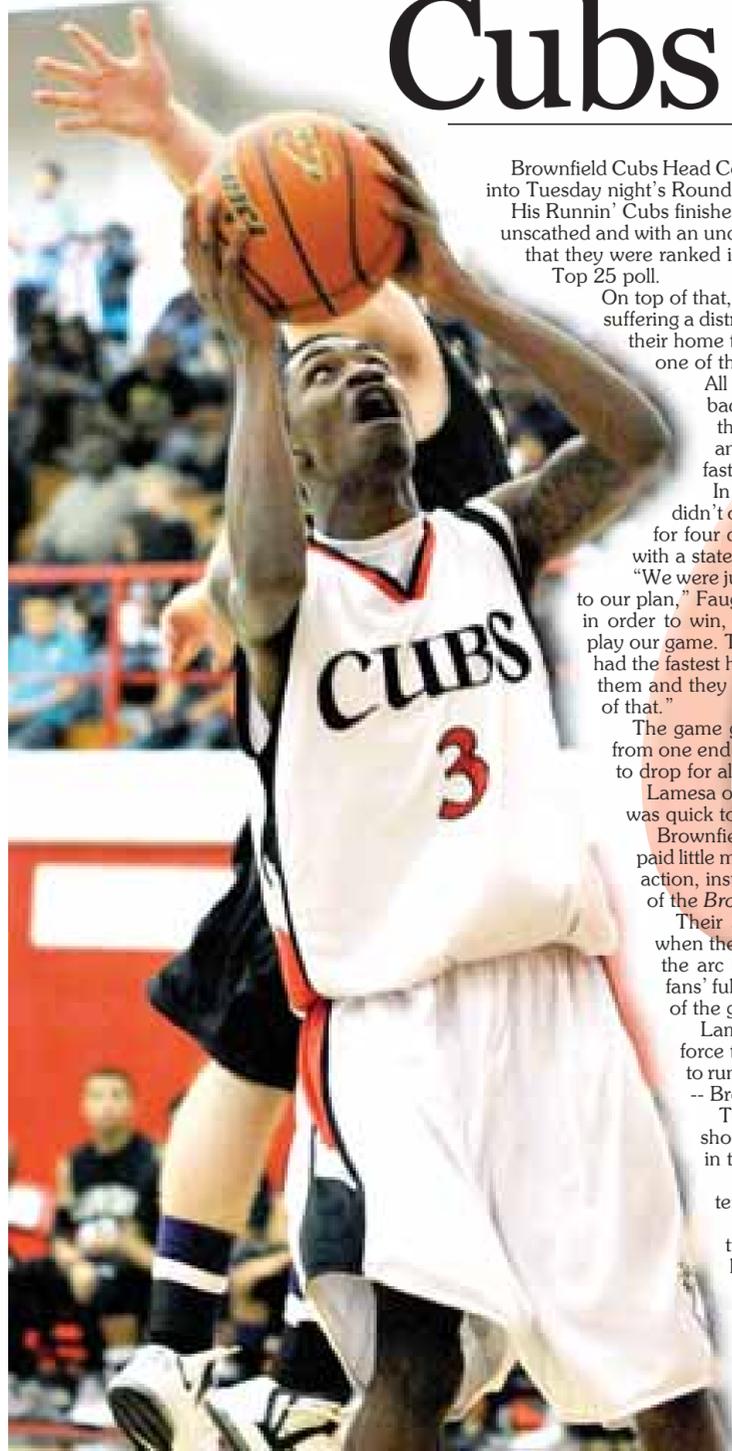
As a team, the Cubs shot just shy of 60 percent from the floor Tuesday night, with the same percentage made from the free throw line.

The Cubs celebrated the win by holding up six fingers, signifying their perfect record thus far in District play.

No other team in their district is undefeated, all but clinching a playoff berth for the Runnin' Cubs.

The Brownfield squad will embark on its final road game of the 2013 district season Friday, travelling to Stanton to continue Round Two of the District 2-2A schedule with an 8 p.m. tipoff.

The Cubs' final three games of the regular season are in Cub Gym, including Denver City, Coahoma and Colorado City.



## Lady Tors too much for Lady Cubs

The Lady Cubs gave it all they had Tuesday night in their second meeting with the Lamesa Lady Tornados, but in the end the visiting team proved more than the Brownfield squad could handle.

The Lady Cubs jumped out to an early lead, notching a 6-1 advantage in the opening minutes of the game, but the Lady Tors quickly took control of the game and moved ahead for good with a 12-0 scoring run to close out the first frame.

At the close of the first quarter, Lamesa enjoyed a 13-6 lead.

The Lady Tors widened the gap in the second period, knocking down five baskets and four free throws for a 14 point quarter.

The Lady Cubs tallied nine points in the second quarter, on trio of three pointers

from a trio of players.

Lady Cubs Madison Ellis, Lexi Cruz and Ashlee Zambrano all hit treys to keep their squad in the hunt before the half.

