

Goodland, Brewster players sign to play at college level

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Daily News

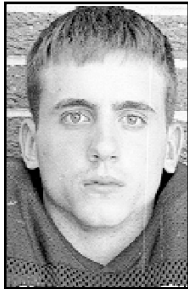
Three Goodland seniors and one from Brewster have signed letters of intent to carry their athletic careers to the college level, with another expected soon.

Senior Clint Horinek was the guest of honor at a special Brewster Booster Club reception, where he signed a letter to play football at Benedictine College of Atchison.

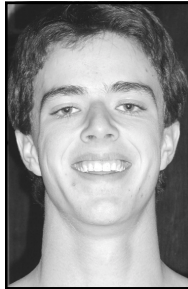
Brewster football coach Larry O'Connor spoke highly of not only of Clint's athletic skills, but of his strong work ethic.

"I would challenge you to follow Horinek through the day," O'Connor said. "It starts very early delivering papers, working out with weights, running or on his vertical program, and after that a full day of school and a full evening of activities."

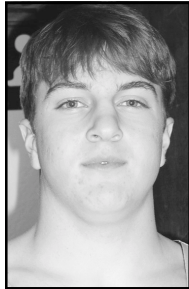
Coach Dave Evert commended Horinek for choosing a college that seeks out exceptional students, not only in athletics, but in faith and scholarship. Benedictine is a liberal arts Catholic residential college. Horinek is the son of Anita and Tony Horinek,



Horinek



Thompson



Stone



Swager

Brewster.

Goodland's Nate Thompson fulfilled a dream when he signed to play baseball for Garden City Community College next year.

Because Goodland does not have a high school baseball program, Thompson had to join a traveling team, the Kansas City Sluggers, to play in prestigious tournaments all summer.

Garden City coach Todd Briggs said Thompson at least five times and said he liked what he saw.

"He is a hard worker," Briggs said, "and I think he will be a great fit for our program. He played in the right places to prepare for college baseball."

Thompson also feels comfortable with the program.

"It's a great place, a great coach and great facilities," he said. "I'll have an opportunity to get better while playing in a great program."

Junior college programs tend to attract some of the best high school players, he said, since they can become professionals after their sophomore years.

Briggs plans to have Thompson play third base, but his position may change, depending on the rest of the recruiting class.

Thompson is the son of Mac and Pat Thompson, Goodland.

During the snow storms of January

Goodland's Luke Stone and Curtis Swager signed letters of intent to play football for Garden City.

"Both Curt and Luke did a nice job for us this year," said Cowboy coach Chris Walters. "More importantly than being good players, they are great people. I expect great things from these two and wish them the best of luck in all they do."

Stone received first team All-League honors at quarterback and at linebacker. He was also All-Class 4A in the Salina Journal, and was honorable mention all Class 4A in Kansas Sports magazine.

Swager was a second team All-League offensive tackle. He was selected to the Kansas Football Coaches Association Class 4A All-State team at tackle. He was also All-Class 4A in the Salina Journal and honorable mention All-Class 4A in Kansas Sports.

Stone is the son of Dennis and Karen Stone; Swager is the son of Harvey and Donna Swager.

Coach Walters said he expects Cowboy standout Mickey Steiner to sign intent later this week to play football at Garden City.

Late driver's car wins

By The Associated Press

AUTO RACING

ROCKINGHAM, N.C. — With tears in his eyes, Steve Park honored his late boss by driving a Dale Earnhardt car to victory in the Dura Lube 400.

Park held off Winston Cup champion Bobby Labonte by two car-lengths in the rain-delayed race at North Carolina Speedway.

It was a fitting end to a race that began with a frightening first-lap crash by Park's teammate, Dale Earnhardt Jr.

Three turns after the race started, a battered car and a hushed crowd provided a reminder of the previous week's tragedy in Daytona.

Earnhardt Jr. was tapped from behind and slammed into the wall between turns 3 and 4 at about 150 mph — just seven days after his father died in an eerily similar crash on the last lap of the Daytona 500.

BASKETBALL

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma has lost arguably its best basketball player with the dismissal of guard J.R. Raymond.

