

Mustangs kick off season

*Seventh- and eighth-grade teams
play first home game at 3:30 p.m.*

The Grant Junior High Mustangs will play their first game of the year against Atwood at 3:30 p.m. today in the new junior high gym at Max Jones Field House.

"I think we feel as good as we can going into our first game," said seventh-grade coach Wallace Hansen.

He said this year's seventh grade team is relatively young, with 15 or 16 of the 28 kids out for the team never having played in competition before.

With a team this inexperienced, he said, he is focusing on footwork, fighting through screens, boxing out of a defense to get a rebound and basic ball handling.

The team has had 11 practices, with two canceled practices — one because of tornado warnings on Halloween — and Hansen said the team is geared to go up against Atwood tonight.

"We have been working on our man-to-man and zone defense," he said, "and I feel that we are fairly prepared for the match."

Hansen said he has also been working with the boys on their conditioning so that they have the endurance to play the full court tonight.

The games will have six-minute quarters and both the 8th grade and seventh grade A and B teams will play.

Hansen said there is a schedule change on Dec. 12, when the game against Burlington, listed as an away game, will be played at home.

"We will be playing three home games and nine away games," he said.

The next home game will be at 3:30 p.m. Nov. 21 against Oakley.



Craig Mason, an eighth-grade Mustang, (right) put up the ball while Jake Johnson and Joe Kaup waited to rebound during practice Wednesday night. Brett Jarmin (above) threw the ball during a drill Wednesday. The boys will play their first game at 3:30 p.m. today.

Photo by Dana Sulsberger
The Goodland Daily News



Chiefs' new defense give rookies chance

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Linebacker Mike Maslowski and rookie cornerback William Bartee will see increased playing time in a simplified Kansas City defense Sunday.

When the Chiefs meet San Francisco in their third straight trip to the West Coast, Maslowski will take playing time from Lew Bush, who has had a slow start since being acquired from San Diego.

Bartee, a second-round draft pick, could replace struggling rookie Patrick Dennis.

Perhaps more important, the Chiefs are simplifying the defensive scheme that led to Oakland's winning 49-31 last week while running for 231 yards, an average gain of more than 5.5 yards.

"We're going back to our fundamentals and go from there," said linebacker Donnie Edwards.

With former Chief Rich Gannon playing almost flawlessly and hitting four TD passes, the Raiders swept the season series from the Chiefs (5-4) and took a three-game lead in the AFC West.

It was one of the worst performances

by any Kansas City defense ever. Did it hurt their pride?

"Absolutely," said Edwards. "Come on. You play defense and you give up 49 points? If you have any pride in yourself you're going to come back the next week and try to do something about it."

That's what were going to do. A lot of guys on our defense are frustrated and upset about last week and we're going to do something about it."

Several things have slowed Bush's transition to the Chiefs. For one, his wife gave birth to a premature child who required special attention.

"He's played well at times," said head coach Gunther Cunningham. "He's been a little bit inconsistent. He had his ankle banged up and he went through the time with his wife having the baby and that set him back, too."

Bush insists he's feeling at ease in his new surroundings.

"I'm very comfortable. Everything's the same ... just the terminology," he said. "My role is a bit different. But after three weeks, I felt comfortable. Overall, our scheme is solid."

Broncos prepare for rival

DENVER (AP) — After selecting a second set of captains, the Denver Broncos returned to the practice field on Wednesday as they began preparations for a Monday night showdown against AFC West rival Oakland.

Denver (5-4) trails the Raiders (8-1) by three games, making the Monday matchup critical for Denver's division-title and playoff hopes alike.

"I think we all know our backs are against the wall," defensive tackle Keith Traylor said. "We have to go out and play each game like it's a playoff game now. You win, you keep going. You lose, you go home."

Prior to Wednesday's one-hour workout, Broncos players selected

additional captains, as they normally do at midseason.

The new captains — quarterback Brian Griese on offense, linebacker Bill Romanowski on defense and safety George Coghill on special teams — will join existing captains Terrell Davis, Ray Crockett and Detron Smith, who were selected at the start of the season.

Asked if the votes were close enough to require a mandatory recount, coach Mike Shanahan joked, "The official votes will be in tomorrow at 5 o'clock."

Shanahan, whose teams traditionally have practiced without pads, ordered his team to practice in pads with an emphasis on hitting.

Kansas State faces the reality of Nebraska game

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP)—Kansas State's players aren't kidding themselves as they prepare for their matchup against No. 4 Nebraska on Saturday. They know very well how dangerous Cornhusker quarterback Eric Crouch is.

It's stopping him that poses the concern.

