

Team has long fight to state

Cowgirls face last match in regular season

As the regular season winds down, the No. 1 Goodland Cowgirls volleyball team still has a long fight ahead to get to state.

The Cowgirls varsity will have one more match in the regular season Tuesday at Grinnell, a quad meet against Oakley, Weskan, and Grinnell at 2:30 p.m.

The Cowgirls are ranked No. 1 in Class 4A for this season with an undefeated record of 26-0.

The last two teams put up a fight for the Cowgirls, who traveled to a tournament in Oakley Saturday. Coach Jerry McKee said that the girls played a little sluggishly.

Two of the teams that Goodland is matched up against on Tuesday also played on during Saturday's tournament, which featured Grinnell, Wheatland, Colby and Oakley.

The Cowgirls had a strong match against Grinnell, when they faced off during the tournament, walking away



with 15-7 and 15-4 wins. The girls had another powerful match against Oakley, who they are also facing again, with two strong wins of 15-0 and 15-2.

Goodland won their match against Wheatland 15-2 in the first game, a loss of 8-15 on the second game and a 15-3 win in the third game. They also won their match against Colby with a 15-10 win in the first game, and a 15-9 win in the second.

Last Tuesday was a battle for the Cowgirls, as they went to Atwood to take on the Buffaloes and the Oberlin Red Devils. In their match against the Devils the girls lost the first game 12-15 and won the second and third games 17-15 and 15-8. The girls won against Atwood 15-3 in the first game and 15-10 in the second game.

"It was a hard-fought match," said McKee afterward, adding that it left several players with injuries, and several days of easier practice followed.

McKee said that he tried to think of drills that the girls enjoyed for Wednesday's practice.

Tuesday's quad will set the stage for the rest of the Cowgirls' season, as the next match they will face will be the Northwest Kansas League Tournament, which can send them on to the Sub-State match on Saturday, Oct. 21, and the State tournament on Oct. 27 and 28.

Last year, Goodland was 34-8 after they took fourth in the state tournament. Several of the top players from last year, including Ashley Hallagin and Jara McKee, were listed on the pre-season All-State Volleyball Team. They have led the team through this year's seasons, giving the Cowgirls a chance to make it to state and looking good at this point.

Cardinals finish series sweep

ST. LOUIS (AP) — After five seasons with the also-ran Brewers, Fernando Vina is having the time of his life.

"Coming here is something special," said Vina, whose leadoff home run helped the St. Louis Cardinals finish off their division-series sweep of the Atlanta Braves. "This is what I always dreamed about, playing in the postseason and trying to win the last game."

"I thank God I got traded over here to play for this team."

Vina and the rest of the Cardinals got Sunday off, a day after they beat the Braves' three aces by a combined score of 24-10. The team has a workout Monday to begin preparations for the NLCS against the wild card New York Mets, who eliminated the San Francisco Giants in four games on Bobby Jones' one-hitter on Sunday.

Games 1 and 2 are in St. Louis Wednesday and Thursday, with the best-of-series shifting to New York on Saturday.

The Cardinals were 3-6 against the Mets, getting swept twice home and away in May and sweeping New York Sept. 1-3 at home. J.D. Drew batted .409 against the Mets and Jim Edmonds had four homers and six

RBIs.

Edmonds was the Cardinals' big gun against the Braves in the playoffs, going 8-for-14 with two homers and seven RBIs.

"You're never surprised at success," Edmonds said. "You're in the big leagues because you're a good player. You're supposed to have success."

Edmonds is doing even better than in his MVP caliber season, when he hit 42 homers and drove in a career-best 108 RBIs.

"Players who had a great year, in postseason sometimes they go cold," manager Tony La Russa said. "Pitchers don't pitch to them and people do not see the real guy who's so crucial for you."

"They saw it in these three games." Everything has worked out for the Cardinals so far, even though there's been plenty of adversity.

Mark McGwire has been available only for pinch hit duty because of a knee injury, although he said it's improved to the point where he may be able to DH if the Cardinals make it to the World Series. Third baseman Fernando Tatis, who led the league in RBIs when he went out for about two months with a torn groin in late April, was benched in favor of Placido

Polanco in the division series because of a 3-for-36 slump.

