

# Little mistakes add up to big loss

By Rachel Miscall  
*The Goodland Daily news*

A bunch of little mistakes added up to a big loss for the Goodland Cowboys Thursday night, as the team fought hard against Scott City but fell down on execution, allowing the Beavers to snatch a 35-14 victory.

Though Scott City had a successful season, winning two of their three district games, the Ulysses Tigers will be the team to advance to the playoffs from the four-team district.

During the third quarter of the Cowboys' home game, the announcer said the final score of the Colby-Ulysses game was 42-21 in favor of Ulysses. The win made the Tigers 3-0 in district play and a shoo-in for playoffs.

In a game marked by numerous illegal procedure penalties — at least six in the first half — and goal-line struggles, Goodland's coaches stood frustrated on the sidelines.

After the game, the last of the season for the Cowboys, Coach Chris Walters, said the mistakes had hurt the Cowboys.

"We were killing ourselves by not executing," he said. "We had a lot of mental mistakes that hurt us."

The Cowboys, who end the season 3-6, racked up penalties for holding, pass interference, offsides and illegal procedure, and had trouble when they did make it to the goal line.

With a score of 14-0 in favor of Scott City, the Cowboys approached the end zone midway in the second quarter, but lost the ball to the Beavers after Cowboys' quarterback Luke Stone was sacked twice.

The Beavers started their drive on the 18 yard line, but with 5:26 left in the first half, the Cowboys recovered a Scott City fumble and began making their way towards a touchdown from the 36.

The Cowboys neared the end zone again, but even after three time-outs — two called by Goodland — failed to convert on the fourth down. The

first half ended with the score 14-0 in favor of the Beavers.

Despite the mistakes and struggles, Coach Walters said he thought the team gave a great effort and played a relatively strong defensive and offensive game.

"I felt those guys played hard the whole game," he said.

The coach said he guessed the team may have been distracted or unable to focus, but said he couldn't pinpoint the culprit.

"If I knew exactly what was going on," Coach Walters said, "I would have fixed it."

"Hopefully it's something we can start to correct for next year," he said.

Goodland's effort was apparent as the Cowboys came back to score two touchdowns in the fourth quarter.

Neither team scored in the third quarter, but early in the fourth, Goodland's Jeremy Stephan intercepted a Scott City pass at the 9-yard line and started the Cowboys towards a touchdown.

With 11:47 on the clock, quarterback Stone broke out of the crowd and sprinted 67 yards into the east end zone. Missing the extra point, the Cowboys lessened the score gap to 14-6 Scott City.

