

Ryan leads Mustangs over Longhorns

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Oscar Sigala goes up for a shot while Cory Ryan steps in to assist Friday in the Corral against Holcomb. The Mustangs earned a 50-42 win.

Daily Leader photo/Chris Yearick

By RICK YEARICK and EARL WATT

- Daily Leader

Sometimes the shot might be too easy for Cory Ryan.

The senior Mustang has struggled with some two footers in recent games, but that was not the case Friday against Holcomb. Ryan erupted for 18 points to lead the Mustangs over the Longhorns, 50-42.

Heights fell to Holcomb last year in the finals of Sub-State which ended the Mustangs season. Friday night's win might be an indication that the Mustangs are ready to advance beyond

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Sub-State in 2010.

Both teams were tentative early. After the first quarter, the game was stalemated at 8-8.

But the Mustangs hit their stride in the second quarter. Freshman Ben Johnsrud hit a three-pointer in the period, and a total of four Mustangs scored in the second quarter while applying solid defensive pressure against the Longhorns to build a 21-16 halftime lead.

The Mustangs continued to outpace the Longhorns in the third quarter behind a strong shooting effort from Cody Eakes and Ryan. The two combined for 13 third quarter points to give the Mustangs a 35-25 advantage.

The Longhorns tried to make up the deficit by fouling the Mustangs, which resulted in limited success. The Mustangs made seven of 14 free throws, but the Longhorns couldn't overcome the 10-point deficit. The Mustangs were able to make up for their woes at the free throw line with strong defense and converting baskets to preserve the 50-42 win.

In addition to Ryan's 18 points, Eakes scored 13, and Sigala added seven.

The Mustangs traveled to Medicine Lodge for a late Saturday game and will face the Meade Buffaloes Tuesday.