

First week of practice leaves coach optimistic

Cowboys to start season with first game Dec. 1

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News
After a 6-15 finish last season with first-year coach Jon McLean, the Goodland High School boys basketball team is setting up for a fresh start this season.

"I'm really optimistic and excited," said McLean. "The kids are working really hard and doing everything we want them to do.

"The team attitude is really good." Practice for the team, which has 34 players from freshman through senior this year, started Monday night.

It is hard to say whether all the kids will stick with it, said McLean, but he thinks most of the boys will.

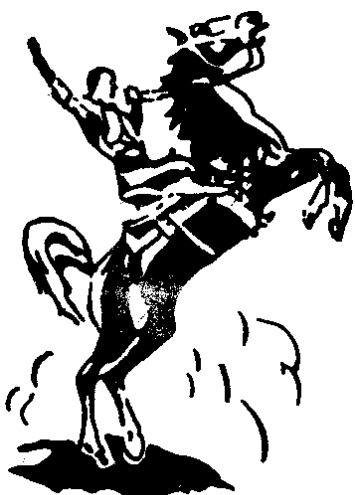
McLean is joined by coaches Brad Bergsma, the junior varsity coach this year, and Travis Whitman, freshman coach.

He said four who were starting players at some point last season are returning this year: Nathan Thompson, Luke Stone, Jeremy Stephan and Matt Mentzer.

"I can really tell the difference after they have been in the program a year and now are returning," McLean said.

A lot of the players are moving up from the junior varsity team last year, he said, and he thinks they will add depth.

So far in practice, McLean said, the



team has been working on skills and drills mainly. The players are working on improving their overall ball handling skills by practicing passing and shooting, and he is trying to improve their defensive game.

"Right now, we are throwing a bunch of things at them," he said, "to see who will rise to the top and be our lead players."

The team's strengths lies in the players' speed and agility, he said, as well as how the boys play together as a team.

"The kids enjoy being around one another," he said, "and this will make them play well together and be a good

team."

The team struggled last year with turnovers, he said, and they need to work on that as well as varying their shot selection.

The varsity will be playing seven home games, including the first five, said McLean.

"I think the community will really enjoy watching us play this season," he said. "The first five games will give them a good chance to come out and watch what we can do."

The first game will be game against Imperial, Neb., at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1, and the coach said he wasn't concerned about the game yet. When the Cowboys went to Imperial last year, he said, they got beat pretty badly.

He said he thought there were some things with Imperial's offense that the players need to prepare for.

"It will be interesting to see how the kids come out and handle their first game," he said.

The coach said he expects to have a positive and successful season this year. The kids are working hard and are coachable, he said.

"The wins and losses will take care of themselves," he said. "I expect them to take their share of games."

The varsity boys will be playing 15 games in the regular season and then go into sub-state play.

Wildcats pull through season struggle

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP) — If Kansas State's memorable win over Nebraska on Saturday had been a television special, then wide receiver Quincy Morgan and strong safety Jarrod Cooper would have competed for starring roles.

Like the Wildcats, both players have struggled this season, but were monumental in No. 9 Kansas State's 29-28 victory.

Morgan had his best game of the season against the Huskers. He caught seven passes for 199 yards, putting himself second on the school's all-time list for single-game receiving yards. Darnell McDonald holds the record with 206 yards against Syracuse in 1997.

One of Morgan's two touchdowns was a 12-yard catch from Jonathan Beasley with 2:52 to go that put Kansas State ahead to stay.

"We had to win that game," Morgan said. "I did my part to do that. I told coach that I had dropped some passes, but if he went to me I knew I could get the big play."

Offensive coordinator Ron Hudson said Morgan had dropped catchable passes, including four in Kansas State's loss to Oklahoma, but his speed and athleticism are irreplaceable.

"I guess he likes to make us coaches nervous," Hudson said of Morgan's mistakes this season. "His speed and athleticism finally caught up with him. We told him he would need to have a big game. He made plays when he had to."

Morgan has 13 touchdowns and 1,074 yards this season. He needs just 18 yards to break McDonald's season record for receiving yards.

"Quincy's a young man that has obvious pro potential," Hudson said.

Cooper's story has been more dramatic. The senior strong safety was picked by many as an All-America candidate, but he injured his pectoral muscle in the season opener and missed three games. He also was held out against Iowa State for an undisclosed violation of team rules.

"Cooper's on the right track right now," defensive end Monty Beisel said. "He's been through a lot this sea-

son. But he's a competitor; hopefully he'll continue to make a comeback."

Against Nebraska, Cooper led the team with eight tackles. Cooper had struggled against passing teams like Texas Tech and Oklahoma, but he said Nebraska's running attack suited his style.

"We haven't played a running team like that all year," he said. "It felt good being able to get out there and hit people."

Cooper, second on the team with 77 tackles, has played in just seven games this season. Cooper said coping with not being able to play was disappointing and difficult to overcome.

Due to the football play-offs, the St. Francis MYF 3-on-3 basketball tournament has been moved to Saturday, November 25th. Check-in for 1st through 4th is 8:30 CST at the Grade School gym. Check-in for 5th through 8th is at 11:00 CST.

For more information call (785) 332-3079 or fax (785) 332-3290. Deadline is November 21st.