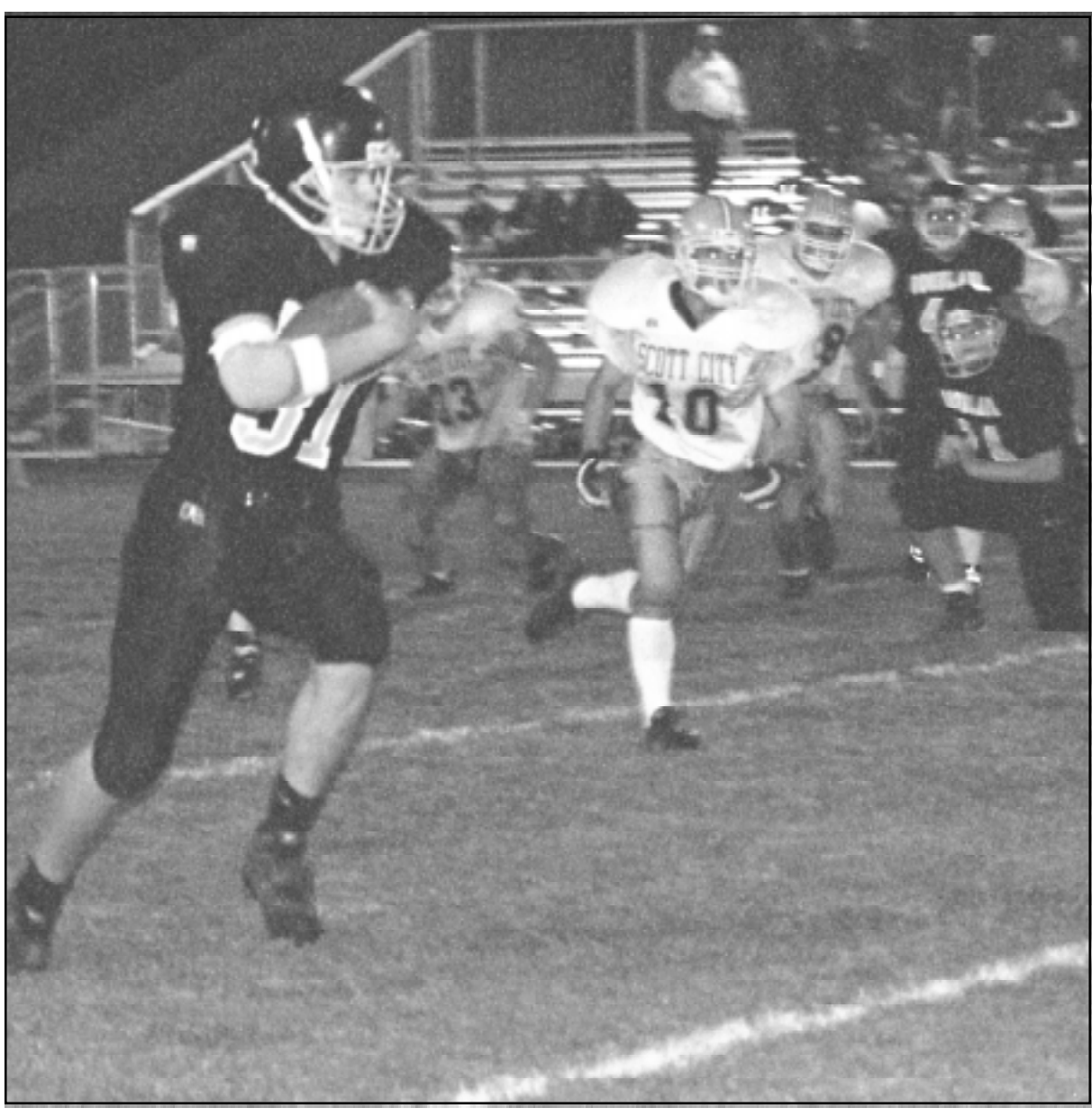
"It was a lot closer game than what the score showed," said Coach Walters, noting that early in the fourth quarter Goodland was only one touchdown away from evening up the game.

Seconds after Goodlands' touchdown, Scott City widened the gap again by running 79 yards into the end zone, making the score 21-6.

"It just kind of snowballed from there," said Coach Walters.

The Beavers quickly racked up 14 points, leaving Goodland 29 points behind. With 24.2 seconds left in the game, the Cowboys' Tyler Billinger ran in a last touchdown, but it was too late for a comeback — in the game or the season.

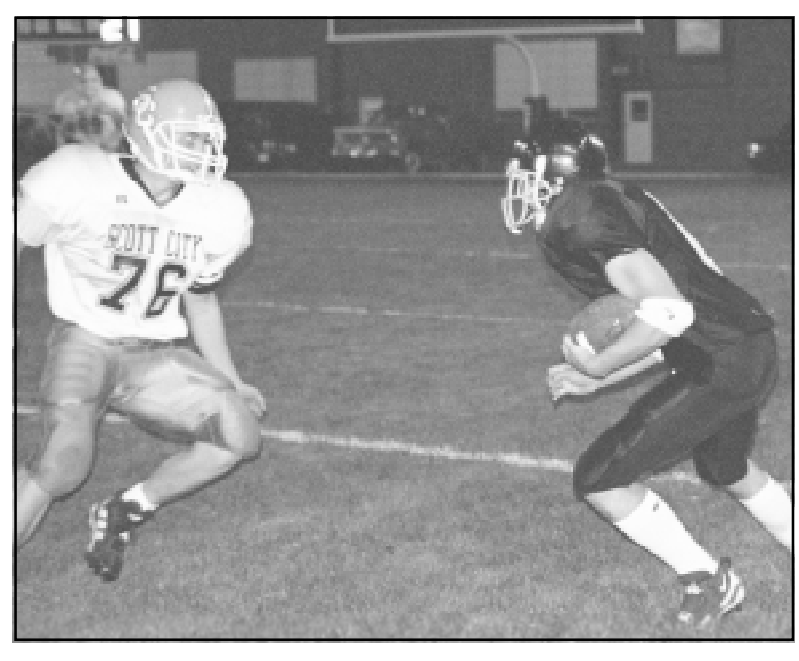
"They're all good kids," said Coach Walters, who has now finished his first football season in Goodland. "I've enjoyed coaching them."



