

Cowgirls volleyball team aims to beat last year's record



Jerry McKee

By Dana Sulsberger

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The Goodland Cow-girl's volleyball girls aim to beat their fourth-place finish at state last year, says Coach Jerry McKee. "We are always looking to improve over last year," the coach said. Trying to beat their record of 34-8, said McKee, sets a high standard for the girls. "Every year we try to do better than the year before," he said. There are 29 girls practicing this year, in-

cluding seven returning seniors. "The team's strength right now lies in the seniors," said McKee. Several of the seniors are looking at going on to play in college, he said, and college coaches are already looking early to see how the girls are doing this year. There are 12 new girls on the team, he said, and they are doing well for early in the season. The players are at a lot different skill levels, McKee said, and one of the challenges

is to close the gap in experience and skill. "We have to get everyone to understand the system," he said. Last year was the team's sixth appearance at state. "We are recognized as a state power," he said. This year the team is working hard, said McKee, though the heat is a challenge in practice, held at 4 p.m. weekday evenings. The girls will have a soap scrimmage at 6 p.m. Tuesday and McKee encouraged ev-

eryone to attend. "We only have four home contests this year," he said, "so I would encourage the public to attend all of our home events." The team normally splits to practice at two nets, the coach said, and he probably will use the same units for the scrimmage, though that could change. "I doubt that we will have all the varsity together," he said. Evaluating players is a constant process, said McKee, and the scrimmage is a chance

to see how the girls do. "This is our chance to see how they do with a simulated game situation with officials and everything," he said. Donna Fenner is a new assistant coach for the volleyball team this year and Dave Hardy is the returning. Their first game will be a quad match against Garden City, Burlington and Thomas Moore Prep at 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 5.

Jays defeat Royals in the eighth 7-5

TORONTO (AP) — Brad Fullmer hit a three-run homer and Tony Batista followed with his 36th home run as the Toronto Blue Jays rallied in the eighth inning to defeat the Kansas City Royals 7-5 Tuesday night. Royals starter Dan Reichert took a 5-3 lead into the eighth. He was pulled after issuing a leadoff walk to David Martinez and giving up a single to Carlos Delgado. Jose Santiago (6-4) relieved and gave up Fullmer's 26th homer. Batista then connected for an insurance run. Kelvin Escobar (8-13) got two outs for the win. Billy Koch pitched a perfect ninth for his 29th save. Reichert, who hasn't lost since July 15, allowed five runs — three earned — on eight hits in seven-plus innings. Johnny Damon drew a leadoff walk from Mark Guthrie in the sev-

enth and stole second. Mike Sweeney's RBI single put the Royals ahead 4-3. The Royals took advantage of two errors to score three unearned runs. Delgado made a wild throw from first base that gave Kansas City a run in the eighth. After shortstop Alex Gonzalez botched a ground ball with two outs in the Royals first, Joe Randa hit a two-run double. Jermaine Dye's RBI single gave Kansas City a 3-0 lead in the third. Toronto came back in the fourth on Delgado's RBI single and Fullmer's run-scoring grounder. The Blue Jays tied it at 3 in the fifth when Sweeney, the first baseman, failed to catch Reichert's throw for an error, allowing Jose Cruz Jr. to score. Notes: Martinez has hit in 13 straight games since being acquired from Texas on Aug. 5.

Catcher pitches winning inning for Rockies

DENVER (AP) — He shook off his catcher, experimented with a split-fingered pitch and even made a couple of pickoff throws to first. Aside from the two balls he threw to the backstop, it was hard to tell Brent Mayne had no experience as a pitcher. Mayne became the first position player to be a winning pitcher since 1968 — the year he was born — working a scoreless inning Tuesday night as the Colorado Rockies beat the Atlanta Braves 7-6 in 12 innings. Mayne, a catcher, was called on for his first pitching appearance — professional or amateur — after the Rockies ran out of relievers. "I'd never been on the mound before in my life," he said. "I was just firing it as hard as I could throw it and trying not to get killed. ... "Most bizarre? Yes." Mayne (1-0) wound up as the first major league position player with a win since outfielder Rocky Colavito threw 22-3 shutout innings for the New York Yankees against Detroit in the first game of a doubleheader on Aug. 25, 1968. The last NL position player to get a win had been Pittsburgh second base-

man Johnny O'Brien, who allowed three hits in 2 1-3 scoreless innings against Philadelphia on July 3, 1956. "It's been that long? I find that hard to believe," O'Brien, 69, said from his home in Seattle. "I'm sure he's very happy. I know I was when I did it." Adam Melhuse's first career hit, an RBI single with two outs in the 12th, won it. Melhuse pinch-hit with the bases loaded for Mayne, who was unable to bat because of a sore left wrist. "When I saw it sail over the short-stop's head and hit the outfield, I don't know what I was doing out there," said Melhuse, who had been 0-for-6. "Then I saw (first base coach) Dallas Williams point to first base and say, 'Touch first base.'" Melhuse, who would have pitched if the game went to the 13th, was the offensive hero, Mayne left the field to a standing ovation. He became the first position player to pitch for the Rockies, who started play in 1993. "Hopefully we won't have to use him there anymore," Rockies manager Buddy Bell said. John Rocker (1-1) took the loss and snapped at reporters in the clubhouse. "Beat it!" he said. "I'm not talking."

