

Cowgirls look to win championship

By Lester Bolen

The Goodland Daily News

Goodland junior Rachel Hagerman headlines a deep Cowgirls team that will attempt to win a championship Friday and Saturday at the state track meet in Wichita.

The Cowgirls are sending 10 members to Wichita including Hagerman, who qualified in four events, and Jayci Stone, who has won the pole vault in five straight meets.

"Our girls are in a unique position this year as we are definitely one of the favorites going into the track meet," Coach Don Smith said. "We were regional champions and we beat the defending state champion by 20 points."

Hagerman qualified in the long jump, the 200-meter dash, the 100-meter hurdles and the 300-meter hurdles. She has won both hurdles races for five straight meets as well and at the Colby Invitational on May 4. Hagerman took four firsts. Last year at the state meet, Hagerman placed fourth in the 100-meter hurdles.

"Rachael has been carrying a big load for our team this year and has turned in some great performances," Smith said. "She has three qualifying races in the afternoon on Friday but that shouldn't hurt her chances."

Stone finished third last year at state in the pole vault and is expected to

make a strong push for first this year.

Lacey Brenner is also looking to win multiple events this weekend. She won the high jump at regionals Friday and finished second in the 400-meter dash. Brenner anchors the 1,600-meter relay team that finished second at regionals.

Cody Pettibone placed fourth at regionals in the 100-meter dash but had the best fourth place time in the state.

Three relay teams qualified and the girls 1,600-meter team figures to do the best based on their second-place finish. The team of Pettibone, Stone, Jill Sowers and Brenner hopes to match or improve on last year's second place finish.

The 400-meter relay team of Ashley Hallagin, Julia Darnauer, Pettibone and Stone finished third last week and should compete for a medal with their regional time.

The 3200-meter relay also has a strong time but will need to be improved for the girls to place. Kendra Billinger, Hallagin, Erin Hardy and Sowers make up the team.

The Cowgirls team is going into state with a seven meet winning streak. They finished tied for eighth last year with 18 points.

"We know there will be terrific competition (at state) as there very well should be," Smith said. "We are concerned about Pratt and Louisburg because they scored a lot of points in regionals. Pratt qualified most of their people with some of the top times in the state."

The Cowboys only qualified one member, senior Luke Stone, Jayci Stone's brother. Stone should have a

good chance at a strong finish in the 400-meter dash and the high jump. Stone has only been high jumping for two weeks but still finished third at regionals at 6'2.

"Luke is in a good position because this year we seem to lack the great 6'6 and 6'8 leapers (in Class 4A)," Smith said. "If Luke can jump 6'4 or even 6'2, he has an excellent chance at standing on the medal stand, possibly as a state champion."

The state track meet begins at 7:30 a.m. Mountain Time at Friday and Saturday Cessna Stadium in Wichita.

Here is the schedule for Goodland athletes at the Class 4A state track meet. Times are Mountain Time.

FRIDAY
2 p.m.: Girls 100-meter hurdles (Rachael Hagerman)
2:45 p.m.: Girls 100-meter dash (Cody Pettibone)
3:15 p.m.: Girls 4x100-meter relay

3:55 p.m.: Girls 400-meter dash (Lacey Brenner)
4:15 p.m.: Boys 400-meter dash (Luke Stone)
4:40 p.m.: Girls 300-meter hurdles (Hagerman)
5 p.m.: Boys High Jump (Luke Stone)
5 p.m.: Girls Pole Vault (Jayci Stone)
5:35 p.m.: Girls 200-meter dash (Hagerman)
6:15 p.m.: Girls 4x400-meter relay

SATURDAY
7:30 a.m.: Girls Long Jump (Hagerman)
Running Event Finals
10:10 a.m.: Girls 100-meter hurdles (Hagerman)
10:50 a.m.: Girls 4x800-meter relay
1:05 p.m.: Girls 100-meter dash (Pettibone)
3:05 p.m.: Girls 4x100-meter relay
4 p.m.: Girls 400-meter dash (Brenner)
4:20 p.m.: Boys 400-meter dash (Stone)
4:45 p.m.: Girls 300-meter hurdles (Hagerman)
6 p.m.: Girls 200-meter dash (Hagerman)
6:30 p.m.: Girls 4x400-meter relay

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Rockies loose to Dodgers; Giants next on schedule

DENVER (AP) — It would take more than a minor rib injury to keep Kevin Brown from bouncing back from his worst start of the season.

Brown outpitched Pedro Astacio and helped the Los Angeles Dodgers stop a three-game losing streak with a 6-4 decision Wednesday over the Colorado Rockies.

Brown (6-2) took a four-hit shut-out into the seventh inning before fading.

He wound up allowing three runs — two earned — and eight hits in 6 1-3 innings.

The Dodgers ace said his problems in the seventh could be traced to fielding a bunt in the fourth.

On that play Brown said "he

tweaked myself a little bit." "The ground gave way, and I kind of strained my ribs again."

"It's the same thing I've been dealing with all year. It got real bad after that play."

Asked if he might miss a start, Brown said, "I'll just deal with it. I'll treat it and do what I can. It's not like I'm going to say, 'I'm not going to pitch.'"

Last Friday in New York, Brown was pounded for five runs and nine hits in four innings.

"I'd rather not have an outing like the last one," he said. "This would be preferable. It's good to get a win here today and get out of here with at least a win in the series."

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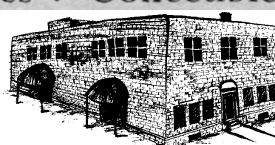
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