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Russell celebrates Dole's victory

By LINDA MOWERY-DENNING
Great Plains Editor

RUSSELL — Winners dominated the coffee shop talk Tuesday in Russell.

"Everybody talks about Bob Dole. He's our main subject — that and Kansas State University basketball," G.B. "Bub" Dawson said.

K-State basketball because the Wildcats have the best record in Big Eight competition. Bob Dole because he creamed Vice President George Bush in Monday night's Iowa precinct caucuses.

In Russell, both winners — the KSU basketball team and Bob Dole — are sources of pride.

"Iowa was great. The margin was great," said Dawson, who 50 years ago worked with

Dole at the Dawson family's drug store.

In those days, Dole was a high school freshman who worked after school and on weekends as a soda jerk. On the window of the old drug store — which is now owned by Tish and Larry Rogers — is painted "Bob Dole served sodas here."

These days, Dole is the Senate minority leader and a leading candidate for the Republican presidential nomination.

He won an easy victory in Iowa by drawing about 38 percent of the Republican balloting. Former television evangelist Pat Robertson was second with 24 percent, and Bush came in third with 19 percent.

Dole sister Gloria Nelson said many television sets in Russell were on late Monday night as residents listened for results from the

caucuses.

She wasn't surprised by the Dole victory, however.

Nelson said her brother, Kenneth, called Sunday from Iowa and said things looked good for Bob Dole.

"Bob has earned this all on his own. We are just tremendously proud," she said Tuesday as she clipped newspaper articles about Dole.

More than a dozen Russell residents went to Iowa to support their hometown candidate.

Theodore "Ted" Banker said her niece left Friday in a van driven by Tish Rogers. They were expected to return to Kansas today.

She said the Russell campaign volunteers spent most of their time on the telephones to

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Bush, Dole seek win in key debate

GOFFSTOWN, N.H. (AP) — Vice President George Bush, struggling to regain his footing in the GOP presidential race, depicted himself as President Reagan's loyal second-in-command Sunday in a high-stakes debate two days before the New Hampshire primary.

Iowa caucus winner Bob Dole was challenged forcefully by his rivals during the nationally televised debate.

Former Delaware Gov. Pete du Pont thrust a piece of paper in Dole's face and asked him to sign the traditional New Hampshire pledge not to raise taxes.

The Senate Republican leader looked the material over and shot a barb in Bush's direction. "I'd have to read it first," he said. "Maybe George would sign it."

When Bush said he expected the Soviets to go forward with a promised troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, Rep. Jack Kemp of New York said heatedly, "We have a State Department that has run amok on this issue."

"Wait and see," said Bush. "Don't fight progress when you see it. Don't be afraid."

Bush tried to close out the argument, saying, "I don't jump away from the president when the going

gets tough" and then added, "Give peace a chance" which brought an other outburst from Kemp.

"You're using the same language as Jim Wright," he said in a reference to the Democratic speaker of the House and arch-villain in current GOP mythology.

"You should be embarrassed to use 'give peace a chance,'" he said. "We're the party of peace."

The one-hour debate opened almost cordially as the five Republicans emphasized their respect for one another in a way that belied the huge stakes involved in next Tuesday's lead-off primary election.

"The common ground is so much greater than with the Democrats that we heard yesterday" in a debate on the same stage, said Bush.

Dole has eliminated Bush's once formidable lead in the New Hampshire polls since he scored a convincing victory in Iowa caucuses last Monday and the vice president wound up third.

He and Bush are locked in a battle for first, although the polls all indicate the tide is flowing in Dole's direction.

"Some of us would like to see it end Tuesday here with someone winning," said the Kansas senator.

Hometown folks campaign for Dole

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encourage Iowa citizens to attend the caucuses and support the candidate from Kansas.

"Maybe people can't give a lot of money, but they can go to Iowa and help out with the phones," Dawson said.

Banker said she kept changing television channels Monday, then took a nap before waking up and catching the final results from Iowa about 2 a.m.

"I think a lot of people here had the feeling Senator Dole would win. He was further ahead than a lot of people thought — or maybe I should say Vice President Bush came in further behind than a lot of people thought he would," Banker said.

Several people here — while excited about Dole's Iowa win — also were worried about Robertson's strong second-place finish.

"I'll tell you, this Robertson is something else," Nelson said. "We're going to have to watch that



Gloria Nelson: "We're waiting to go to the convention. We don't say if. We're going to be there."

about the Iowa results in his downtown jewelry store.

"I figured the whole town would be ecstatic, and it has been very quiet," he said. "I was elated... but I think a lot of it is everybody is just tired out on politics right now."

