



Aaron Gittinger hits a foul ball in the second inning Wednesday night against Wray. The American Legion team is off until Friday when they will play at Scott City. Photo by Lester Bolen/The Goodland Daily News

Goodland girl qualifies for national college rodeo

By Lester Bolen

The Goodland Daily News

Jessica Hays, a 2000 Goodland High School graduate who will be a sophomore at Northwestern Oklahoma State University in Alva, has earned the chance to compete in the "Rose Bowl" of college rodeo, the College National Finals Rodeo. The event will be held at the Casper Events Center in Casper, Wyo., on June 11-16. Hays will compete in goat tying. She placed sixth in a playoff rodeo in Enid, Okla., on May 19-20, and the top seven competitors advance to Casper for the finals.



Hays

"It's a pretty big deal to make it as a freshman," Hays said. "I'm excited to get the opportunity." Hays's rodeo coach, Tim Klob, was impressed with her performance. "I'm really proud of the showing our athletes made this year and I'm espe-

cially impressed by the performances of our freshman," Klobb said. "They should continue to have excellent careers in rodeo."

The national finals, held since 1949, draw over 350 of the nations best cowgirls and cowboys from 142 colleges and universities in the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association. The qualifiers come from a field of over 3,000 college rodeo athletes. The top two men's and women's teams in each of 11 regions qualify for the finals.

The athletes compete for national titles and over \$200,000 in scholarships through the U.S. Tobacco Co. Scholarship Awards Program. The association emphasizes academics and requires each contestant to maintain a grade average of "C" or better.

Championships will be awarded to Women's Team, Men's Team, Women's All Around, Men's All Around, and nine events: saddle bronc, bareback, bull riding, calf roping, steer wrestling, team roping, breakaway roping, barrel racing, and goat tying.

Hays said goat tying requires fast footwork on the ground as well as good horsemanship. A goat is tied to a rope

at one end of an arena. The contestant's time begins when she crosses the starting line at the other end of the arena at a full run. The girl gets to the goat, dismounts running, catches the goat and ties any three legs. The time stops when the rider throws her hand in the air, but the goat must stay tied for five seconds.

Hays also participates in breakaway roping, where the rider must catch and tie a calf a short distance from the starting gate and mount back on her horse. Her other event is barrel racing, where the horse and rider must maneuver around a triangle course, but she said that goat tying is her strongest event. Hays said she has been competing since she was a freshman in high school and now competes year round in both college rodeo and the Kansas Pro Rodeo Association. Money she wins at these rodeos' helps pay for expenses such as gas and feed. College competitors are school sponsored but pay their own expenses and entry fees.

"I enjoy rodeo and it has given me a great chance to meet a lot of new people," Hays said. "I wasn't really scared going away to college for the first time because I knew someone everywhere I went."

Goodland team still winless

Goodland's American Legion team continued their rough start at home Wednesday night with two losses to Wray. The team dropped to 0-6 on the season.

The game started off well for Goodland as they held Wray to only one run on two hits and scored three runs on four hits in the first. Kyle Schulte led off the game with a single and later scored on a single by Landon West. West scored after an error and a single by Michael Pickett. Donald Raymer

knocked Pickett home with a double but was thrown out a third trying to stretch the hit into a triple.

In the second Goodland allowed only one hit, but pitcher Kyle Whistler walked four batters. Two Goodland errors allowed and the one hit allowed Wray to score six runs in the inning. Goodland failed to score the rest of the game and only managed one hit and three base runners. Wray scored four more runs in the 11-3 loss.

The second game didn't go much

better for Goodland. After holding Wray hitless through the five batters Wray scored 15 runs in the final 4 2/3 innings. Highlighting Wray's evening was a 13 run third inning in which every batter batted at least twice. Goodland scored all of their runs in the third also after consecutive singles by Kyle Schulte and Kevin Schulte and a bases clearing triple by West. West scored on an error. The final score was 15-3

The team is off tonight before playing at 6 and 8 p.m. Friday at Scott City.

Royals losing streak stopped at four

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Mike Sweeney homered twice and drove in five runs as the Kansas City Royals snapped a four-game skid with a 12-6 victory Wednesday night over the Chicago White Sox.

The Royals hit a season-high four home runs in stopping Chicago's five-game winning streak.

A. J. Hinch and Dee Brown also homered for Kansas City. Rey Sanchez, one night after his 21-game hitting streak ended, had three hits for the Royals, who won for just the third time in 12 games.

The victory kept Kansas City (21-37) from matching its worst record after 58 games.

It was only the second loss in 12 outings for the White Sox, who also had won five in a row on the road.

Sweeney had an RBI single, an RBI double, a two-run homer in the sixth

and a solo homer in the eighth. James Baldwin (2-4) gave up 10 hits and seven runs in just three innings for the loss.

Jeff Suppan (3-5), who hadn't won in six starts since April 30, went 6 2-3 innings and surrendered five runs on nine hits.

The first four Royals singled leading off the five-run second against Baldwin, who hasn't won in four starts. Brown, Luis Alicea, Sanchez, Carlos Beltran and Sweeney all had RBI singles, giving the Royals more runs in one inning than they had scored in any of their four previous losses.

Hinch made it 7-0 in the third with a two-run homer and Sweeney drove in another run in the fourth with his major league-leading 29th double.

Chicago got two runs in the fourth on Carlos Lee's two-run home run before the Royals went ahead 10-2 in the sixth

on Sweeney's two-run homer, his 10th. The White Sox chased Suppan with three runs in the seventh on Paul Konerko's two-run homer and an RBI double by Jose Valentin.

Valentin homered in the ninth. Magglio Ordonez had three hits.

