

# Cowgirls start season with first game Friday

## Coach confident about game and season

By Dana Sulsberger

The Goodland Daily News

As the Cowgirls basketball team is nearing its first game next Friday, Coach Connie Livengood is confident about the season.

Last year, under Jerry McKee, the girls made it into the first round of the sub-state tournament and then lost to Pratt 47-41. That ended their season with a 5-15 record.

"Our most positive asset," Livengood said, "is the returning letterman this year."

After building their skills last year, she said, the girls are ready to go into this season and get even better.

"We will be able to add onto their skills," the coach said.

Another advantage for the team this year, she said, is the players' speed and height.

Skills the team needs to work on, she said, is keeping turnovers low, getting the girls to know where their teammates are at on the floor and passing angles.

The coach said her goals are to have the team play hard and to play a few more kids. As a team goal, she wants to play more man-to-man to hold opponents down.

"Another goal is to have lots of



wins," she said, adding that the league is going to be very competitive this year, since all the teams seem to have their talent returning this year.

Livengood said she has nine new freshman and four new upperclassmen.

"It is a very positive thing to have so many new upperclassmen," she said.

The girls' first game is at home against Imperial, Neb., on next Friday, and she said she thinks the Cowgirls have a chance.

When the Cowgirls went to Imperial last year, she said, only 15 percent of their shots were from within the free-throw line. She is hoping to do better at getting inside when they meet again this year.

"I think we have a good shot at beating them on their home court," she added.

Winning at home is easier, she said.

The girls will be more comfortable on their home court and the lag time the girls have while traveling to an away game can make a big difference.

This year, the first five games the Cowgirls play are at home, she said, and the rest are mostly away.

The Imperial game will be at Max Jones Fieldhouse, with the boys varsity starting at 5:30 p.m. and the girls playing after that.

# Chargers want to end streak

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Rodney Harrison would love to get back at the Kansas City Chiefs, if his sore left hamstring will let him.

Harrison, the hard-hitting strong safety for the winless San Diego Chargers, didn't practice Wednesday and is listed as questionable for Sunday's home game against the AFC West rival Chiefs.

Harrison said he hopes to be healthy enough to play but doesn't want a repeat of last week, when his strained hamstring forced him out in the first quarter of a 38-37 loss at Denver that dropped the Chargers to 0-11.

The former Pro Bowl selection is motivated not only by a chance to break the Chargers' losing streak, but because he felt the Chiefs rubbed it in when they beat San Diego 42-10 at Kansas City on Sept. 17.

"They really wanted to embarrass us," Harrison said. "They were up and they were still passing the ball, throwing fades and trying to run the score up.

Obviously, that team has no respect for this organization, for this team.

"I mean, it really ticks me off. But I wouldn't expect anything less from them. If we get a chance, we need to stick it to them."

The Chargers had a 10-0 lead at Kansas City but Elvis Grbac threw five touchdown passes to rally the Chiefs. It was the first of three games in which the Chargers allowed five touchdown passes. The latest came Sunday at Denver, when the Chargers blew a 17-point lead with 13 minutes left.

By then, Harrison was long gone. He lasted only two series before being forced out with an injury he first picked up against Miami the week before.

"I thought it felt pretty good last week," Harrison said. "It felt nice and warmed up, and as soon as I made some contact with Ed McCaffrey on the sideline it just grabbed. I don't know how much confidence I can have when something like that happens."

Harrison said it should help that the Chargers won't be playing in cold weather like they did at Denver.

"It's a tough situation because you want to go out there and help the team get a win. We're 0-11 and struggling, our secondary's been struggling, and I want to go out there and be a part of it," he said.

"But right now, I just don't know."

Coach Mike Riley said the team's medical staff thinks Harrison is further along now than he was at this point last week. But Riley said the Chargers are prepared to add a safety if Harrison can't play. One possibility is signing Armon Hatcher off the practice squad.

The Chargers rank 26th in pass defense, allowing 239 yards per game. They've allowed 26 touchdown passes while recording 24 sacks and 10 interceptions.

Also Wednesday, the Chargers released linebacker Richard Harvey, who had been inactive the last three games.

# Bronco wearing jersey, but won't play

DENVER (AP) — Terrell Davis was wearing his practice jersey again Thursday, but only as an observer. His role will be the same Sunday when Denver plays in Seattle.