Nelson said she and her husband, Larry, didn't go to Iowa because of health problems. But they have plans to attend the Republican national convention in New Orleans this summer.

Dole has started up the steps of the White House, she said.

"We're waiting to go to the convention. We don't say if. We're going to be there," Nelson said.

And if Bob Dole is the Republican's presidential choice, Nelson said he has already said he intends to return the visit.

Dole plans to kick off his campaign in Russell — just like he did in 1976 when Gerald Ford named the Russell senator his running mate, she said.

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Dole confident; Bush forecasts win

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Vice President George Bush forecast a win, but Sen. Bob Dole also expressed optimism Monday as the GOP presidential field sprinted for the finish line in a tight New Hampshire primary race.

Democrat Michael Dukakis said his expected win might be smaller than predicted.

"I sense a rising tide," said Bush. The vice president threw all the resources he could muster into his bid to arrest Dole's weeklong surge, campaigning side by side and in a hurriedly taped television commercial with Barry Goldwater, patron saint of conservatives.

"It feels good, like it did in Iowa last Monday," countered Dole, hoping to ride to victory on the strength of the momentum spawned by the caucus win there last week.

One candidate after another posted hopeful predictions of a surprise when New Hampshire voters render their verdict today in the nation's lead-off primary.

"I don't know where all those political pundits are today, but they ran for cover four years ago, and they're likely to run for cover tomorrow," said former Delaware Gov. Pete du Pont, back in the pack in the GOP race.

Rep. Jack Kemp, his GOP candidacy on the line, held out the hope of a second-place finish

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that would confound the pollsters. "I'm going to finish in a good competitive third or higher," he said.

Democratic Sen. Paul Simon, also facing tough times if he falters, said he was sure he would defeat Rep. Richard Gephardt for second place. Referring to Dukakis' commanding lead in the polls, he said, "I think there is a possibility of a real surprise coming tomorrow."

Fellow Democrat Bruce Babbitt, far off the pace in the polls, said, "I'm anticipating a strong showing and a surprise, but I can't put a number on it."

Former television evangelist Pat Robertson tried to deal with a tempest that arose over his claim that the Soviet Union has offensive nuclear missiles in Cuba. The Reagan administration denied the claim, but Robertson said, "the least we can do is remove those nuclear missiles."

Democrat Dukakis' lead seemed secure, to judge by the polls, but he and his aides worried that they would be held to an impossible standard when the New Hampshire results are analyzed. Thus, he noted that his rivals have been attacking him regularly, adding, "I assume that's going to take its toll."

No two polls were alike. But they all showed a

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Republican race much closer than Democratic.

Dukakis, governor in next-door Massachusetts, held a commanding lead among the Democrats with support of about 40 percent of the voters. Gephardt and Simon, who finished a close one-two in Iowa's caucuses last week, are in a duel for second place. Jesse Jackson, Babbitt, Gary Hart and Sen. Albert Gore Jr. are far back in the polls.

Among the Republicans, the surveys said that Dole has wiped out all of Bush's once-commanding lead in the eight days since the Kansas senator won the Iowa caucuses, and that the vice president slipped to third place behind Pat Robertson. Robertson, Kemp and du Pont are in a close fight for third place in the same surveys.

What the polls couldn't say was whether Dole's momentum would carry him past Bush to first place.

The vice president had his retooled, informal campaign style on display. He went from one restaurant to another to greet voters at breakfast time, ordering pancakes at one stop, sipping coffee at a second and eating an Egg McMuffin during a visit to a McDonald's.

Bush attacked Dole's call for a spending freeze as a "copout" that avoids making tough decisions, and forecast a victory for himself in New Hampshire.

"I'm going to win tomorrow. Believe me," he told a cheering crowd at Daniel Webster College in Nashua.

In the five-minute television commercial, Goldwater called Bush the "best-qualified candidate of my lifetime — other than me."

Addressing the voters, Bush said, "Who can you most trust to continue

the Reagan Revolution?"

Dole and his senior aides sounded confident.

"I think it's that close," said Dole. He said a victory in New Hampshire might carry him all the way to the GOP nomination.

"I'm always skeptical until the polls close," he said, but then added that he had followed his pollster's example and "slept well last night."

William Brock, Dole's campaign manager, said that no matter what the outcome, Bush was a loser in New Hampshire.

Among the Democrats, Simon urged New Hampshire's voters "to assert their independence" from Dukakis. "There is a difference between me and Michael Dukakis, a difference in experience, a difference in commitment," he said.

Dukakis had a speech prepared taking aim at Gephardt and Simon, but he chose not to deliver it when he faced a high school audience in Claremont.

"This campaign is not about the past, it is about creating a future in which all of you can work," he said.