"You have to know where he's at on every play," free safety Jon McGraw said. "If you miss one gap, he can take it to the house on one play."

Last season, Crouch used more than one play to exploit Kansas State's defense in a 41-15 Nebraska win in Lincoln. Crouch had two touchdowns and 148 rushing yards.

Crouch's 100-yard rushing performance against Kansas State was one of nine in his career. Crouch has rushed for 804 yards and 12 carries this season, is 22-4 as a starter and is ranked fourth at Nebraska in career total offense with 4,945 yards.

"He is athletic and fast," Kansas State coach Bill Snyder said. "He makes those athletic, quick moves and then accelerates. If you get just a little bit out of position, he makes you look like a fourth-grader. And he has the ability to throw the football as well, so you are always worried about the play action."

Defensive coordinator Phil Bennett compared Crouch to former Kansas

State quarterback and current New England Patriot Michael Bishop, who was a Heisman Trophy runner-up and ranks second on Kansas State's career total offense chart.

"It's the same type of scenario," he said. "Crouch is just a phenomenal player. He's the kind of quarterback that can make a bad play look good and make a good play look great. We'll have to try to contain him and minimize his chances."

Snyder said Crouch wasn't the only concern for Kansas State — several other Nebraska players can be just as dangerous.

Running backs Dan Alexander and Correll Buckhalter have helped to rank

Nebraska first in the nation in rushing offense with 3,346 yards and 39 touchdowns. Alexander has rushed for 924 yards and is ranked second in the Big 12 and Buckhalter has run for 670.

"There is just such great balance in that team ...," Snyder said. "They have the power running game, which is likewise a concern when you have such a big and physical offensive line."

The Wildcats, though, have been known for their rushing defense. Kan-

sas State has held its opponents to a conference best 83.8 yards per game.

Snyder said against the Cornhuskers the Wildcats have a chance to get back to the defense they do well at.

"Our base defense is a little more broad than one might think," he said.

"It stems from playing against a two-back offensive football team. There are some things that we built our defense around that we will be able to do in this ball game."

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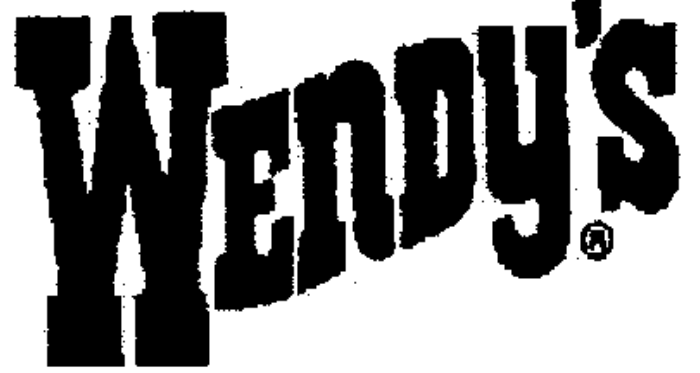
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Thank you citizens for your votes in District 2 and the rest of Sherman County for your support in allowing me to win the write-in campaign.


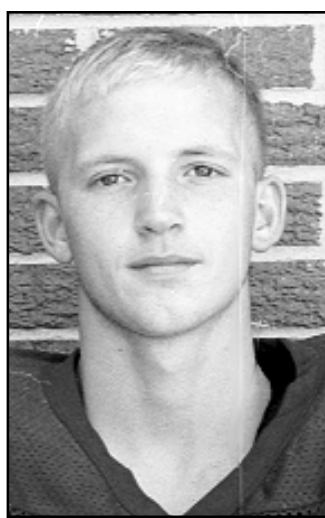
I'm looking forward to working with the other commissioners for the benefit of Sherman County.

Mitch Tiede

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Athletes of the Week are:



Brewster's Brett Arnberger and Nick Juenemann are this week's Athletes of the Week. Arnberger had a touchdown catch in the bi-district win over Weskan last Tuesday. Juenemann led Brewster's defense Saturday in their loss to Hanston. Juenemann had 18 tackles. Both are seniors at Brewster High.

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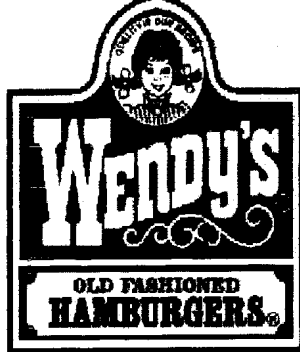
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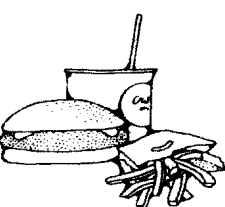


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