Lamesa carried a 27-15 lead into the locker room at the half.

The Lady Cubs hung with the visitors shot-for-shot in the third quarter with both squads adding an even dozen points.

Mallorie Ellis and Tabby Castenada each hit a bucket from behind the arc in the third quarter.

The Lady Tors pulled away just a bit more in the final quarter, outpacing the Lady Cubs 15-12.

At the final buzzer, the visitors had the Round Two district win, 54-39.

The Lady Cubs were led by Lexi Cruz, a sophomore, who scored in each quarter

for a total of nine points on the night.

Senior Tabby Castenada followed up with eight points in the contest, while sophomore Mallorie Ellis was good for seven.

Tessa Hope, also a sophomore, contributed five points, while her classmate Sloane Holt added four.

Madison Ellis and Ashlee Zambrano both had three points against the lady Tors.

The Lady Cubs will travel to Stanton Friday night for their final road trip of the season.

They will wrap up their 2013 schedule Tuesday night against Colorado City.

**Lady Cub Sloane Holt worked the ball to the top of the key Tuesday night amid Lamesa defenders.**



Lady Wildcat Breck Faught shot for two under pressure Tuesday night in Wellman-Union's district match-up with the Wildcats from Grady.

## Grady outlasts 'Cats, Lady 'Cats

The Wellman-Union Wildcats suffered a 42-80 loss to Grady - their latest in a frustrating, winless season - bringing the visiting Wildcats to 10-0 with a likely district championship. Coached by Thomas Clay, who routinely led the Broncos to district championships and long playoff stretches during his three-year stretch at Meadow, Grady is now ranked ninth in the state in their division.

W-U Head Coach JoeBob Ussery told the *News* that given the opponents they were facing, the scoreboard did not show justice to his 'Cats' hard fight.

"It was our best game of the year so far against a very good game," he said. "We set a goal to be more aggressive, and we were."

Scorers were Vincent Tedford 3-0 6-12 12, Kirby Bailey 2-1 3-6 10, Kirk Martin 2-0 5-7 9, Luis Gonzales 3-0 6, Martin Loewen 2-0 4 and Braden Caldwell 1-0 1-1 3.

Wellman-Union's girls team suffered a similar fate with a 38-65

loss to the also-undefeated Grady Lady Wildcats.

The hosting Lady 'Cats were down pretty much the entire game, but fought as well as they could against their talented, 10-0 guests.

"The girls played hard for four quarters," said Head Coach Todd Ellis. "We played with more intensity than we did when we played them the first time."

Scorers included Rosa Olivas 3-0 4-6 10, Breck Faught 3-0 2-2 8, Tori Browne 0-0 5-6 5, Abi Lindsey 2-0 1-3 5, Sierra Wheatley 0-0 3-5 3, Tristan Baker 0-1 3, Lexi Olivas 1-0 2, Kaylynn Johnson 0-0 1-2 1 and Kelsey Fulford 0-0 1-2 1. The team sank 17 of 31 free throws.

With no playoff chances now at 4-8 in district and 8-17 overall, the Lady 'Cats will wrap up their season with a trip to Klondike Friday and home match next Tuesday against O'Donnell.

"I am proud of how they are trying to finish the season strong," Ellis said.

## Broncos, Lady Broncos notch wins

The Meadow Broncos stampeded a herd of Mustangs Tuesday night to nearly secure a playoffs spot, but to get there with certainty must first get past a flock of Eagles this Friday.

The Broncos' latest victory was 77-54 in Wilson, considered one of their easier district opponents.

Meadow's last home game will be Friday against Ropes. And while Bronco-Eagle matches always tend to be competitive, this one might be particularly so given both teams' prospects for the number-two spot in district behind Petersburg.

Despite the 25-point margin of the Wilson win, Head Coach Kyle Johnson admitted he was unsatisfied.

"We played well in spurts, but overall we didn't play really well," he said. "We just have to be more focused Friday to be able to beat Ropes."

Senior Christian Herrera led with 20 points, followed by sophomore Mason Davila with 16 and junior Brandon Flores with 13.

The Broncos are now 9-2 and 16-8.

The Lady Broncos brought home a victory of their own, 66-48 from Wilson. They started strong, earning a smooth 28-8 advantage at the end of the first quarter alone. They maintained a 10-to-20-point lead over the Lady Mustangs the rest of the game, despite some improved offensive play from the home team the second half.

Freshman Lexy Silva led the Lady Broncos with 19 points, followed by Carla Rodriguez with 17 - including four three-pointers - and Kelsey Saenz 14 and Tamara Vela with 14 each.

With both-tough-to-beat Ropes and New Home listed as their only remaining regular-season opponents, the Lady Broncos unfortunately have only a slight chance at any playoff hopes.

"I'm proud of the girls for continuing to play hard every game," said Head Coach Ryan Bobo. "I hope we can finish district play the way we need to."