## Gridiron face-off

The Cowboys' Sean Greenlee (above) ran the ball during Thursday's game, but failed to score. Quarterback Luke Stone (right) did score once, though not after this face off with a Scott City Beaver. The Beavers beat the Cowboys 35-14 in Goodland's last game of the season.

Photos by Rachel Miscall  
The Goodland Daily News



# Another try for Wildcats

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP) — Two years later, Kansas State finally gets another chance at Texas A&M.

This time, however, the No. 10 Wildcats (7-1, 3-1 Big 12) may already be out of the national title hunt without any help from A&M (5-2, 3-1).

The two teams meet Saturday for the first time since their double-overtime thriller in the 1998 Big 12 Championship Game, when A&M won 36-33 to take away previously undefeated Kansas State's shot at a national championship.

"For me, I try to forget about it because it was a heart-crushing time," said Kansas State senior safety Jarrod Cooper. "I don't use those feelings for motivation, I just try to make up new ones."

Kansas State has more immediate problems than what happened in 1998.

The Wildcats are recovering from their 41-31 loss to Oklahoma two weeks ago and a 28-23 victory over Texas Tech last week that K-State fans never expected to be that close. The Wildcats were 10th in the initial Bowl Championship Series rankings.

"Sometimes you win ugly and sometimes you win pretty," Johnson said. "Hopefully, we'll string some of the pretty ones together here real soon."

Still, Wildcats senior defensive end Monty Beisel admits that the hurt from that 1998 Big 12 title game, and being knocked from the national title game to the Alamo Bowl where they lost to unranked Purdue, has never gone completely away.

"It was devastating to our program and to our fans at the time," Beisel said. "When you think back to something that devastating, it's always going to hurt a little bit. But I think we've moved on and we've moved on pretty well."

In that 1998 Big 12 Championship Game, A&M second-string quarterback Brannndon Stewart led the Aggies to a 15-point comeback in the fourth quarter to force overtime.

"The same coaches are there and some of the same guys that were a part of that game, and I'm sure there is something left from that," said Mark Farris, A&M's starting quarterback now. "But it's like anything that people build up for games. When the game starts, there won't be a lot of effect."

# Yankees best in baseball with three straight World Series wins

NEW YORK (AP) — Best in their own backyard, best in all of baseball.

The New York Yankees, thought to be too old and too banged-up to make it this far, became the first team in a quarter-century to win three straight World Series championships, beating the New York Mets 4-2 Thursday night.

Luis Sojo, one of many midseason pickups, hit a two-out, tiebreaking single off Al Leiter in the ninth inning to decide Game 5, stunning a Shea Stadium crowd that was sure there was more baseball to play.

The Subway Series turned out to be a short ride for New York fans who had waited 44 years for another one and hoped it would go seven games. Instead, the Yankees quickly matched the Oakland Athletics' three in a row from 1974-75, and won their fourth title in five years.

Only two other runs in baseball history can compare — Joe DiMaggio led the Yankees to five crowns from 1936-41, and Mickey Mantle helped take the Bronx Bombers to six titles from 1947-53.

And while the lasting image of this Series is certain to be Roger Clemens throwing the bat at Mike Piazza, this is the picture the Yankees will prefer to savor: Owner George Steinbrenner hoisting another big piece of hardware for the team's trophy case.

Game 4 hero Derek Jeter, who earned his fourth ring at only 26, and slumping Bernie Williams homered for the

Yankees. But it was Sojo, who blossomed into a good-luck charm after rejoining the Yanks from Pittsburgh on Aug. 7, who delivered the winning hit.

Leiter battled all night, and struck out the first two batters in the ninth. Then he walked Jorge Posada and gave up a single to Scott Brosius, and Sojo followed by slapping a single up the middle on Leiter's 142nd and final pitch.

