



Jordan Janicke shoots a free throw; and CJ Antholz, 24, and Kevin Estrada, 42, prepare to rebound at the junior high game last Thursday.

Times photos by Darci Schields

Cougar Activites

By Bru and the Crew

The Cougars welcomed in the basketball season by heading to Wheatland last Friday for an inter-league dual with the Grinnell/Wheatland Thunderhawks. Expectations have been high for both the Cougar men and women. Would the Cougars fulfill those expectations or would they crack under pressure.....?

First the ladies. The game started as a defensive battle with the score holding at 0 for a short time before the Thunderhawks forced in the first bucket to make things 2 to 0. Cassie Rucker later found the bank to be open as she put the Cougars on the board with a three. The rest of the game followed a similar suit. Scoring was plentiful and nails to chew on ran short as both teams played wire to wire, fighting point by point. Fouls were also at a premium. It seemed at times that the players could hardly sneeze without being whistled. However, the Cougars were resilient and stayed in the game despite having multiple starters with more than three fouls and one starter fouling out. With only a few precious moments left the Lady Cougars held a 53 to 52 lead, but the Thunderhawks had the ball. The 'Hawks brought down the ball and took their shot..... which clanged out. They rebounded and shot another... which was off the mark as well. Game over, Cougars win.

Sometimes it is better to be lucky than good. Fortunately our Ladies are both. Shayla Hubbard was the high scorer with 17 points and had five assists.

Each week we will name a player of the game, and this week it is Stephanie Busse with 16 points, 19 rebounds, one steal, and two assists. Congratulations to the Ladies on their first win of the season!

Boys' basketball

The boys came as the final game of the night. The action started with both teams grinding out buckets and playing tenacious defense. At the end of the first quarter the score rested 9 to 4 in favor of the Cougars. As the second started some of the fans were predicting a close game. However, these fans were sorely wrong.

The second quarter was all Cougars and the boys headed into half-time up big. The second half was no different. The passes were crisp, the shots true, and Josh



Haleigh Rucker, passes the ball during the Tri-Plains Brewster junior high game held in Cheylin last Thursday.

Keltz exerted his will on the paint as the Cougars cruised to an easy 50 to 29 victory. The only concern of the night for the Cougars was the minor foul trouble experienced by several players, but such things can be expected in tightly called games.

Adam Orten was the high point man with 16 points. He also had one steal, two assists, and a rebound. Kenan Reeh contributed 12 points as well. Joshua Keltz is the player of the week with 8 points, 11 rebounds, and 11 blocked shots.

No stat can measure the defensive presence that Keltz holds in the paint. He alters as many shots with his looks as he does with his hands, and it's more than fair to say that Keltz was responsible for countless misses by the Thunderhawks.

Great start to the season guys!!!

Both junior varsity teams played great games and gained valuable experience, but came up short on the score end. The men fell 39 to 26 and the women lost 50 to 35.

Both Cougar teams make the long-haul to Quinter Friday to take part in the Castle Rock Tournament. The men played Rawlins County and the women took on Hoxie. Both games were played last Tuesday and scores weren't available at press time. The results will help decide the pairings for Friday's games.

Good luck to the Cougar teams in all their up-coming games. GO COUGARS!!!!!!!

Ag Talk with Jeanne

Dry Soils and Root Development of Wheat

By Jeanne Falk, K-State Agronomist

Wheat is in various stages of growth and conditions across the whole state of Kansas and we have some that still hasn't emerged in the area. It is a good idea to be scouting their fields to see how well the crop is developing, and whether there are any pests, weeds, or nutrient problems that could be solved later this fall or winter. Root development is the primary concern so far this year. This is due to the dry conditions that the wheat has been enduring so far this growing season.

Roots are important because they are the structure for taking up water from the soil, as well as nutrients. Many times we will see both drought stress and nutrient deficiencies in dry conditions.

In many cases, there are some

primary roots coming out from the seed. These roots are used to take up water and nutrients throughout the whole growing season, but usually there are not very many of these roots so that can't support a plant with one or two tillers for a long period. The crown root system is, or should be, much more extensive than the primary root system.