Still bothered by pain in his lower left leg, Davis returned to Denver af-

ter meeting with an orthopedic surgeon in Oakland, Calif., on Wednesday.

The consultation only confirmed what Davis already knew: he has no structural or ligament damage, and staying off the field appears to be the primary treatment.

"Obviously he's in pain, so when he's ready to go, he'll start practicing and get ready to play," Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said.

"The bottom line is he can't push off yet and we don't know when he'll be able to do that."

# First drawing held in Christmas contest

CONTEST, from Page 1

sor. The last day to collect tickets is Thursday, Dec. 14.

At the final drawing Saturday, Dec. 16, the grand prize of \$1,500, second prize is \$500 and any unclaimed \$50 instant winners will be given away. Winning ticket holders must be present to win.

Anyone can get one free ticket a week at the Daily News office or the Goodland Chamber of Commerce office. No purchase is required to win.

Merlyn Stasser, vice president at Western State Bank, said the bank gives tickets out for any banking transaction.

"We have quite a few tickets in the box," he said.

Dan Brenner, owner of Dan Brenner Ford, said with the big purchase items at his business, they give away a lot of tickets.

"It's been a positive program," he said. "We've had good response to it and I think it's a good thing for the community."

Storeowner John Garcia of Garcia's Home Furnishings said his store was doing well with the contest and that there were probably about 1,000 tickets in their box.

"We have a lot of big-ticket items on the floor," he said, "so it doesn't take long to get there."

Linda Knott, owner of Knott Just Books, said Saturday was a big day and there were a lot of people in the store.

"We gave away tons of tickets on Saturday," she said.

Sponsoring businesses include American Communications, Aten Department Store, Collage Ltd., Elliott's Furniture, Knott Just Books, Frontier Equity Exchange, Garcia's Home Furnishings, Mann's Jewelry/Julie's Interiors, Miller's Electronics, NAPA Auto Parts, Wane's Carpet, Dan Brenner

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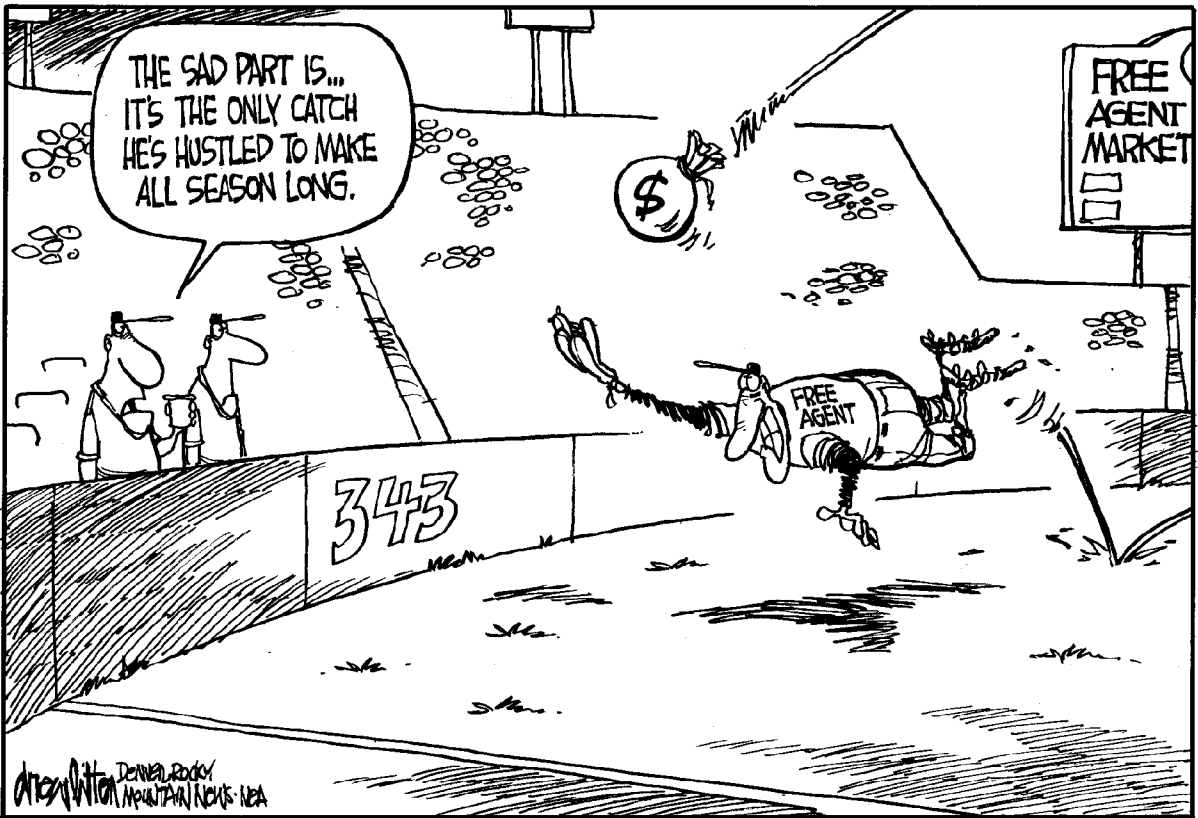
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# Cornerback reclaims job

