

# Cowgirls head to Colorado

By Rachel Miscall  
The Goodland Daily News

After losing to Scott City at a quad match on Tuesday, the Cowgirls varsity volleyball team is headed for a tournament at Overland High School in Aurora, Colo., on Saturday with a 5-1 season record.

Goodland lost its first match of the season at the quad in Leoti, falling to the only team to beat the Cowgirls last year, a loss which kept Goodland out of state competition.

Scott City, the third team the Cowgirls faced, defeated Goodland in two games, 15-10 and 15-7.

Coach Jerry McKee said the Cowgirls played well, but the Beavers played better.

"We played well against them," McKee said, "but passing flaws affected us. They've got a nice team."

Goodland dominated its first two matches, beating Lakin 15-5, 15-12 and Leoti 15-9, 15-2.

Overall the Cowgirls looked strong in Leoti, McKee said, adding that he expects the same at this weekend's tournament, where Goodland will face top-notch Colorado players.

"We looked good," the coach said, "and we're getting better and stronger. We'll see where we are by substate time."

Last year's Cowgirls, who were older and more experienced, headed to the sub-state tournament with a perfect record, but lost to Scott City in the finals.

The junior varsity Cowgirls attended a tournament in Aurora on Saturday, beating two of the four teams they played, and now it's the varsity's turn.

"If we have all of our people healthy, we will do well," McKee said, noting that a couple of the players are nursing injuries this week.

The tournament will start at 9 a.m., with the Cowgirls facing teams from Broomfield, Sierra and Aurora Central

high schools. McKee said Broomfield is ranked in the top 10 in Class 4A in Colorado, the same class as Goodland.

The coach said he expects Goodland or Broomfield to be tops in the pool, though Aurora Central has hired a new coach who is expected to make tremendous improvements to the program.

Twelve other teams from around Colorado will attend, McKee said, adding that the undefeated Overland High School team is ranked seventh in Class 5A and a team from Weld Central ranks high in Class 3A. He predicted winners of the three other pools will be Overland, Arvada High School and Weld Central.

The coach said the tournament will be a good test of how the Cowgirls have developed this season and whether the players are able to adjust quickly and pace themselves.

"We will be playing teams of caliber," he said. "It's a good time to see where we are right now. We can pretty

much tell if the players can adjust under the tournament setting and handle a full day of play."

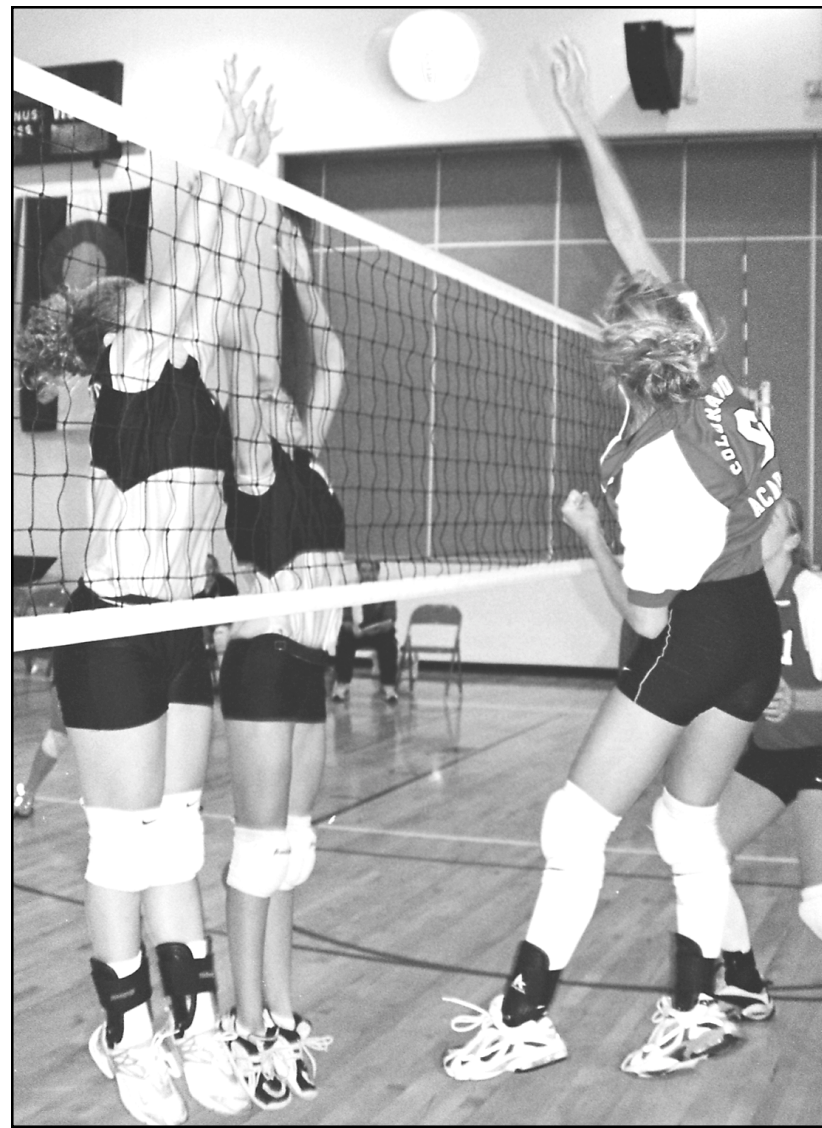
McKee said it's hard to size up the competition before the tournament because it's still early in the season and teams haven't had a chance to build a reputation.

