

Cowboys hope to fix problems

By Rachel Miscal
The Goodland Daily News
Things just haven't been going the Cowboys' way this season. Going into district play with a 3-3 season record, Coach Chris Walters said the Cowboys wanted to win all three of their district games and advance to the playoffs.

"I think our chances are good," Walters said. But it didn't work out that way.

After a 27-20 loss to the Ulysses Tigers in the first round of district play, the coach said the Cowboys' goal line play and execution were weak. He said if the team could work it out, the Cowboys had a good chance at beating the Colby Eagles, a rival Goodland hadn't lost to in 11 years. The Cowboys went down 27-8, giving up any chances the team had for playoffs.

"I think that we got out coached and out played," said a dejected Walters.

The Cowboys will face the Scott City Beavers, who are 1-1 in district play after losing to Ulysses last week, at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, and the coach said the team's only goal now is to end



The Cowboys' Mickey Steiner ran for a touchdown during Goodland's Homecoming game against the Oberlin Red Devils on Friday, Oct. 6, leading the Cowboys to a 62-21 win.

Photo by Rachel Miscal/The Goodland Daily News

the season positively.

"Our objective is to just go out and play well," said Coach Walters, "and end the season on a good note."

The coach said when the Cowboys step on their home field, they have to leave their defense and execution problems on the sidelines.

"I think our chances are decent," he said, "if we play well. We are going to have to execute well and play good football."

This week in practice, the coach said, the Cowboys have been working on ways to attack the Beavers' 4-4 de-

fense.

If the team can hold down the Beavers' senior Jerrad Speer, who starts on offense and defense, then they have a chance.

"You have to worry about the whole team, of course," said Walters, "but he's a great athlete. On defense (as a linebacker), he makes a lot of plays and we have to do a good job blocking him."

After the first round of district play — the last three games of the season that count toward the playoffs — Scott City was in the best position to advance

after stomping Colby 28-0. The tables turned in round two, with Ulysses taking the driver's seat after shutting out the Beavers 28-0.

The Tigers are now 2-0 in district play, and Coach Walters said they are bound for playoffs unless Scott City beats Goodland and Colby beats Ulysses. In that case, all three of the teams will be 2-1 in district play, and it will come down to numbers.

But none of that really matters to the Cowboys or Walters.

"I don't have any preference for a winner," he said.

Cowboy runners fall short of team's hopes

By Janet Craft
The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland Cowboys cross country team fell short of their hopes at Saturday's Class 4A Regional meet at Hoisington, where about 100 boys ran.

Coach Don Smith said that he and the boys had hopes that they might have a runner finish in the top 10 and that the team would finish in the top three to qualify for state, but they fell far short of that.

The winner in the boys varsity race was Todd Worchester of Smoky Valley with a time of 16:15.

Smith said the Goodland boys' times were comparable to what they ran at league, but that the other runners at regional were a lot better and a lot faster. "That winning time of 16:15 was very fast," he said.

Running for Goodland in the 3.1 mile race, Matt Gattshall came in 23rd with a time of 17:54, Speedy Aguilar was 27th with 18:07, Timothy Kafka was 60th with 19:03, Lee McCoy was 81st with 19:55, Shawn Weber was 82nd with 19:56, Adam McCoy was 84th with 20:06, and Alan Cebula was 90th with 20:30.

The Cowboys placed 12th among 13 teams.

"Our young people didn't finish poorly," he said. "They just weren't

able to match the times of the competitors. I was dumbfounded that we finished as far back teamwise as we did.

"We were just not able to run what some of these other squads were running."

Smith said Gattshall ran one second faster than at the Northwest Kansas League meet at Oakley a week earlier and Aguilar ran one second slower.

In practice, Smith said, the boys worked on the first mile. Gattshall had 5:19 in the first mile, which was his best time for the year, he said, but the lead runners Saturday were at five minutes.

Kafka had his fastest time of the year at regionals, Smith said, 52 seconds faster than at league.

"I liked that he finished up his last meet with his fastest time," he said.

Coach Smith said there are three seniors on the boys varsity squad who won't be coming back next year, Gattshall, Adam McCoy and Lee McCoy.

"But we have four varsity runners who can form the nucleus for next year's team," he said. "We hope they can give us a stronger start at the beginning of the season and we'll see what we can accomplish at the end of the 2001 season."

Smith said he was pleased with how

the junior varsity boys performed at the league meet.

He said Colby, whose boys finished third, had a terrific performance at regionals.