Notes: 3B Herbert Perry left the game in the third with a sore left Achilles' tendon and was listed as day-to-day. ... In their four previous games — three losses to Anaheim and one to Chicago — the Royals totaled seven runs. ... 1B Konerko teamed up with Baldwin on a fine defensive play on Brown in the third. Konerko went far to his right to pick up a grounder and made an off-balance throw to Baldwin, who barely beat Brown to the base. ... The seven hits in the second inning matched the Royals' season-high. ... The Royals are in last place in the division, 17 game behind the leading Twins.

sports briefs

76er pull off upset, take 1-0 series lead

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In a thrilling opener to the NBA Finals, Allen Iverson had a mesmerizing first half, a poor second half and a clutch overtime, scoring 48 points to lead the Philadelphia 76ers to a 107-101 victory over the Los Angeles Lakers.

Iverson scored seven straight points after the clock ticked inside two minutes to give Philadelphia a lead it never relinquished. The 76ers ended the Lakers' 19-game winning streak, giving them their first loss in 67 days.

Shaquille O'Neal finished with 44 points and 20 rebounds, but Bryant scored just 15 points on 7-for-22 shooting.

American loses bid for Grand Slam

PARIS (AP) — Andre Agassi's bid for a second straight Grand Slam title ended when he was beaten in four sets by Sebastien Grosjean in the quarterfinals at the French Open.

The 10th-seeded Grosjean won 1-6, 6-1, 6-1, 6-3, delighting a home crowd at Roland Garros that included former President Clinton.

Grosjean will face Alex Corretja in the semifinals. The Spaniard earlier defeated Swiss teen-ager Roger Federer in straight sets.

Corretja, the 1998 runner-up, drew on his experience and consistency to win his quarterfinal 7-5, 6-4, 7-5 on a chilly day at Roland Garros.

Nets, Devils will play in downtown arena

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — The Devils and Nets will play their home games in a \$355 million arena in downtown Newark, a deal team owners and state officials say won't be of any cost to taxpayers.

Construction will start soon, and the New Jersey-based teams could be playing there by 2004, said a representative of YankeeNets, the sports conglomerate that owns both the NHL and NBA teams.

YankeeNets will pay \$115 million of the plan. The remaining \$240 million will be paid from tax revenues generated by the new arena from sales of luxury boxes, tickets and merchandise and from sales in the surrounding area.

baseball scoreboard

By The Associated Press

Table with columns for American League East Division, Central Division, West Division, and Tuesday's Games.

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Table with columns for Thursday's Games, Chicago White Sox (Buehrle 3-3) at Kansas City (Durbin 3-4), 12:05 p.m., and Friday's Games.

Table with columns for Wednesday's Games, Chicago Cubs 4, St. Louis 1, Atlanta 2, Montreal 0, Philadelphia 6, N.Y. Mets 1, Florida 2, Pittsburgh 2, Cincinnati 4, Milwaukee 3, 13 innings, Chicago Cubs 12, St. Louis 6, Colorado 9, Houston 4, Los Angeles 6, Arizona 5, San Francisco 7, San Diego 6.



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Rockies move into third with victory over Astros

DENVER (AP) — No matter how much the Houston Astros insulted Brian Bohanon for his lack of velocity, the Colorado Rockies left-hander got the last laugh.

Bohanon pitched six strong innings before the Rockies held on for a 9-8 victory over the Astros on Wednesday night. Ben Petrick homered twice and drove in three runs as the Rockies won their fourth straight.

Bohanon (3-4), winning his second straight start since coming off the disabled list (inflamed elbow), departed after walking the leadoff batter in the seventh. He allowed two runs and six hits.

"My velocity isn't as hard as it was in the spring, but I'm more effective now, because I'm able to throw the curveball and changeup when I want to," Bohanon said. "I can keep them off-balance."

Bohanon did it with 78 mph fastballs and 64 mph curveballs.

Houston manager Larry Dierker called it "the slowest pitching I have ever seen in this league. Knuckleball pitchers, when they throw their fastballs, throw faster than that. The fact that he can even stay in the park is amazing."

"We had chances to put him away early, but we never hit the ball hard off him. We were feeble against him. I don't know the secret. I'd like to pass it on to all our pitchers."

Astros slugger Jeff Bagwell said Bohanon "jammed us a lot. He had a 64 mph curveball, and we couldn't put solid wood on it. He was pitching at a different speed, but it was effective."

Patrick, meanwhile, provided Bohanon with run support, helping the Rockies build a 9-2 lead before the Astros made it interesting with a five-run eighth inning.

Just six weeks ago, Petrick was hitting a meager .111.

He is 14-for-38 (.368) with four doubles, a triple, three homers and 11 RBIs. Twelve of his last 18 hits have gone for extra bases. He's now hitting .237.

"I got off to a horrendous, horrendous start, and I've been trying to dig myself out slowly but surely," Petrick said. "I was determined to get some good hacks in. I was trying to swing hard to see what happened, and I got a couple of pitches to hit."

The Rockies chased Scott Elarton with a five-run fifth inning that included Petrick's two-run shot.

Elarton (4-5) gave up six runs and nine hits in 4 2-3 innings.

Jose Jimenez pitched the ninth for his 10th save, allowing an RBI single to Charlie Hayes.

The Rockies broke a 1-1 tie with their fifth-inning outburst.

Ron Gant, in a 1-for-19 slump, singled to lead off the inning, and Petrick followed with a 443-foot homer. Juan Pierre doubled, took third on a wild pitch and scored on Neifi Perez's grounder. With two outs, Larry Walker singled and Todd Helton had an RBI double. Jeff Cirillo greeted reliever Joe Slusarski with a run-scoring single.

Richard Hidalgo's 11th homer, off Gabe White, triggered the Astros' five-run eighth.

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