

# Beaverton stops Comets

by RON KIRKWOOD  
Daily News writer

**COLEMAN** — The hometown band blared, the near-capacity crowd screamed its approval of each of the Coleman starters as their names were announced before the game and the Comet team itself laid anxiously in wait for its big chance to knock off perennial-rival Beaverton here Tuesday night.

But no matter how much excitement was generated by the community of Coleman for the "big game", it wasn't enough to knock off a calm, smooth and talented Beaverton outfit as the Comets dropped an 88-77 decision to the powerful leaders of the Jack Pine Conference.

The Beavers, now 7-1 in conference play and 10-1 overall, maintained their hold on first place in the Jack Pine over the only team to have beaten them this year, Roscommon. Roscommon edged Beaverton in the Roscommon gym last Friday by the score of 60-59.

"I was worried how we would do coming into the game after the loss to Roscommon," Beaverton head coach Roy Johnston said afterwards. "It was a game we really should've won at Roscommon. But I was pleased we came in here and kept our poise and got the win."

Coleman coach Jim Simpson had nothing but praise for Beaverton, the 10th-ranked team in this week's Class C Associated Press poll. "They're a super team and deserve their rating in

the state," he said. "You can't make any mistakes against this team or they'll burn you."

Beaverton was actually outshot by Coleman, now even at 4-4 in Jack Pine play and 5-7 overall, but the Beavers made the shots they took more profitable.

While Coleman was getting off 74 shots in the contest, the Beavers kept their total to 57 but hit on 35 of those for a blistering 61 per cent shooting rate from the field. Coleman sank 32 of their 74 shots for a 43 per cent mark.

"Defensively, we had some lapses and they scored," Simpson said. "We let them penetrate inside of our defense for the good shot."

"And our inexperience showed at times on offense," Simpson added about his team that lists just two seniors on a 10-man roster. "We'd break their press but instead of working the ball in for the good shot we'd hurry it and shoot from the outside."

The way the game started, it appeared the young Comet squad might just be able to pull an upset over the senior-laden Beavers.

Trailing 8-4 midway through the first period of play, Coleman ran off eight straight points, to gain a 12-4 edge, led by the shooting of senior Paul Brugger who finished the game as Coleman's high scorer with 20 points.

But Beaverton fought back to knot the score four separate times in that first quarter and finally took a 20-18 lead that was never relinquished just before the close of the first period. From there, Beaverton went on to rack up leads of 42-34, 65-56 and the final tally of 88-77 over the final three periods of play.

The Beavers played most of the game without his team's leading scorer in 6-foot-1 senior guard Doyle Durkee, who got into foul trouble early. He still managed 12 points, however.

But when Durkee went to the bench, 6-foot-2 senior center Jeff Roehrs went to work. The husky 195-pounder popped in 10 field goals to go along with his four points from the charity stripe for his game-high 24 points. Others in double figures for Beaverton were Ken Neighbors with 14 Ran-

dy Stroufe had 13 points, Durkee came in with 12 and Mike O'Brien added 10 points.

"We were real pleased with the play of Roehrs tonight," Johnston said. "He makes us a better ballclub when he's in the lineup."

Following Brugger in the scoring column for Coleman was center John Konopnicki with 15 points and 5-foot-6 guard Pete Porte, who came off the bench to pop in 10 points for the Comets.

Both teams continue in Jack Pine play Friday night with Coleman travelling to Evart and Beaverton hosting league-foe Houghton Lake.

Beaverton ..... 20-22-23-23-88  
Coleman ..... 18-16-22-21-77

**BEAVERTON:** Garvin 3-1-7; Roehrs 10-4-24; Stubbs 2-2-6; Stroufe 3-7-13; Durkee 5-2-12; 5-0-10; Neighbors 7-0-14; Schofield 0-2-2. Totals 35-18-88.

**COLEMAN:** Anger 1-0-2; Brugger 8-4-10; Dennis 4-1-9; Johnston 4-0-8; Konopnicki 6-3-15; Porte 3-4-10; Simpson 4-1-9; D. Strauch 2-0-4. Totals 32-13-77.

Game 11. Bea at Cole.

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