

Cowgirls experience success



Stephanie Fairbanks hit the ball for a single during an early season game against Garden City. The Cowgirls finished the season with a 9-11 record. Photos by Rachel Miscall / The Goodland Daily News

By Lester Bolen
The Goodland Daily News

As far as expansion teams go this one was a success. In only their first year of play the Goodland Cowgirls softball team won nine games, including a post season game over Thomas Moore Prep, and laid down the foundation for what could be a dominate program in the years to come.

The season started off great for the Cowgirls as they won their first two games over Syracuse by a combined score of 48-2. The Cowgirls were victorious in their next game as well, a 26-15 victory over the Colby Eagles. Then the wheels fell off as the team lost their next three games, combining to score only five total runs. The team was able to win their next two games, including another victory over Colby.

Goodland was exceeding expecta-

tions with their 7-5 record going into a double header with Ulysses. The Cowgirls lost those two games, and three out of their next four to end their chances of a winning record. The team finished the regular season with a 8-10 record.

In the post season the Cowgirls won their first ever play-off game over Thomas Moore Prep with a 8-7 score. The Cowgirls inaugural season ended the next game with a 11-1 loss to Larned.

Britany Pettibone was the leading pitcher for the Cowgirls as she went 6-4 on the season with a 3.44 earned run average. Pettibone struck out 43 batters and allowed 49 hits in 61 innings pitched. Evann Hardy compiled a 3-7 record on the year with a 4.90 ERA. Hardy pitched 60.00 innings, striking out 43 and allowing 78 hits. Adrienne Garcia pitched only two innings for the team but struck out six batters and

gained the Cowgirls only save. Garcia had a 3.50 ERA.

Shanae Calkins hit an amazing .453 on the year with six doubles, six triples and a home run. She led the team in batting average, hits, runs with 23, slugging percentage with a .781 average, and one-base percentage at .527. Stephanie Fairbanks hit .357 on the year with four doubles and 18 runs scored. Hardy drew a team high 12 walks, ht .351, and scored 15 runs. Pettibone led the Cowgirls with 59 at bats and hit .305 with thirteen runs scored and a home run. Tammy Weeter hit .278 and led the team with two home runs. She also was second with 16 runs. Garcia had only two official at bats but drew seven walks and scored seven runs.

The team hit .296 for the season with five home runs and 151 runs scored.

The Junior Varsity also had a suc-

cessful season as they went 5-9 on the season. The team's pitching struggled as they had a team ERA of 8.92. Alissa Schields was 2-0 on the season but had an ERA of 8.75. Schields pitched 12 innings, allowed 20 hits, and struck out 14. Garcia pitched 38 innings for the Cowgirls and went 2-5 with a 7.18 ERA. She struck out 30 while allowing 56 hits. Lauren Gray finished the season 1-4 with a 11.87 ERA. She struck out nine in 23 innings pitched.

Tami Windell led the team in hitting with a .429 average and 11 runs scored. Her 12 hits were also a team high. Garcia hit .333 and scored 14 runs. Mary Lewis led the Cowgirls with 15 runs.

The Cowgirls are in a good position to improve on their impressive first season next year as they loose only one player off of this year's team.

Core of '96 Avs team remains intact

DENVER (AP) — The Western Conference trophy presentation had hardly ended when Colorado Avalanche defenseman Adam Foote began prepping his younger teammates for the chaos to come.

"It's a big zoo," Foote said after Colorado advanced to the Stanley Cup finals Monday night. "The finals are a circus, and as a player, you just have to remember all the things you do right and keep it as simple as possible."

Foote speaks from experience. He is one of six Avalanche players remaining from Colorado's 1996 title team that swept the Florida Panthers to capture Denver's first major professional sports championship.

Gone are key contributors such as Adam Deadmarsh, Valeri Kamensky, Mike Keane, Claude Lemieux, Sandis Ozolinsh and Mike Ricci.

Their replacements include names such as Rob Blake, Ray Bourque, Chris Drury, Milan Hejduk, Shjon

Podein and Alex Tanguay.

"This team and the team that made it to the Stanley Cup finals are both similar and different," said forward Stephane Yelle, who was a rookie in the 1996 playoffs. "Everyone has been playing well and the key to success is when all the lines chip in."

Perhaps most important for the Avs, captain Joe Sakic and goalie Patrick Roy have recaptured their form of five years ago.

In 1996 Sakic won the Conn Smythe Trophy as the playoff MVP and Roy stopped all 63 shots in the Cup-clinching game.

Sakic's game-winning goal in Colorado's 2-1 overtime victory against the St. Louis Blues was his ninth goal of the playoffs.

Roy lowered his goals-against average to a career-best 1.74.

Since Game 1 of the Western Conference semifinals, Roy has given up 17 goals in 11 games.

"I don't have enough fingers and toes to talk about Patrick's great saves in this round," coach Bob Hartley said after Colorado beat the Blues in five games. "Patrick always came up with the big save at the key time."

Roy has received plenty of help from defenseman Foote, Blake and Bourque, who rarely share the bench simultaneously.