In Colorado, he said, players are able to choose the high school they attend and play for. Because of that, he said, some teams may have new, strong players this year.

"That is what makes this tournament interesting," he said. "We go into it with a lot of unknown factors."

The coach does expect the Cowgirls to have a chance to check out some top-notch players from other schools and to have people checking them out, too.

"College coaches visit the tournament to do scouting," he said, "so we get the exposure we need for Colorado schools."



Goodland junior varsity Cowgirls Hannah Schlosser and Courtney Schields blocked a kill from a Colorado Academy player at a varsity volleyball tournament in Denver on Saturday.

Photos by Rachel Miscall/The Goodland Daily News

# Freshmen team loses tournament

Despite spurts of strong play, the Cowgirls' freshman volleyball team lost all three matches they played at a tournament at Max Jones Fieldhouse on Saturday.

Freshman and "C" teams from St. Francis, Sharon Springs, Atwood, Garden City and Benkelman, Neb., played in the tournament, which started at 9 a.m.

Goodland's freshman team faced St. Francis first, playing a strong match and taking the second game, but falling in the end. Goodland lost the first game 7-15, held on for a victory in the second 17-15, but slipped in the third, letting St. Francis take it 10-15.

The Cowgirls didn't look as good in the next two matches, against Sharon Springs and Benkelman, scoring only three points in the last two games.

Sharon Springs took Goodland 16-14 in the first game and 15-5 in the second, and Benkelman rolled to Cowgirls 15-1 in the first and 15-2.

Coach Dave Hardy the girls' play was inconsistent, with sloppy execution often interrupting a few minutes

of strong play.