Another run scored on the play when center fielder Jay Payton's throw home hit Posada and bounded into the Mets dugout.

Leiter remained winless in 11 post-season starts, while Mike Stanton won in relief of Andy Pettitte. Mariano Rivera pitched the ninth for a save.

At the stroke of midnight, Piazza fled out to the edge of the warning track in center field with a runner on base to finish it.

The Yankees fans in the sellout crowd of 55,292 went wild after having been outshouted all evening.

Unlike the overmatched San Diego Padres in 1998 and the overwhelmed Atlanta Braves in 1999, the wild-card Mets were in it all the way. Their best chance, however, really may have ended when closer Armando Benitez could not hold a one-run lead in the opener.

These Yankees went into the playoffs with seven straight losses, and also dropped the opener in their AL series against Oakland and Seattle. In the end, though, manager Joe Torre's team showed what October experience is all about.

Even with so much at stake, there was room to have a little fun — with a broken bat, no less.

Kurt Abbott shattered his bat on a foul ball in the Mets fourth, and the

jagged barrel skittered out toward Jeter at shortstop.

With the crowd starting to hoot,

mindful of the Clemens-Piazza encounter in Game 2, Jeter made a nice show in defusing any hint of trouble.

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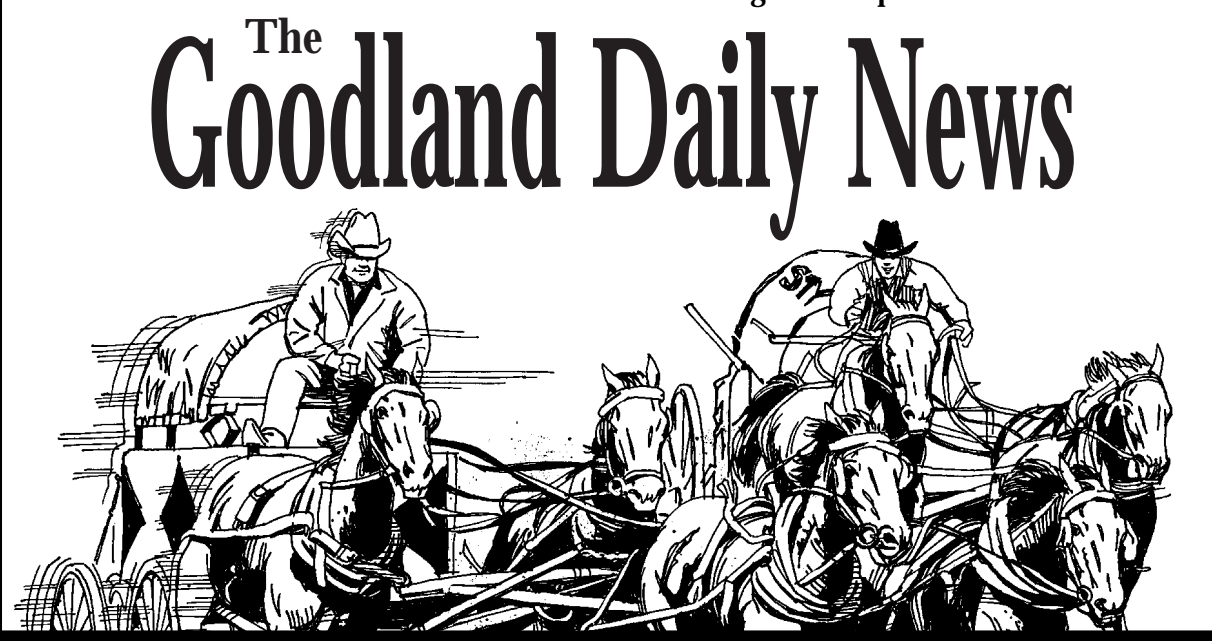
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By The Associated Press

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Grinnell 54, Sharon Springs 6

Healy-Utica 46, Triplains 30

Hoxie 51, Hill City 10

Marysville 50, Wanego 13

Northern Valley 46, Jennings 0

Norton 35, Oberlin 0

Quinter 39, Ness City 0

Scott City 35, Goodland 14

Smith Center 44, Phillipsburg 0

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Tribune 62, Deerfield 28

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