The Cardinals also needed a heavy contribution from their bullpen in the series.

Rick Ankiel became the first pitcher in 110 years to throw five wild pitches in an inning in Game 2, departing in the third inning, and Garrett Stephenson lasted only 3 2-3 innings in Game 3 before leaving due to elbow tendinitis.

The relievers allowed two runs in 13 2-3 innings, going one-third of an inning more than the starters. Rookie Britt Reames, a last-minute roster addition, picked up the clinching victory with 1 1-3 hitless innings.

Stephenson, who was 16-9, likely is done for the season. That, plus the structure of the series, likely will give Andy Benes (12-9) and perhaps Pat Hentgen (15-12) a chance to start in the NLCS.

Neither pitched in the Braves sweep. Benes was out of the rotation for about a month with a knee injury that will require offseason surgery, but returned for three late season starts and pitched well in the last two.

Hentgen had a strong finish before his last two starts, when he allowed a run per inning.

Giants taken out of World Series running

NEW YORK (AP) — Bobby J. Jones pitched the sixth complete game one-hitter in postseason history as the Mets eliminated the Giants with a 4-0 win in Game 4 of their NL division series. It was the first one-hit shutout in the postseason since Boston's Jim Lonborg beat St. Louis in the 1967 World Series.

New York opens the NL championship series on Wednesday night in St. Louis.

The Cardinals capped a three-game sweep of the Braves with their 7-1 victory Saturday in Atlanta. The Braves had not missed the NLCS since 1990.

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — The New York Yankees scored six runs in the first inning en route to a 7-5 win over the Oakland Athletics in the decisive Game 5 of their AL division series.

The Yankees, defending their back-to-back World Series titles, play host to the wild card Seattle Mariners on Tuesday night in Game 1 of the AL championship series.

Seattle will be without starting pitcher Jamie Moyer, who sustained a hairline fracture in his left kneecap during a simulated game Saturday at Safeco Field.

FOOTBALL

MIAMI (AP) — The Miami Hurricanes upset top-ranked Florida State 27-24 Saturday, as quarterback Ken Dorsey passed for a career-high 328

yards and two touchdowns. Miami (4-1) jumped from No. 7 in the latest AP poll to No. 4, while the Seminoles (5-1) fell to No. 7.

BASKETBALL

BOCA RATON, Fla. (AP) — Miami Heat center Alonzo Mourning will be sidelined indefinitely by an apparent kidney disorder, discovered during routine preseason physical examination.

Mourning finished third in voting for the NBA's most valuable player last season, when he averaged 21.7 points, 9.5 rebounds and 3.7 blocks per game. He has missed only seven games the past two seasons.

GOLF

LUSS, Scotland (AP) — Sweden's Carin Koch made a 10-foot birdie putt on the 17th hole against Michele Redman to give Europe its second Solheim Cup victory in eight years. The Europeans won 14 1/2-11 1/2 at Loch Lomond in the closest finish in the history of the event.



The Goodland Cowboys' Mickey Steiner ran for a touchdown during the second quarter of the homecoming game against the Oberlin Red Devils on Friday night. Steiner made three of Goodland's nine touchdowns as the Cowboys' whipped the Devils 62-21. Photo by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

Goodland has drive to beat Devils

Homecoming spirits high as Cowboys win

By Rachel Miscall

The Goodland Daily News

Maybe it was the chill in the air, maybe it was the spirit of homecoming, maybe it was quarterback Luke Stone trying to show up his older brother.

Whatever was driving the Goodland Cowboys to a 62-21 victory Friday night over the Oberlin Red Devils, it was powerful.

Scoring eight touchdowns in the first half of the Homecoming game — four in the last minutes of the half — the Cowboys went into half-time with a 48-point lead over the Red Devils, who had scored a touchdown early in the game.

After the Cowboys' Bryce Abbey and Ashley Hallagin, both seniors, were crowned homecoming king and queen for Goodland High, the third quarter started and the state "mercy rule," which says the clock will run continuously when one team has a 40-point lead, was put into effect.