Among the Goodland runners in the two-mile varsity girls race, with a little over 80 girls competing, Deanna Livengood was 55th with a time of 15:00, Anny McCoy was 62nd with 15:20, Rebecca Gattshall was 66th with 15:52, and Wendy Keith was 78th with 16:14.

In that race, Brittany Hill of Hugoton came in first with a time of 11:45.

Smith said Livengood bounced back from her league performance.

"She was close to her season best time," he said.

He said they have been working with her on a muscle injury and had her start the race slower. She wondered what would have happened if she had started faster, he said.

McCoy's time was her fastest career time, said Smith.

He said they were trying to get her into six minutes for the first mile,

which she did. But then she suffered some sideaches and wasn't able to shake those easily.

Kelsey Cooper, a student at St. Francis High School, has been competing on the Goodland squad because St. Francis doesn't have a cross country team.

Smith said she competed in regionals for her school at Stanton County High School in Johnson this past weekend.

He said she has been battling a knee problem for several weeks, but had her best time of the season with 14:25.

Smith said he wanted to recognize the work that his assistant, Rich Schwasinger, did. He said that Alyssa Mason, team manager, has done a tremendous job with her work and responsibilities throughout the year.

"It was a pleasure to work with these young people," he said. "They are a super group of outstanding individuals."

"We had some positives for our last meet and we'll try to build on those for improved success next year."

Yankees' streak comes to end at 14

NEW YORK (AP) — Benny Agbayani might have said it best.

"Anything can happen in a World Series, especially with El Duque," he said.

What happened Tuesday night was that the New York Mets ended the Yankees' record 14-game winning streak in the World Series and stopped El Duque's string, too.

Agbayani got Shea Stadium shaking with a go-ahead double in the eighth inning as Orlando Hernandez lost for the first time in the postseason as the Mets cut their Subway Series deficit to 2-1 with a 4-2 victory.

"I mean, that's all we heard was how he's won so many games in the postseason. He never lost. So there's always a first for anyone," Agbayani said.

Hernandez began the night with an 8-0 record — including 3-0 this year — and a 1.90 ERA in postseason play, and set a Yankees' World Series record by striking out 12, breaking the mark of 11 set by Bob Turley in 1956.

Still, it was not enough.

"So we got a victory, we broke a little streak," Mets manager Bobby Valentine said.

"I think baseball fans, and I'm one of them, have been watching the World Series for the last few years and it hasn't seemed like it's been real big competition," he said. "I thought we were in those first two games, but you could only go so long saying they were close games."

Now, after two one-run defeats at Yankee Stadium, the Mets get a chance to draw even. Bobby J. Jones will pitch Game 4 on Wednesday night against Denny Neagle, and Bill Clinton is expected to become the first president in office to attend a Series game since Ronald Reagan in 1983.

"It's light years different between being 3-0 and 2-1," Valentine said.

The Mets' win came after the strange doings of Sunday night's Game 2, which was all about Roger Clemens

almost hitting Mike Piazza with a bat. Earlier Tuesday, Clemens was slapped with a \$50,000 fine.

"Our fans have been waiting 14 years for this," winning pitcher John Franco said. "They're very loud and we just love being in this ballpark and the noise."

A sellout crowd of 55,299 went crazy as Armando Benitez held on in the ninth inning this time. Benitez, who blew a ninth-inning lead in the opener, closed it out after giving up a leadoff single to pinch-hitter Chuck Knoblauch.

Yankees manager Joe Torre talked to Hernandez, who felt ill before the game, about pulling him after the seventh with the score tied at 2.

"He wasn't into that," Torre said. "He's something."

"I was going to make a change. But he felt really good. And it was tough after he pitched that seventh, the way he did, to deny that."

The Mets, who tied it at 2 on Todd Zeile's double in the sixth, improved their record at Shea this season to 60-26, the best home mark in baseball.

There were more Yankees fans present than Mets rooters at Yankee Stadium, though they were easily drowned out by the huge speakers in center field — the Mets boosted their sound system with \$30,000 in extra equipment this October.

"A lot of people don't like to play here," Zeile said. "The field ... there's airplanes going overhead — we feel comfortable here. It's loud."

Hernandez, who struck out the first three hitters in the opening inning on 12 pitches and took advantage of a few extra inches on the outside corner of Jeff Kellogg's strike zone, fanned Robin Ventura to start the eighth.

But after Zeile singled, Agbayani doubled to the left-center field gap. Agbayani has hit in all 12 of the Mets' postseason games this year, including a 13th-inning home run that beat San Francisco in the division series.

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