Blake, acquired in a late-season trade for Deadmarsh, has been spectacular in the playoffs, punishing opposing forwards with well-timed hip checks and terrorizing goalies with high-velocity slap shots from the blue line.

He set up Yelle for the deciding goal in overtime in Game 4 against St. Louis and his shot led to Sakic's rebound score on Monday night. Blake's only finals appearance came in 1993, when he and the Los Angeles Kings were defeated by Roy and the Montreal Canadiens.

"You look to guys like Joe and Patrick and Ray for guidance and advice going into the Stanley Cup finals," Blake said. "They are the guys that all of us are following, there's no doubt about it."

Colorado also will draw inspiration from forward Peter Forsberg, out for the season after having his ruptured spleen removed May 10.

Forsberg returned to the arena as a spectator Monday night and watched the Avalanche improve to 4-1 since he was injured.

The Avs have home ice Saturday night when they face the defending champion New Jersey Devils in the Stanley Cup finals.

"It's a long marathon, trust me. There's ups and downs and it's a bumpy road out there," Hartley said. "We faced lots of adversity and now we're at the big dance. ... It's very encouraging for myself, because I can feel my team peaking at the right time."

NASCAR 'King' speaks at Kansas Speedway luncheon

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (AP) — Judging by the Kansas City Sports Commission's noisy, packed luncheon Tuesday, NASCAR will be bigger in the area than the Chiefs, the Royals or George Brett's making the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Almost 1,000 people, paying \$65 a ticket, squeezed themselves into a garage on the infield of the new Kansas Speedway to have lunch with some of the sport's biggest stars.

"There is a vacuum in the Heartland for this sport and NASCAR," said Kevin Gray, executive director of the

sports commission. "This is a great turnout. A lot of people are very enthused."

The commission for years has sponsored kickoff luncheons for the Chiefs, Royals and college basketball and football seasons. It staged a big event two years ago to mark Brett's induction into the hall. The most any of those events ever drew was about 600 people.

"This was almost double anything we'd drawn before," said Gray. "If we'd had a bigger facility we could have sold more."

The Speedway, which will host about four major events each year including the Winston Cup series in September, will have a tremendous economic impact on the area.

"The economic level for the area will be about 300 million a year," said Gray. "The Royals and Chiefs combined are about 256 million (a year)."

The star of the luncheon was Richard Petty, the seven time Winston Cup champion who wore his trademark cowboy hat and dark sunglasses. He had the crowd roaring.

"We're glad to be here," said Petty, who was joined on the stage by racing son, Kyle. "But we're glad to be anywhere."

NFL announces realignment; Seattle shifts from AFC to NFC

ROSEMONT, Ill. (AP) — The NFL approved realignment for 2002, shifting Seattle from the AFC to the NFC but keeping most of the divisions intact.

The move creates eight four-team divisions for the that will include expansion Houston.

Under the new alignment, the AFC East will be Buffalo, Miami, New England and the New York Jets; the AFC South will be Houston, Indianapolis, Jacksonville and Tennessee; the AFC North will be Baltimore, Cincinnati, Cleveland and Pittsburgh; and the AFC West will be Denver, Kansas City, Oakland and San Diego.

The NFC East will be Dallas, the New York Giants, Philadelphia and Washington; the NFC North will be Chicago, Green Bay, Detroit and Minnesota; the NFC South will be Atlanta,

Carolina, the Saints and Tampa Bay; and the NFC West will be Arizona, St. Louis, San Francisco and Seattle.

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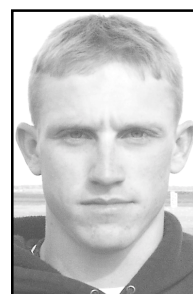
FDIC

Cowboy places at state

Goodland senior Tyler Livengood finished in a six way tie for 52nd at state golf yesterday at the Sunflower Hill Golf Course in Bonner Springs. Livengood's score of 91 placed him in the middle of the 92 man field.

Livengood was only seven strokes back of the leader after the first nine holes as he shot a 45. On the back nine he shot a 46, but the leader shot a 36, removing him from medal contention.

John Newcomer of Topeka-Hayden was the state champion with a score of 76



Livengood

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Wendy's

Athletes of the Week are:

Wendy's Athletes of the Week are 2001 Goodland High School graduates Matt Mentzer, who placed 8th at State Tennis, and Adriell Alstrom, who recently broke her own school record in the triple jump by one foot, one inch at an Atwood track meet. BEST WISHES Goodland High School Girls Track qualifiers, and Cowboy Luke Stone. TAKE STATE COWGIRLS TRACK TEAM!

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To the citizens of Goodland: please refrain from putting any foreign materials such as old cloths, newspapers, leaves, grass, bags, etc. inside the water meter box to use as insulation material. In the past the city asked for your help in covering the water meters, but we now have the Styrofoam insulating rings we place in the boxes to do the same job. This will aid our meter readers and maintenance personal in the work they are required to do. If your meter does not have an insulating ring please call us at 899-4539 and let us know. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.