Jeffrey Hammonds hit a soft liner to short center and Andruw Jones, playing in, made the catch as Perez held. Stan Belinda relieved and struck out Terry Shumpert, then intentionally walked Jeff Cirillo. Melhuse singled to left on the first pitch to drive in Perez with the winning run. When asked about the most aggravating part of the game, Braves manager Bobby Cox said, "Losing. That's what's aggravating." Before Mayne, the last position player to get a decision as pitcher had been Los Angeles third baseman Jeff Hamilton, who took the loss as the Dodgers were defeated in a 22-inning game at Houston on June 3, 1989. Lost in the bizarre finish was an 11th-inning brawl that started when Andres Galarraga, who spent five seasons in Colorado, charged the mound after being hit in the shoulder by Rockies reliever John Wasdin on a 3-2 pitch. Galarraga was slowly walking toward first base when Wasdin gestured at him. Galarraga rushed Wasdin, and the benches emptied. Wasdin, Galarraga and Bell were ejected. "If Galarraga's going to instigate, he's the one who should be thrown out of the game," Bell said. "What's Wasdin supposed to do? Run out into left field? It's unbelievable. Unbelievable." Chipper Jones went 3-for-6 and hit his fourth homer in three games for the Braves. Notes: Colorado OF Juan Pierre extended his hitting streak to 15 games, the longest to open a major league career in at least 25 years, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. Braves leadoff hitter Furcal went 1-for-6 and is 3-for-32 in his last seven games. Before the game, the Rockies traded LHP Scott Karl and cash to the Anaheim Angels for a player to be named.

Chiefs cut three veteran players and six rookies Monday

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Center Aaron Graham was one of three players cut by the Kansas City Chiefs on Tuesday as all NFL clubs were required to get down to 65 players. Graham, signed in the offseason, had been expected by some officials to challenge incumbent starter Tim Grunhard. Instead, the Chiefs will go with backup linemen Jeff Smith and Donald Willis. "Both have played center. They've alternated in there," said coach Gunther Cunningham. "We brought Aaron to camp to take up the possibility if Grunny didn't recover." Graham, a five-year veteran from Nebraska, is about 285 pounds. "We found out he's not as physical as we'd like our guys to be. Jeff Smith and Donald Willis are about 325

pounds," said Cunningham. "(Graham) is a good player. We might have had to change some things we'd like to do on offense if he was the center." The Chiefs also waived tight end Kirk McMullen, a rookie from Pittsburgh, and cornerback Wasswa Serwanga. Wide receiver Joe Perez was placed on injured reserve after suffering a knee injury and will not be eligible until next season. The Chiefs cut six rookies and three other players on Monday. All clubs are required to cut down to 65 players on Tuesday, but can keep exempted NFL Europe players until the league's final cut to 53 on Sunday. The Chiefs have six NFL Europe exemptions. In the meantime, a big question mark

continued to hang over the backup quarterback position where 28-year-old Todd Collins has faltered in his bid to beat out 43-year-old Warren Moon for the right to play behind Elvis Grbac. Moon, the most prolific passer in professional football history, has looked better during exhibition play than Collins. Another factor is Ted White, who did not play well in the European League in the offseason. "I still want to play. I feel great," said Moon. "I was a little tired during camp but I'm feeling much better." Cunningham said he hadn't decided on his quarterback rotation against Tampa Bay Friday night in the final exhibition game before the Sept. 3 regular-season opener against Indianapolis. The Chiefs are 0-3 in the preseason and have never in their history lost ev-

ery exhibition game. Nevertheless, Cunningham said he's not going to press to get a victory in Tampa. Cuts Monday: • Scott Cloman, 1-year veteran wide receiver from Southern U. • Jonathan Jackson, rookie linebacker from Oregon State. • Eric King, 1-year veteran guard from Richmond. • Percy King, rookie safety from Ohio State. • Charles Kirby, 2-year veteran full-back from Virginia. • Brock McGrew, rookie wide receiver from North Texas. • Josh Rawlings, rookie offensive tackle from Minnesota. • Kevin Sluder, rookie defensive tackle from Mississippi State. • Germaine Stringer, rookie wide receiver from Florida State.

