

Sports begin practice for the season

Football practice begins for fall

Goodland High fall sports teams began practice Monday, practicing twice a day to get ready for the upcoming season.

The 58-man football squad, with it's first public appearance next Thursday, has the head coach excited about the season ahead. The Cowboys hope to improve on a 3-6 record last year and see some playoff action this time.

The team has been working on footwork drills, offensive plays and defensive responsibilities, said Coach Chris Walters, and will work on the fundamentals of blocking and tackling starting Thursday when they begin practicing in pads.

In the morning, the team works on the fundamentals of their individual positions, defense and conditioning, the coach said. The players work on their offense, pass plays and their running game in the evening, along with working on their special teams, kicking, punting and punt returns, and working with dummies.

The dummies are used for working on blocking, he said, as well as tackling.

"I'm very excited and have high expectations for these guys," Walters said. "We can have a good season."

"We will have a good defense, and the offense will get better as the season goes on."

The team will be playing a "soap scrimmage" at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 23, with a photo session before the game, beginning at 5:30.

The public is invited to the game with a bar of soap the price for entrance.

They can expect to see a controlled scrimmage, Athletic Director Richard Liess said, in which the offense, defense and special teams switch off, giving everyone the opportunity to participate.

The first game will be at 7 p.m. here again Hays High School on Friday, Aug. 31.



Two high school football players practiced blocking with a large padded shield in the hand of the one blocking the runner. Other players used dummies in practice Monday afternoon, the first day of fall sports practices.
Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

Goodland teams make travel arrangements

TRAVELING, from Page 1

Liess said time and geography present problems.

Because Goodland is in the Mountain Time Zone — an hour behind most cities in Kansas — and is on the west edge of the state, Liess said it's hard to find opponents nearby and it's tough to schedule games.

That means Goodland teams usually do a lot of traveling.

"It's not going to get any better," he said, noting that the football team may be on the road a lot the next two years.

Liess said after the meeting that administrators will be figuring the football schedule for the next two years in October.

Goodland already has a bigger student enrollment than most schools in the area, and as enrollments continue to shrink, many area schools may no longer want to compete against Goodland.

He mentioned Atwood, Oberlin and St. Francis, who agree to play Goodland now, despite being in a lower class.

If those schools no longer want to compete, Liess said, Goodland athletes will be forced to travel even longer distances to find opponents.

Athletes need to be careful in hot weather

PRACTICE, from Page 1

giving the athletes a couple of breaks to drink.

"The real part, though, is their part at home," he said. "They need a lot of fluids."

"We've really been stressing that."

The athletic director said he encourages parents to make sure their sons and daughters get in shape during the summer. They need to be in condition before the season, Liess said, not try to catch up all at once. Athletes are not allowed to practice until they have had a physical, he said, and have a doctor's clearance to participate.

He said the school has a plan to deal with the heat every year. The teams have practice in the early morning and in the evening to avoid the hot part of the day.

The football team does their conditioning drills, involving a lot of running, in the morning, Liess said. If athletes have difficulty breathing or suffer from exhaustion, they will sit out practice.

If an athlete has trouble breathing or has asthma, he said, he or she will need a doctor's clearance to begin practicing again.

Manager has respect of players

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Although his team is in last place, Tony Muser has the respect of his players and will be back to manage the Kansas City Royals in 2001, his bosses say.

"Well, yes, Tony's going to be the manager next year," owner David Glass told The Kansas City Star on Monday. "He's a good man, and he's becoming a better manager all the time. With experience, all of us get better."

The Star, in a story from Baltimore where the Royals open a series with the Orioles Tuesday night, also quoted general manager Allard Baird as saying he's assumed all along that Muser will be back.

"We've always said that he's the manager," Baird said.

Muser, who has a two-year contract, took over the team mid-way through the 1997 season. With a 292-389 record, he's already lost more games than any manager in franchise history.

The Royals had been expected to at least make a run for a wild-card playoff berth this year but going into the Baltimore series they are 22 games under .500 and 17 and one-half games back of Cleveland in the American League's Central Division.

But there's been some optimism lately as they have won four in a row and are 14-17 since the All-Star break.

Baird said the team's had a hard time coming back from its 4-12 start this season.

"Us losing some confidence as a team, then guys at that point trying to do too much," he said. "Trying to make the perfect pitch, trying to change the game in one swing or one at-bat. And we got ourselves in a hole, a hole that was very deep. We scratched and tried to get out of it. And we had some injuries."

Baird said he did not want to "wash away everything" that Muser has brought to the Royals, notably the development of young players.

While not meeting expectations has been a bitter blow, Baird said, "To me, that does not merit him being fired."

Glass noted that other managers have been blamed for failures, then rebounded as winners.

"First of all, the manager has to manage with what we give him. He doesn't pick the players," the team owner said.

