

Goodland Cowboys slate wiped clean

By Rachel Miscal
The Goodland Daily News
The Goodland Cowboys' slate has been wiped clean.

When the team sets foot on the Ulysses Tigers' football field Friday, nothing in the past will matter. Not the three losses or three wins, not the defense problems, little mistakes or big victories.

Though Goodland has already played six games this season, it's only the last three that really count. In their first district game of the season — the first to count towards the playoffs — the Cowboys will square off against the Ulysses Tigers.

The Cowboys will travel over 200 miles on Friday to face the Class 4A Tigers — the first team Goodland has played this season in its own class.

The game will start at 7:30 p.m. central time at the Ulysses high school stadium, which is in the southwest part of town on Maxwell Street near the Pizza Hut.

After Ulysses, the Cowboys will face Colby and Scott City, the other two Class 4A teams in Goodland's district.

One of the four teams will advance to the playoffs and possibly fight its way to state. The last time Goodland played in the state championships was



Goodland's Mickey Steiner ran for a touchdown during the Cowboys' Homecoming game against the Oberlin Red Devils last week, leading Goodland to a 62-21 victory. The Cowboys will face the Ulysses Tigers on Friday, the team's first district game and the first that will count towards the playoffs.

Photo by Rachel Miscal/The Goodland Daily News

in 1993, when the Cowboys fell to the Sebetha Bluejays.

Though the Cowboys have had their share of problems this season, Coach Chris Walters said the team has improved and has a shot at taking down the Tigers, which have a 4-2 season record, and going to the playoffs.

"I think our chances are good," said the coach. "We've definitely improved

on defense and continue to get better, and our offensive line has improved."

A team doesn't have to win all three district games to make it to the playoffs — as long as it has done better than the other three teams in its district — but Coach Walters said the Cowboys aren't going to take chances.

"We're planning to win them all," he said. The Colby game will take place

in Colby on Friday, Oct. 20, and the Cowboys will face Scott City at home on Thursday, Oct. 26.

After a 48-0 loss to Atwood in the fourth game of the season and a close loss the week before to the St. Francis Indians — both Class 2A teams — the Cowboys have slowly built up their confidence with two wins in a row.

The Cowboys overcame the previously undefeated Phillipsburg Panthers in the fifth game of the season, before destroying the Oberlin Red Devils last week with a 62-21 victory. The league's "mercy rule," which means the clock is only stopped for an injury, was put into effect in the second half of Goodland's Homecoming game because the Cowboys had over a 40-point lead.

The team played well against Oberlin, Coach Walters said, but not good enough to beat Ulysses.

"We had some lapses in execution," he said. "We can't afford to make those mistakes in Ulysses. It's important we focus and know our assignments."

But, the coach said, if the Cowboys play aggressively on both sides of the ball and keep the mistakes to a minimum, they will win.

"Our kids are just as good as their kids," Coach Walters said. "It's going to come down to execution."

K-State players try to ignore big game

MANHATTAN (AP) — Kansas State linebacker Ben Leber is preoccupied about a test this week. Defensive tackle Mario Fatafehi claims he's sheltered from the media and hasn't paid much attention. And coach Bill Snyder compares this Saturday to any other on the Wildcats' schedule.

But whether or not the players and coaches will admit it, No. 2 Kansas State's clash with No. 8 Oklahoma isn't just another game for the Wildcats. The media and fan attention surrounding Kansas State's first real test of the season has Manhattan abuzz and is gaining national attention as ESPN's College Gameday prepares to play host to the show from KSU stadium.

"I am not totally oblivious to some of the things that are said and written, that makes it seem, perhaps, different," Snyder said. "But my focus, and I have tried to keep everyone else's focus, is on the task at hand."

Not only is it Kansas State's first game against a top 10 opponent since Nebraska last season, but it also features the much publicized matchup between Snyder and three former Kansas State coaches who left Manhattan to pursue careers at Oklahoma.

Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops was Snyder's defensive coordinator from 1988-1995 and three assistants — offensive coordinator Mark Mangino, defensive coordinator Mike Stoops and linebacker coach Brent Venables — left Kansas State following the 1998 season.

The coaching move angered fans and caused one Manhattan resident to label the coaches as traitors on a lawn sign.

"I think there are people in Manhattan that have some bad blood about the coaches," wide receiver Aaron Lockett said. "I don't feel that way. But it will definitely be a sea of purple on Saturday."

Add the Oklahoma hype to Kansas State's run for a national championship and the game matches the fervor surrounding Kansas State's victory over Nebraska in 1998 to break a thirty-year losing streak to the Cornhuskers.

"In 1998, we had very similar circumstances with the ESPN program being here, and just the hype, so to speak that presents itself," Snyder said.

Snyder said he and the players have to prepare as if the Wildcats were playing Ball State or North Texas.

