

# Goodland baseball wins first game of season

By Roxie Yonkey  
The Goodland Daily News

Technically, the Goodland American Legion baseball team had won its first game in Wray on June 24, but the boys won that game by forfeit. And a game handed to a team by an umpire isn't as satisfying as a game won on the field.

Sunday morning's game ended in a much more satisfying victory, 11-3 over Ulysses in the second day of the Levi Hayden Memorial Tournament.

Goodland set the tone early. With one out in the first inning, Goodland's Landon West doubled, then came home on Justin Jamison's single. Michael Pickett doubled, driving in Jamison, then Pickett came in on Donald Raymer's single. Goodland led 3-0.

When Ulysses came up in the bottom of the inning, Joey Ortiz reached on an error, but Jamison caught him trying to steal second. Ulysses' Ryan Smith singled to center and went to second on a passed ball, but Jamison caught him trying to steal third. Cole Jesse then struck out to end the inning.

Ulysses didn't try to run again. They played very conservatively thereafter. In contrast, Goodland played aggressive baseball — both offensively and defensively.

In the second, Ulysses got its first run on three straight singles, making it 3-1. Goodland's Centerfielder Aaron Gittinger caught Ulysses' second batter when he strayed off second on the third single, then West struck out Ulysses' next two hitters.

Goodland's Brandon Linden and Kyle Schulte reached base with one out in the fourth,



Bill Hayden, father of the late Levi Hayden, threw out the ceremonial first pitch at the Levi Hayden Memorial tournament on Saturday as the Goodland American Legion baseball team surrounded him. The Hayden tournament is held each summer in memory of Levi, who died in a car accident three years ago.

Photo by Eric Yonkey/The Goodland Daily News

then came home on West's double to center. Jamison drove in West with a single to right, putting Goodland up 6-1.

Ulysses got a man on base with Goodland errors in both the third and fourth. Goodland shrugged off the errors and tightened its defense, then retired Ulysses one-two-three in the fifth. Ulysses was held scoreless through those

three innings.

With two out in the sixth, West crushed the ball, sending it over the fence in left center. His solo shot gave Goodland a 7-1 lead.

Ulysses got back on the scoreboard in the bottom of the inning when Smith singled to left. He scored on a wild pitch and an error. That error put Ulysses' Tim Ochoa on base and he

later scored on another error. That error put Ulysses' Klinton Warner on base, but he was erased by Goodland's Kevin Schulte when he wandered off base.

Pickett walked to open the seventh inning, then Goodland's P.J. Crumbaker was hit by a pitch. Keith Vasquez reached first on a fielder's choice when Ulysses tried to erase

Crumbaker instead of getting Vasquez. An error kept both Goodland runners on base. After a strike out, Linden reached on another error. All of them scored.

West then struck out the side to end the game. He finished with 11 strikeouts, allowing just five hits. He reached first safely in every plate appearance but his final one, which was a sacrifice fly.

Goodland's last tournament game was rained out at the end of three innings. At the time, Goodland trailed Calhan, Colo., 6-5. All Calhan's runs had come in the second, but Goodland was coming back.

Gittinger scored twice for Goodland, once each in the first and second. Kyle Whisler, Crumbaker and Tyrell Rall also scored for Goodland.

Because of the rainout, no tournament winner could be declared, and the game will not be made up.

Goodland lost its Saturday games 10-0 to Scott City in four innings, and 10-5 to Wray. Pickett tripled and scored in the Wray game. West, Gittinger, Whisler and Kevin Schulte also scored. Jamison tripled, but was left stranded.

Ulysses' A.J. Owens was named the tournament's most inspirational player.

In other tournament action, Ulysses defeated Gove County 7-1; Calhan over Wray 16-7; Scott City over Gove County 12-4; Calhan over Ulysses 7-5; Gove County over Wray 5-3; Scott City over Ulysses 9-2; Calhan over Gove County 13-5; and Scott City over Wray 8-4.

Goodland is off until they play Benkelman, Neb., here at 7 p.m. Tuesday, July 10.

## Royals win sixth straight game

CLEVELAND (AP)—Kansas City outfielder Carlos Beltran has some advice for the Cleveland Indians.

"They need to pay money for some pitchers," Beltran said after driving in four runs Sunday as the Royals extended their winning streak to six games with a 13-11 win.

The Indians got a pitcher last week, acquiring closer John Rocker, but he couldn't help the starting staff after they were knocked around by Kansas City.

Beltran, Mike Sweeney and Raul Ibanez had all homered for the third consecutive game by the time Rocker got a standing ovation as he raced out of the Cleveland bullpen.

He pitched a perfect ninth in his first game at Jacobs Field, striking out two of the three batters he faced.

Beltran, Sweeney and Ibanez have combined for 11 homers and 23 RBIs while hitting .451 (16-for-35) in the first three games of the four-game series.

It was another disaster for Cleveland's struggling rotation. Charles Nagy (2-3) failed to get an out in the second inning and gave up eight runs and seven hits in his shortest start since going just two-thirds of an inning on Aug. 15, 1995.

Indians starters have an 8.88 ERA the last 12 games, including 18.90 in three straight losses to the Royals. In

their last 41 games, the starters' ERA is 6.99.

Blake Stein (4-6) allowed one run in three innings of relief for the win. Roberto Hernandez got five outs for his 15th save.

Ibanez hit a three-run homer in Kansas City's five-run first.

His fourth homer came after Joe Randa's two-run double off the left-field wall.

Cleveland closed to 5-4 with four runs in the bottom half off Dan Reichert.

Nagy could not hold the Royals in the second though.

Rey Sanchez singled and scored on Sweeney's AL-leading 34th double.

### sports briefs

#### Avs re-sign stars to long-term deals

DENVER (AP) — Retaining three of the stars who helped them win the Stanley Cup was a tall order for the Colorado Avalanche. General manager Pierre Lacroix made it look easy.

Joe Sakic, Patrick Roy and Rob Blake all re-signed with the Avalanche.

Sakic's new five-year deal is worth \$50.5 million, with a club option for a sixth year that would increase the package to \$57 million.

## Bullpen collapse leads to Rockies loss

PHOENIX (AP) — Damian Miller and Craig Counsell hit solo homers in the eighth inning off Colorado reliever Kane Davis, sending the Arizona Diamondbacks to a 6-5 victory Saturday night over the Rockies.

Trailing 5-4, the Diamondbacks tied it when Miller led off the eighth with his fifth homer off Davis (0-2). One out later, Counsell put Arizona ahead with his fourth homer.

The wild ending, which featured three lead changes in the seventh and eighth, gave the Diamondbacks their

third straight win. Colorado's Adam Melhuse hit a two-run homer in the eighth off Troy Brohawn (2-3).

Brohawn earned the victory by working one inning, allowing two runs on one hit and striking out one.

Bret Prinz worked the ninth inning and earned his eighth save in 10 chances.

Arizona went ahead in the seventh by loading the bases without a hit and Luis Gonzalez scored on Todd Helton's first error in 97 games.

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