RICE AUTO SALES
SHANON RICE, OWNER
950 S. RANGE • Colby
785-462-7156

1995 Ford Windstar GL - local trade, 50K \$14,485

1999 Chevy Cavalier LS - 29K
1999 Volkswagon Beetle - 17K,
Loaded, 5 spd.
1998 Chevy S-10 SS - V-6, auto., 16K
1998 Pontiac Sunfire - 4D, 54K
1998 Ford Ranger X/Cab - 4X4,
Splash
1998 Dodge Quad Cab SLT Pkg. - 44K
1997 Ram 1500 X/Cab 4X4 - Sport,
local trade, 50K
1997 S-10 X/Cab Sport Side - 2
WD, 4.3, V-6, auto., loaded
1997 Pontiac Grand Prix GT - 4D
1997 Chrysler Sebring LXI -
Silver, 52K
1995 Pontiac Trans Am - 70K,
loaded, **REDUCED!**
1993 Chevy S-10 X/Cab 4X4 -
4.3, V-6, 5 spd., 88K
1993 Mercury Cougar XR7 -
local car, 80K, loaded
1993 Ford Explorer XLT - Local
trade, 81K

It's Great Money-Saving Weather!

Now's The Time To Get An Outstanding Deal On A New Zimmatic Center Pivot.

Take your choice of one of these money-saving options:
Hurry—To qualify, orders must be received by November 30, 2000.

1. **Cash rebate up to \$1600***
on systems delivered by February 28, 2001.
*Based on new eight-tower Zimmatic system.

2. **0% down with delayed first payment due January 1, 2002**
7.50% low interest, five-year financing.
Seven-year program also available.

3. **7.25% low interest with 5% down**
Five-year financing with first payment due in 12 months. Three-, seven-, and ten-year programs also available.

4. **0% financing for 12 months**
Low effective rates with just 10% down.

Certain restrictions and conditions apply to each of these options. See your Zimmatic dealer for complete details.

Goodland Greenline

1104 W. Hwy. 24
Goodland, Kan.
(785) 899-7575

ZIMMATIC
Leadership and strength you can depend on today and tomorrow.



Chiefs try to fill weak spots

Several starters may have new positions to fill

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Tony Gonzalez and Derrick Alexander, two key ingredients in Kansas City's rejuvenated passing attack, may have new jobs when the Chiefs meet Buffalo on Sunday.

They, and perhaps a few other starters on offense and defense, may join the punt-return team — a weak spot since returner Tamarick Vanover was released last spring after being implicated in a federal investigation into a drug and stolen-car ring.

Coach Gunther Cunningham said Wednesday he was also thinking about putting safety Jerome Woods and cornerback James Hasty on the punt-return team.

"We've got to get our best players on there," Cunningham said.

In another move, Cunningham said Mike Maslowski would replace Lew

Bush as a starting outside linebacker. Maslowski, a former Arena League standout, is also the captain of the special-teams unit but had an outstanding game against San Francisco on Sunday in his first extended action.

Rookie cornerback William Barteel could also be looking at more playing time, possibly in place of rookie Patrick Dennis.

The Chiefs have averaged only 7.9 yards per return this year, significantly below the league average.

Gonzalez, a Pro Bowl tight end, blocked a punt against San Francisco earlier in his career but has hardly been used on the punt-return unit since. Alexander, who has caught 47 passes for 859 yards and nine touchdowns, was one of college football's best punt returners at Michigan, tying a team record with four touchdown returns.

Cunningham said Gonzalez blocked a punt the first time he lined up on the unit in practice Wednesday.

"He's really good at it. I'm tired of seeing him sit on the bench while the other team's punting," Cunningham said. "I don't know if we'll do that as a steady diet. And I'll have to think about

Derrick Alexander."

Alexander said he hardly did anything he doesn't usually do in practice.

"I always go back and catch a few punts. That's all," he said.

Cunningham said he and Alexander were both excited at the idea.

"He likes to make big plays," Cunningham said. "I said, 'I've got a new way for you to make big plays.' He said, 'Yeah, I got the message.'"

"I'm about as close to making that decision as I can be," Cunningham said. "There's a darn good chance depending on the weather and some other conditions."

When he first learned that special teams coach Mike Strock was planning to experiment with such valuable players as Gonzalez and Alexander on the punt-return unit, Cunningham balked.

"Right now we've just got a special unit of the top players on our team on the punt-return team. One of the players on there is Gonzalez. I looked and saw his name and said, 'Mike, take him off. We can't afford that.'"

"Then I walked down the hall, turned around and said, 'Mike leave him on there. We're going to leave everybody out there. That's the way we've got to go.'"

Goodland Sinclair's
2320 Commerce Rd. • Goodland, Kan.

(785) 899-1874

GRAND OPENING
Saturday, Nov. 18th 8:00 A.M.-4:00 P.M.

Free Coffee and Doughnuts

Full Convenience Store

Located Next Door to Dairy Queen

FREE Small Cone with Fill-up!

24 Hour Credit Card Fuel Sales

Apply Now for your Sinclair Credit Cards & Fleet Truck Cards

- Fountain Drinks
- Coffee
- Doughnuts
- Candy Bars
- Much, much more!

- Sugar Hills Golf Schedules**
- Downtown Business & Service Directory**
- Tourist Information**

Comming Soon
Local Arts & Crafts

Locally Owned & Managed

Arlo Hansen
Manager