The Cowboys had heard about the rule earlier in the season during their game against the Atwood Buffaloes, where the Buffaloes shut out Goodland 48-0.

As time ticked away quickly — the game ended about an hour earlier than usual — the Red Devil offense gathered its strength, scoring two touchdowns in the second half. But the Devils' defensive players couldn't dig their heels in, allowing Goodland to score a last touchdown in the third quarter.

Though the Class 3A Devils had a season record of 1-4 going into the game, Cowboy Coach Chris Walters said the team would be a tough competitor for the Class 4A Cowboys, who now have a 3-3 season record. After watching Oberlin's previous games, he said, he noticed the team had a strong defensive line and a good passing game.

The Cowboys' offensive line has been consistently strong, but Coach Walters has complained about the defensive line from the beginning. After the game, the coach said the team will work on its execution before it faces the Class 4A Ulysses Tigers on Friday.

"We can't have as many turnovers as we did tonight and expect to win," he said.

Facing a smaller school with a less-impressive season record, it was no surprise the Cowboys won, but the 41-point win was surprising. Perhaps the Cowboys were spurred on by the spirit of homecoming lingering in the cold, autumn air, or maybe it was the efforts of quarterback Stone.

Stone's older brother Tige, who helped lead the Cowboys to the state championships in 1993, where the team lost to Sebetha, is the new head coach of the Red Devils. Dennis Stone, father of both and Cowboys' assistant coach, said before the game that he knew Luke would be playing his heart out.

"I think Luke will rise to the occasion," he said. "You know, if

you're the little brother, you want to show your big brother that you're special."

Luke Stone ran for two of the Cowboys' nine touchdowns and threw in two, with Matt Mentzer and Brian Mai completing the pass plays, which totaled 105 yards.

Overall, Coach Walters said he was pleased.

"The kids played hard," he said, "and did a nice job on both sides of the ball. I felt the defense stepped it up a notch and scored twice."

The Cowboys' Mickey Steiner was responsible for three of the team's touchdowns, and gained a total of 160 yards for his team over 12 carries.

"Luke and Mickey did a great job running the option and the line did a great job up front," the coach said.

The highlight of the game came in the second quarter, where the Cowboys scored four touchdowns in the last few minutes.

In mid-quarter, the Cowboys' Kris Rubio intercepted a Devil's pass and completed a 45-yard interception return with a touchdown. Minutes later, Steiner was in the end zone, making the score 42-7 in favor of Goodland. And again, with the clock showing 1:17, Steiner was running in a touchdown.

Bryan Mai ended the second quarter, completing a 60-yard pass play with a touchdown. With 3 seconds left on the clock, the Cowboys' extra-point kick sailed through the uprights to make the score 55-7.

Broncos out of funk with win against Chargers

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The Denver Broncos found the ideal way to get out of a funk — play San Diego.

Brian Griese threw three touchdown passes — two to Ed McCaffrey to cap 24-yard drives following interceptions — as the Broncos beat the Chargers 21-7 on Sunday.

The Broncos (3-3) had lost their previous two games, both at Mile High Stadium. That hadn't happened in successive games since 1990.

The Chargers (0-6), off to their worst start since losing 11 in a row to start the 1975 season, are one of two NFL teams without a victory this season; the other is Cincinnati.

The second Griese-to-McCaffrey TD pass was a 5-yarder four plays after Terrell Buckley's 31-yard interception return. It gave the Broncos a 14-7 lead with 6:16 left in the third period.

Griese threw a 14-yard scoring pass to Dwayne Carswell with 1:25 remain-

ing in the game — two plays after rookie Deltha O'Neal's 64-yard punt return — to complete the scoring.

Trailing 14-7, the Chargers threatened to tie the game before Buckley intercepted Jim Harbaugh's pass in the end zone on a fourth-and-goal play from the 5 and returned it to Denver's 30 with 6:22 left.

Griese completed 27-of-40 passes for 235 yards, and McCaffrey had a career-high 10 receptions for 71 yards.

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