"I can remember when Joe Torre got fired because he was a lousy manager," Glass said. "I can remember when Art Howe got fired because he was a lousy manager. I can remember when everybody in Seattle was screaming that Lou Piniella needed to go and that he was the problem. Those are just three examples in which the problem wasn't the manager, it was other things that needed to be fixed. They got fixed and now those guys are all geniuses."

baseball scoreboard

By The Associated Press				
American League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	69	49	.585	—
Boston	65	51	.560	3
Toronto	55	63	.466	14
Baltimore	49	69	.415	20
Tampa Bay	42	77	.353	27 1/2
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	65	52	.556	—
Minnesota	64	54	.542	1 1/2
Chicago	57	59	.491	7 1/2
Detroit	48	68	.414	16 1/2
Kansas City	48	70	.407	17 1/2
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	85	33	.720	—
Oakland	68	50	.576	17
Anaheim	62	56	.525	23
Texas	52	66	.441	33
Monday's Game				
Tampa Bay 5, Minnesota 1				
Today's Games				
Seattle (Moyer 13-5) at Boston (Nomo 11-5), 5:05 p.m.				
Oakland (Hudson 14-6) at Toronto (Carpenter 7-10), 5:05 p.m.				
Anaheim (Washburn 9-6) at Detroit (Cornejo 0-0), 5:05 p.m.				
Minnesota (Milton 11-4) at Cleveland (Colon 10-8), 5:05 p.m.				
Kansas City (Durbirn 7-10) at Baltimore (Maduro 1-3), 5:05 p.m.				
Tampa Bay (Kennedy 3-7) at N.Y. Yankees (Petitite 13-6), 5:05 p.m.				
Texas (Myette 1-1) at Chicago White Sox (Buehrle 10-6), 6:05 p.m.				
Wednesday's Games				
Oakland (Zito 8-7) at Toronto (Escobar 3-5), 5:05 p.m.				
Anaheim (Valdes 8-6) at Detroit (Sparks 8-7), 5:05 p.m.				
Seattle (Garcia 13-4) at Boston (F.Castillo 7-6), 5:05 p.m.				
Minnesota (Mays 12-10) at Cleveland (Finley 4-5), 5:05 p.m.				
Kansas City (K.Wilson 6-2) at Baltimore (Mercedes 6-13), 5:05 p.m.				
Tampa Bay (P.Wilson 5-7) at N.Y. Yankees (Clemens 15-1), 5:05 p.m.				
Texas (Helling 9-9) at Chicago White Sox (Lowe 6-3), 6:05 p.m.				
National League				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	65	52	.556	—
Atlanta	64	53	.547	1
Florida	59	58	.504	6
New York	54	64	.458	11 1/2

Montreal	49	69	.415	16 1/2
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	67	51	.568	—
Chicago	66	51	.564	1/2
St. Louis	62	55	.530	4 1/2
Milwaukee	49	66	.426	16 1/2
Cincinnati	48	69	.410	18 1/2
Pittsburgh	45	72	.385	21 1/2
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Arizona	67	51	.568	—
San Francisco	66	52	.559	1
Los Angeles	65	53	.551	2
San Diego	57	60	.487	9 1/2
Colorado	49	68	.419	17 1/2
Monday's Games				
Houston 9, Chicago Cubs 5				
St. Louis 3, Cincinnati 2				
Arizona 3, Pittsburgh 0				
Today's Games				
Chicago Cubs (Tavarez 8-8) at Houston (Oswalt 9-2), 6:05 p.m.				
Philadelphia (Coggin 3-1) at Milwaukee (Levrault 5-7), 6:05 p.m.				
Cincinnati (Reyes 1-2) at St. Louis (Morris 14-7), 6:10 p.m.				
Atlanta (Glavine 11-5) at Colorado (Thomson 0-5), 7:05 p.m.				
N.Y. Mets (Trachsel 6-10) at San Diego (Herndon 0-1), 8:05 p.m.				
Pittsburgh (Ritchie 9-10) at Arizona (B.Anderson 3-8), 8:05 p.m.				
Montreal (Armas Jr. 8-11) at Los Angeles (Park 11-8), 8:10 p.m.				
Florida (Sanchez 2-1) at San Francisco (Schmidt 7-7), 8:15 p.m.				
Wednesday's Games				
Chicago Cubs (Lieber 15-5) at Houston (Astacio 7-13), 5:05 p.m.				
Philadelphia (Daal 10-4) at Milwaukee (Wright 8-7), 6:05 p.m.				
Cincinnati (Reitsma 5-11) at St. Louis (W.Williams 9-8), 6:10 p.m.				
Atlanta (Burkett 9-8) at Colorado (Hampton 12-8), 7:05 p.m.				
N.Y. Mets (Leiter 7-9) at San Diego (Jarvis 9-9), 8:05 p.m.				
Pittsburgh (D.Williams 1-4) at Arizona (Schilling 17-5), 8:05 p.m.				
Montreal (Pavano 0-0) at Los Angeles (Carrara 2-1), 8:10 p.m.				
Florida (Penny 7-6) at San Francisco (Ortiz 13-6), 8:15 p.m.				

Broncos' quarterback is patient with elbow

GREELEY, Colo. (AP) — Steve Beuerlein is doing his best to be patient. Not an easy task when the competition is ahead by an arm and a leg, not to mention an elbow.

Beuerlein's bid to unseat Gus Fretotte as Denver's backup quarterback has yet to get off the turf because of inflammation in his right elbow, which is six months removed from reconstructed surgery.

Beuerlein, two years removed from his only Pro Bowl season, practiced Monday for the first time in nearly a week and does not expect to play in a game until Denver's third preseason game Aug. 25.

"In the ideal world and in my own mind, I would like to have been farther along than I am, but there's certain things that you just can't control," Beuerlein said. "I worked real hard in the weeks prior to camp and I think the stress that I put on it never gave it a chance to really rest."

While Beuerlein roamed the sideline in Denver's 20-6 victory over the Dallas Cowboys on Saturday, Fretotte completed 11 of 14 passes for 103 yards.

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