Outfielder rejects \$32 million offer from Royals

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Kansas City outfielder Johnny Damon rejected a five-year, \$32 million offer from the Royals as he waits to see what off-season moves the club makes to improve itself.

"The way I see it, there's two things that drive players: winning and money," Damon told *The Kansas City Star*. "The only way that guys will take less money is if the team is a winner."

"Why sign for less if you're not guaranteed to win?"

Damon, 26, is eligible for arbitration and figures to make a lot more than the

\$4 million he made this season. He had set \$6.5 million as the starting point based on what Boston paid Jose Offerman, but that was before he batted .327, led the AL with 46 stolen bases and drove in 88 runs from his leadoff spot.

"I think the Royals will be very surprised at what could be commanded out there," Damon said. "It's a funny world where baseball is going."

General Manager Allard Baird said the off-season plan was to sign Damon and then build around him. Damon's demand that the Royals acquire play-

ers first has disrupted that plan.

"Johnny is the domino effect in all of this," Baird said. "Signing Johnny triggers the ability for us to address our voids. But they (Damon and agent Scott Boras) would like us to address the voids first."

"To ask us to go about it before signing Johnny, I just can't see how we can do that."

The Royals key needs are in the bullpen and at catcher. The club has a highly efficient offense that scored 879 runs last season.

"Before I commit for a long period

of time, I think I should see who we're going to bring in here and see if we're going to be able to compete," Damon said.

"I've been here since '95, and it's always been the same thing."

"Before I lock in to a long-term deal, I want to make sure there are going to be some other horses to help us make the playoffs."

Damon said he likes Kansas City, but wants to win. Kansas City finished in fourth place in the American League Central at 77-85 after losing 97 games in 1999.

"I'd like to win," Damon said. "Right now, winning is going to be No. 1 for me," Damon said. "Regardless, the money is going to be out there. I'm a rich man now. I'm going to be even a richer man after this. The fact is, I want to start winning. I'm not sure if we can do it here or not."

baseball scoreboard

By The Associated Press
Postseason Baseball
Division Series
American League

Seattle 3, Chicago 0
Seattle 7, Chicago 4, 10 innings
Seattle 5, Chicago 2
Seattle 2, Chicago 1

New York 3, Oakland 2
Oakland 5, New York 3
New York 4, Oakland 0
New York 4, Oakland 2
Oakland 11, New York 1
New York 7, Oakland 5

National League
New York 3, San Francisco 1
San Francisco 5, New York 1
New York 5, San Francisco 4, 10 innings
New York 3, San Francisco 2, 13 innings
New York 4, San Francisco 0

St. Louis 3, Atlanta 0
St. Louis 7, Atlanta 5
St. Louis 10, Atlanta 4
St. Louis 7, Atlanta 1

League Championship Series
American League

(NBC)
Tuesday, Oct. 10
Seattle 2, New York 0
Wednesday, Oct. 11
New York 7, Seattle 1, series tied 1-1
Friday, Oct. 13
New York (Pettitte 19-9) at Seattle (Sele 17-10), 6:12 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 14
New York (Clemens 13-8) at Seattle (Abbott 9-7), 5:42 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 15
New York at Seattle, 2:09 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 17
Seattle at New York, 6:12 p.m., if necessary

Wednesday, Oct. 18
Seattle at New York, 6:12 p.m., if necessary

National League

(FOX)
Wednesday, Oct. 11
New York 6, St. Louis 2, New York leads series 1-0
Thursday, Oct. 12
New York (Leiter 16-8) at St. Louis (Ankiel 11-7), 6:18 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 14
St. Louis (An.Benes 12-9) at New York (Reed 11-5), 4:18 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 15
St. Louis (Kile 20-9) at New York (B.J.Jones 11-6), 6 p.m.
Monday, Oct. 16
St. Louis at New York, 6:18 p.m., if necessary
Wednesday, Oct. 18
New York at St. Louis, 2:18 p.m., if necessary

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Thursday, Oct. 19
New York at St. Louis, 6:18 p.m., if necessary

World Series

(FOX)
Saturday, Oct. 21
National League at American League, 6 p.m.
Sunday, Oct. 22
NL at AL, 6 p.m.
Tuesday, Oct. 24
AL at NL, 6:18 p.m.
Wednesday, Oct. 25
AL at NL, 6:18 p.m.
Thursday, Oct. 26
AL at NL, 6:18 p.m., if necessary
Saturday, Oct. 28
NL at AL, 6 p.m., if necessary
Sunday, Oct. 29
NL at AL, 6 p.m. EST, if necessary

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Splash

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44K

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Sport Side

1997 Pontiac Trans Sport -
Montana Pkg., 68K

1997 Pontiac Grand Prix GT - 4D
1997 Chrysler Sebring LXI -
Silver, 52K

1995 Pontiac Trans Am - Loaded,
red, 69K, V-8, auto.

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