Raymond, a junior, was dismissed from the team Sunday for the rest of the season because of a policy violation coach Kelvin Sampson won't discuss. He had averaged 18 points in the previous 10 games, with 16th-ranked Oklahoma winning nine of them. No decision has been made on whether he will be allowed to play next season.

FOOTBALL

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida State linebacker Devaughn Darling died after collapsing following an offseason workout at the school.

The cause of death was not immediately determined, a university spokesman said. The 18-year-old player was working out with his twin brother, also a member of the team.

Darling, of Houston, started on special teams last season as a freshman. He was to begin spring practice next week as a starter at outside linebacker.

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas defensive end Cole Pittman was found dead at the scene of a one-car accident.

State troopers discovered Pittman's pickup truck on the side of U.S. Route 79 nearly Easterly, about 100 miles northeast of Austin.

Pittman, a sophomore who had played in 23 games in his two seasons at Texas, was returning to school from his family's home in Shreveport, La.

ATLANTA — Ray Lewis was sued for \$10 million in a wrongful death case stemming from a slaying outside an Atlanta nightclub 13 months ago.

Lewis, the Super Bowl MVP for the Baltimore Ravens, was charged with murdering Richard Lollar and Jacinth Baker after the fatal Jan. 31 street fight that erupted after a post-Super Bowl party. However, the charge was dropped during a four-week trial last spring and Lewis pleaded guilty to misdemeanor obstruction of justice.

HOCKEY

TORONTO — Toronto Maple Leafs defenseman Bryan Berard has given up on returning to the NHL following a severe eye injury.

USA Today reported on its Web site that Berard is unable to see anything beyond shapes in his injured eye and could not make the league's minimum vision requirement.

Berard was injured last March 11 when Marian Hossa's stick hit him in the right eye during Toronto's game against Ottawa. Berard's vision was damaged to the point where a comeback seemed extremely unlikely, but he continued to practice with the hope of returning to the NHL.

men's top twenty-five

By The Associated Press

Struggling Kansas still managed to move up a notch this week in the Associated Press poll of the top 25 teams in men's college basketball after breaking a three-game road losing streak.

Rival Iowa State dropped from two places to No. 8, while Oklahoma slipped a notch to 17.

Here are the results, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Feb. 25, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point

for a 25th-place vote and previous ranking:

	Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Stanford (70)	25-1	1,750	1
2. Duke		25-3	1,654 4
3. Michigan St.	22-3	1,612	5
4. North Carolina	22-4	1,474	2
5. Illinois	22-6	1,427	3
6. Florida	20-5	1,415	7
7. Virginia	19-6	1,289	9
8. Iowa St.	23-4	1,258	6
9. Arizona	19-7	1,226	8
10. Kansas	21-5	1,078	11
11. Boston College	20-4	1,009	10
12. UCLA	19-6	953	15

13. Notre Dame	19-6	870	18
14. Mississippi	22-5	837	12
15. Kentucky	18-8	749	13
16. Maryland	18-9	613	20
17. Oklahoma	21-6	505	16
18. St. Joseph's	23-4	495	23
19. Syracuse	20-7	427	17
20. Alabama	20-7	402	14
21. Georgetown	21-6	340	21
22. Wisconsin	17-8	223	19
23. Wake Forest	18-9	213	24
24. Texas	21-7	175	—
25. Xavier	21-5	126	—

Others receiving votes: Providence 116, Ohio St. 101, Tennessee 98, Fresno St. 84, Creighton 57, Cincinnati 35, Gonzaga 30, Georgia St. 22, Indiana 21, UC Irvine 15,

Utah 10, California 9, Hofstra 8, Georgia Tech 6, W. Kentucky 5, Arkansas 4, West Virginia 3, Missouri 2, Southern Cal 2, Oklahoma St. 1, Wyoming 1.