baseball scoreboard

By The Associated Press				
National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	76	49	60.8	—
New York	74	52	58.7	2 1/2
Florida	62	63	49.6	14
Montreal	53	69	43.4	21 1/2
Philadelphia	52	72	41.9	23 1/2
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
St. Louis	69	56	55.2	—
Cincinnati	61	63	49.2	7 1/2
Chicago	54	70	43.5	14 1/2
Milwaukee	54	71	43.2	15
Pittsburgh	52	72	41.9	16 1/2
Houston	52	74	41.3	17 1/2
West Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
San Francisco	71	53	57.3	—
Arizona	70	55	56.0	1 1/2
Los Angeles	63	61	50.8	8
Colorado	63	63	50.0	9
San Diego	61	65	48.4	11
Tuesday's Games				
San Diego 16, N.Y. Mets 1				
Philadelphia 5, Cincinnati 4				
Pittsburgh 6, St. Louis 2				
Houston 10, Chicago Cubs 7				
Milwaukee 4, Arizona 3				
Los Angeles 14, Montreal 6				
Florida 7, San Francisco 5				
Colorado 7, Atlanta 6, 12 innings				
Wednesday's Games				
Atlanta (Maddux 13-7) at Colorado (Rose 1-1), 1:05 p.m.				
Florida (C.Smith 2-4) at San Francisco (L.Hernandez 12-9), 1:35 p.m.				
Philadelphia (Person 6-4) at Cincinnati (Williamson 5-7), 5:35 p.m.				
Chicago Cubs (Quevedo 1-5) at Houston (Miller 2-4), 6:05 p.m.				
Pittsburgh (Ritchie 6-6) at St. Louis (Ankiel 7-7), 6:10 p.m.				
Milwaukee (Haynes 10-11) at Arizona (Schilling 10-7), 8:05 p.m.				
Montreal (Thurman 3-3) at Los Angeles (Brown 10-5), 8:05 p.m.				
N.Y. Mets (Leiter 13-5) at San Diego (Clemens 11-11), 8:05 p.m.				
Thursday's Games				
Philadelphia (Daal 3-14) at Cincinnati (Parris 7-14), 10:35 p.m.				
Montreal (Vazquez 8-5) at Los Angeles (Park 12-8), 2:10 p.m.				
St. Louis (Hentgen 12-9) at Atlanta (Ashby 8-10), 5:40 p.m.				
American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
New York	68	54	55.7	—

Boston	65	57	53.3	3
Toronto	65	61	51.6	5
Baltimore	55	69	44.4	14
Tampa Bay	55	69	44.4	14
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Chicago	74	51	59.2	—
Cleveland	65	56	53.7	7
Detroit	61	63	49.2	12 1/2
Kansas City	58	67	46.4	16
Minnesota	56	71	44.1	19
West Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	70	55	56.0	—
Oakland	66	58	53.2	3 1/2
Anaheim	65	61	51.6	5 1/2
Texas	57	67	46.0	12 1/2
Tuesday's Games				
Texas 5, N.Y. Yankees 4				
Anaheim 11, Boston 4				
Toronto 7, Kansas City 5				
Seattle 8, Detroit 4				
Tampa Bay 3, Minnesota 2				
Cleveland 14, Oakland 6				
Only games scheduled				
Wednesday's Games				
Seattle (Abbott 8-4) at Detroit (Nomo 5-				

10), 5:05 p.m.
Oakland (Hudson 13-5) at Cleveland (Colon 11-8), 5:05 p.m.
Kansas City (Stein 4-3) at Toronto (Loaiza 7-9), 5:05 p.m.
Texas (Rogers 11-11) at N.Y. Yankees (Clemens 10-6), 5:05 p.m.
Anaheim (Ra.Ortiz 4-3) at Boston (Ohka 2-2), 5:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Rekar 4-8) at Minnesota (Redman 11-6), 6:05 p.m.
Baltimore (Parrish 2-1) at Chicago White

Sox (Lowe 3-1), 6:05 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Texas (Perisho 2-6) at N.Y. Yankees (Pettitte 14-6), 10:05 a.m.

Seattle (Moyer 11-7) at Detroit (Moehler 10-7), 11:05 a.m.

Baltimore (Rapp 6-10) at Chicago White Sox (Siroka 11-10), 12:05 p.m.

Oakland (Zito 1-2) at Cleveland (Woodard 0-1), 5:05 p.m.

Boston (P.Martinez 14-4) at Kansas City (Suzuki 7-7), 6:05 p.m.

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