So far this year, we seem to be finding a lack of crown root development. This is due to a lack of moisture in the topsoil. The crown roots are often called the secondary roots. Crown roots take up most of the water and nutrients from the soil, so they are very important for the plant to survive the winter.

In addition, the crown roots provide the anchoring of the plant. They are especially important when grazing wheat. By this point in the season, there should

be a much more extensive crown root system than what I am finding in many wheat fields.

The warm fall actually would promote more root development, but the lack of moisture has actually put additional stress on the primary roots to support the plant.

All we really need is some moisture in the crown area of the soil and these roots would begin developing. They will not develop quickly after the plant goes into dormancy. The wheat plant will resume more rapid root development early in the spring and can continue to grow roots until the primary plant growth is completed.

Pictures of the root development described in this article are available at the K-State Sunflower District website at www.sunflower.ksu.edu. Then click on the 'Agronomy' tab.

Across the County By Marty Fear

Western Cattlemen's Night Coming to Kansas

K-State Research and Extension in cooperation with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension and Colorado State University Extension is offering West Central Cattlemen's Night on Thursday, Dec. 6, at the fairgrounds in Goodland. The program will start at 5 p.m. mountain time and end by 8 p.m.

The present economic situation and tough weather conditions require cattlemen to be on top of the latest research and technology to keep their operations profitable. This meeting should help find ways to reduce cost while helping to improve your overall profitability. Topics include: grazing pastures during a drought, weed control in pastures, nutrition, cow lease options and external parasites of beef cattle. There is a registration fee. Meal is included. Please contact the Cheyenne County Extension Office with any questions or to register.

Sample hay correctly

Forage tests can tell you the nutrient concentration in your hay. But only if the sample you collect accurately resembles your hay. Nutrient concentration varies considerably in all forages. That is why hay testing should be a regu-

lar part of your livestock operation.

For hay tests to be effective, your sample must accurately represent your hay. Reaching into a bale and pulling out a hunk of hay will not give you a good sample. Nor will gathering a single flake of hay.

The only effective method to sample long hay is by using a core sampler. If you don't have one, you can buy one from many ag supply catalogues and forage testing labs. Also, local extension offices have hay probes available for loan.

Once you have a hay probe, use it to collect one core each from 15 to 20 bales that came from the same field and cutting. Collect

your sample from the center of the twine end of the bales. Then combine all the samples from this group into one larger sample to send to the lab.

If there is decayed or moldy material that you will discard or your animals will not eat, do not include it in your sample. That way you will have a sample that is similar to the actual diet of your livestock. However, if you plan to sell the hay, then you need to include this less desirable material in your sample to accurately represent all the hay to be sold.

Follow these sampling techniques and you will get accurate nutrient analyses of your hay and be able to use it more effectively.

Till next week - Marty

McDonald News

By Sandy Binning

Jim and Lois Morelock had hunters from Oklahoma, Tennessee and Kansas for supper Saturday.

Sunday supper and evening guests of Kenneth and Phyllis Wilkinson were Lisa and Rod Johnson, and Greg and Cheryl Wilkinson.

Eleanor Swihart was a Friday and Saturday overnight guest of Bruce and Shirley Swihart in St. Francis. She attended the Women

of Faith program at the Christian Church there. Sunday Eleanor traveled with the ladies of the Baptist Church in St. Francis to the Landmark Inn in Oberlin for Victorian Tea.

Thursday evening callers on Ratha Lea Loker were Lynn, Rita and Micheal Officer. They brought supper.

Saturday afternoon, Mark and Marilee Gundlach, Seth and Gracie, all visited with Ratha Lea Loker.

Helpful Hints

Easier thank you's

When you throw a bridal/baby shower, buy a pack of thank you cards for the guest of honor. During the party, pass out the envelopes and have everyone put their address on one. When the bride/new mother sends the thank you's, they're all addressed!

Mine

If you purchase a new bike for your child, place their picture inside the handle bar before placing the grips on. If the bike is stolen and later recovered, remove the grip and there is your proof who owns the bike.

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