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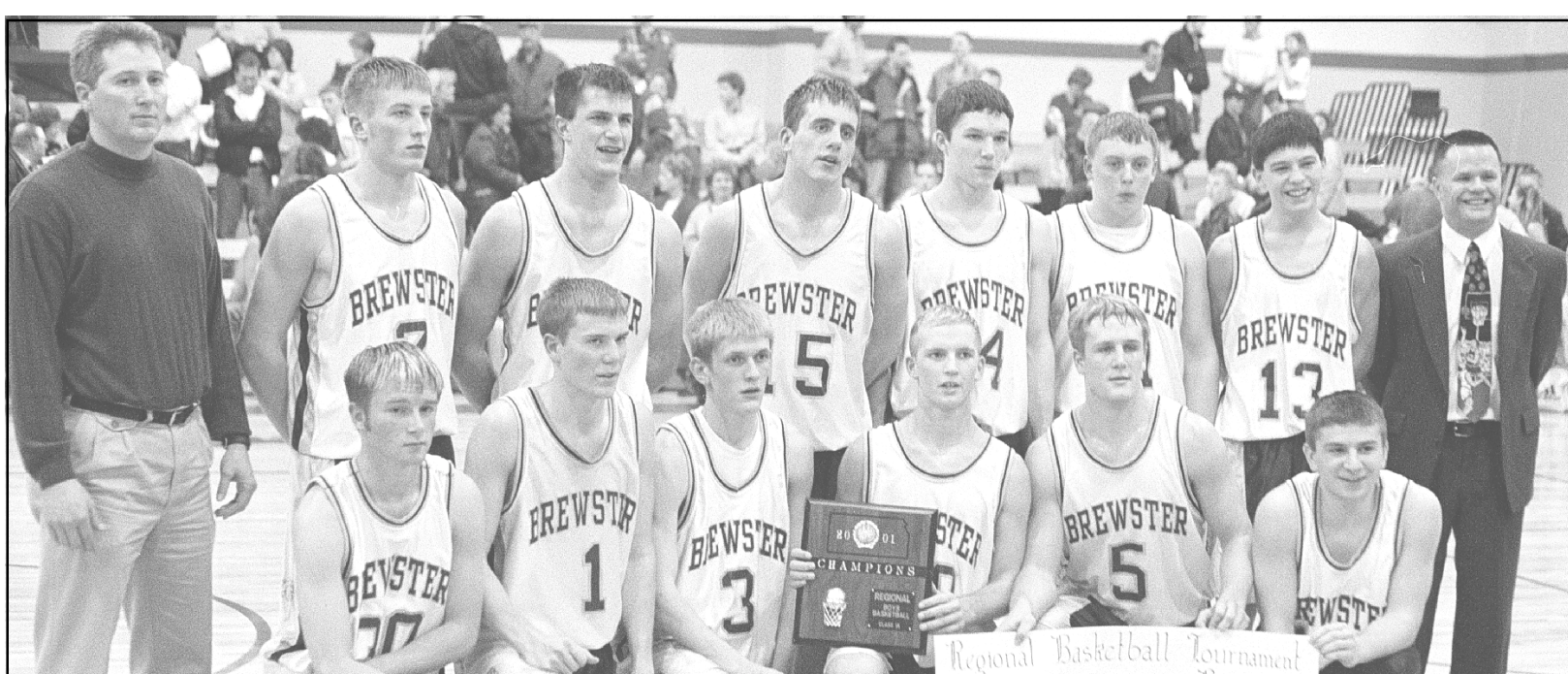
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Congratulations 1A Regional Champs! P.J. Crumbaker, Bobby Tubbs, Justin Hamison, Jay Reid, Brett Arnberger, Clint Horinek, Travis Dixon, John Luckert, JR Baird, Andrej Krause, Jess Long, Rob Garner, Jacob Falcon, Tyson Dixon, Jess Crumrine, Jarrett Carpenter, Sean Swanson, Joel Selby; Coaches Larry O'Conner and Jon McKee. **Now Take Sub-State!**
Thursday, Mar. 1 - HS BB Sub-State Tourney at Colby, 7:30 vs. Northern Valley (10-13); **Friday, Mar. 2** - HS BB Sub-State Tourney; **Saturday, Mar. 3** - HS BB Sub-State Tourney, play either Weskan (16-6) or LaCrosse (10-13); **Tuesday, Mar. 6** - 7:30 p.m. Track KSHSAA Rules Meeting @ Oakley; **Wednesday, Mar. 7-10** - 1-A State Basketball Tournament @ Hays.

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