## Chief will start against San Diego

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Cornerback Eric Warfield, beaten out by rookie Patrick Dennis three weeks into the season, has reclaimed his job and will start against San Diego, Kansas City coach Gunther Cunningham said Thursday.

In the meantime, Cunningham said he still hadn't made a decision on whether Elvis Grbac's sore finger would cost him his first start in 28 games. Grbac threw some on the sideline but Warren Moon, 44, took most of the snaps in practice.

"We'll see what happens tomorrow," Cunningham said.

Dennis played well his first few games as a starter but has been inconsistent the past four weeks as the Chiefs went 1-3 and dropped to 5-6. Cunningham said another rookie defensive back, William Barte, would

continue to play in the nickel package.

Dennis still projects to be an outstanding cornerback once he reaches his prime, Cunningham said. Dennis has one interception this year, but dropped a ball he should have caught during a decisive stretch of last week's 21-17 loss to Buffalo.

"Patrick came out of a smaller school and came out early. He's only 22 years old," Cunningham said. "He played well early on. My biggest thing now is that he doesn't lose his confidence. I spoke to him this morning and he went onto the practice field and really played well. Maybe that was having the pressure off."

Warfield, a third-year pro, won the job from veteran Cris Dishman in training camp but then hurt his back and fell into Cunningham's doghouse with inconsistent play.

"The thing about Eric that was upsetting to me was he got injured in the preseason and then didn't say anything, tried to play through it," Cunningham said.

A doctor diagnosed a disc problem in Warfield's back.

"He fought his way through it and now he looks like he did last year,"

Cunningham said.

The Chiefs' beleaguered defense has been particularly ineffective this year stopping teams on third down.

"I think Eric has the quickness to knock some of those third-down balls down," Cunningham said.

Dennis is only the second rookie cornerback to ever start for the Chiefs.

"I think he's got a great future. Barte, Patrick and Eric are the kind of corners I like to have around here."

Grbac's right index finger was still in a splint Thursday but a decision might be made on Friday. One reason for Cunningham's reluctance to go ahead and bench him is the fact he threw five TD passes against the Chargers earlier this year.

Plus, Moon has not started a game in two years.

"If Warren gets a chance to play, it's really a special deal for Warren and for me, too," Cunningham said. "We brought him in here and he wanted to compete."

"If he does get the starting nod, it will be exciting. He has a quick release and he still throws the same ball he threw about 25-30 years ago against me and the teams I coached."

# Wildcats have more than turkey on mind

MANHATTAN, (AP) — Kansas State has a bye week for the first time since Sept. 9, but turkey and stuffing isn't the only thing on the players' minds this week.

Kansas State coach Bill Snyder gave the Wildcats part of the week off to relax and recuperate before their rematch against Oklahoma in the Big 12 Championship game Dec. 2. The Wildcats won't practice again until Sunday.

The players began looking at film and preparing for the Sooners early this week, but are looking forward to a conventional Thanksgiving break.

"I'm going to try to cook a turkey for the first time," quarterback Jonathan

Beasley said. "So we'll see how it comes out. I'm going to catch up on some sleep too."

Playing 12 games this season instead of the usual 11 and having played ten straight, Snyder chose to give his players a break.

"It's made it a long season, I don't know if it's too long or not," Snyder said. "Ask me in a couple of weeks and

I'll tell you. It has certainly made it longer than normal and not having the open date at a more appropriate time has impacted that as well.

Defensive coordinator Phil Bennett said the weekend off couldn't have come at a better time.

"We had that early open date and we had some tough games. It's been a real trying year," he said.

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