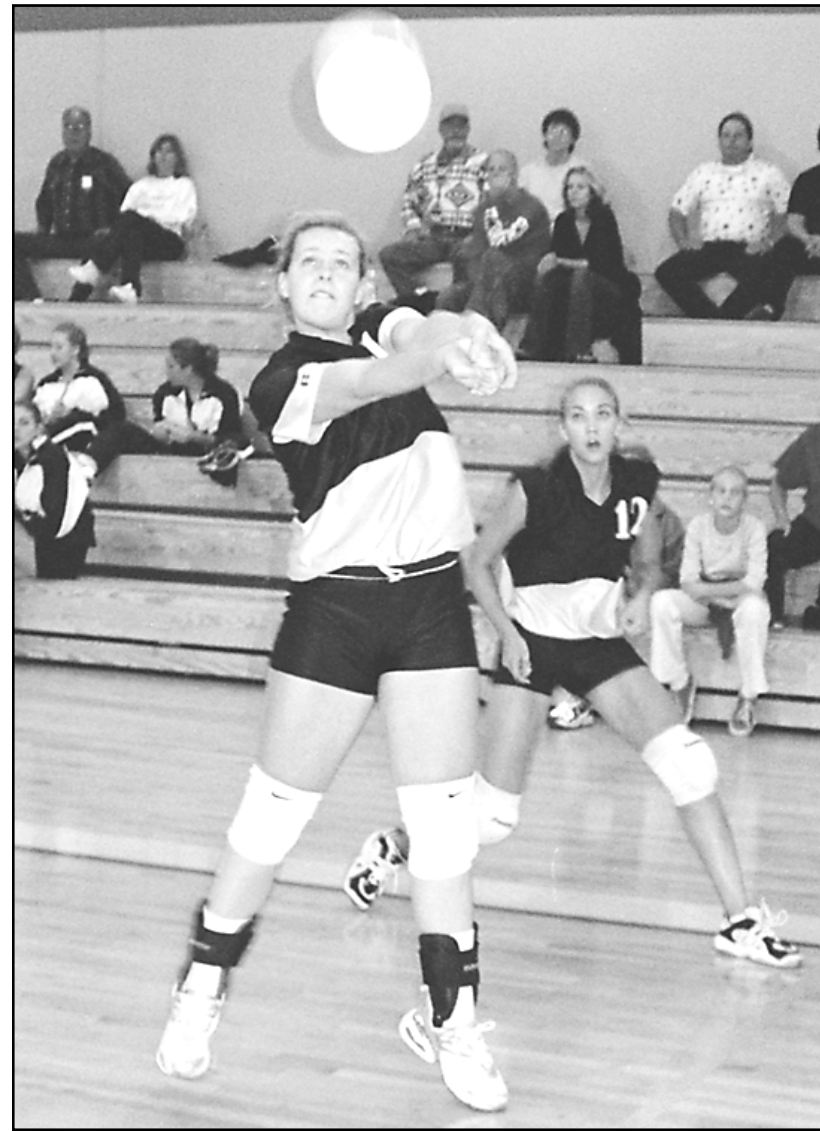
"We were just really inconsistent," he said. "If we can fix a little of that, we'll be OK."

The coach said the team was making a lot of little mistakes, which added up to big losses.

"We need to cut the mental mistakes," he said, "and do a better job of passing."

In other freshman games, Sharon Springs beat St. Francis 15-8, 15-6; Benkelman took Sharon Springs 15-7, 15-3; Benkelman beat St. Francis 15-12, 15-11; and Sharon Springs took St. Francis 15-3, 15-17, 15-9.

In "C" team games, Benkelman took St. Francis 15-12, 15-7; Atwood beat Garden City 15-4, 15-2; St. Francis beat Garden City 15-9, 15-1; Benkelman took Atwood 15-10, 15-8; St. Francis beat Atwood 15-10, 15-11; Benkelman beat Sharon Springs 15-9, 15-4; Atwood took Sharon Springs 15-8, 6-15, 15-12; Sharon Springs beat Garden City 15-0, 15-4; and Sharon Springs took St. Francis 15-8, 15-6.



Cowgirl Hannah Schlosser set up a spike during a match at a volleyball tournament in Denver on Saturday.

# Junior varsity beat by own errors in quad

The Cowgirl junior varsity volleyball team beat teams from Leoti and Lakin Tuesday at a quad match, but lost to Scott City, which also took down Goodland's varsity players.

Coach Mitch Hixson said the Cowgirls looked strong through most of the quad in Leoti, but made too many mistakes against Scott City, allowing the Lady Beavers to take the match.

"We were as good as Scott City," Hixson said. "We just gave them a lot of opportunity because of errors."

The Cowgirls knocked over Leoti 15-9 in the first game and 15-8 in the second and defeated Lakin 15-9 in the first and 16-14 in the second. Though the Cowgirls put up a good fight, Scott City took the first game 9-15 and the second 15-17.

Hixson said Goodland defeated themselves with errors and inconsistent play.

"We dug ourselves too big of a hole," he said. "If we played consistent, we would have beaten Scott City, but we gave them too many chances."

The coach said the team is continuing to improve.

"We're just trying to get consistent," he said. "When we're consistent and aggressive, we can play against anybody."

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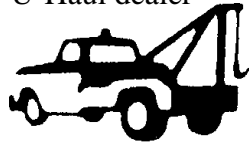
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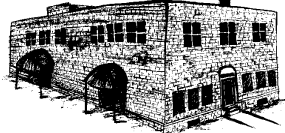
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