

Cowgirls play well when it counts, win league

By Rachel Miscal

The Goodland Cowgirls weren't perfect at the Northwest Kansas League Tournament on Saturday, but they were champions, rising above seven other volleyball teams at the 10-hour event at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

"We played up and down a little bit," Coach Jerry McKee said, "but we were able to get it done when we needed to get it done."

Teams from Goodland, Atwood, Colby, Hoxie, Oakley, Oberlin, Quinter and St. Francis participated, with the top two teams from two pools advancing to the semi-finals, and the winners of those matches facing each other for the championship.

The Cowgirls struggled some in pool play, but not as much as their three opponents, and made it to the semi-finals, where they faced the Oberlin Red Devils — the No. 1 seed team going into the tournament.

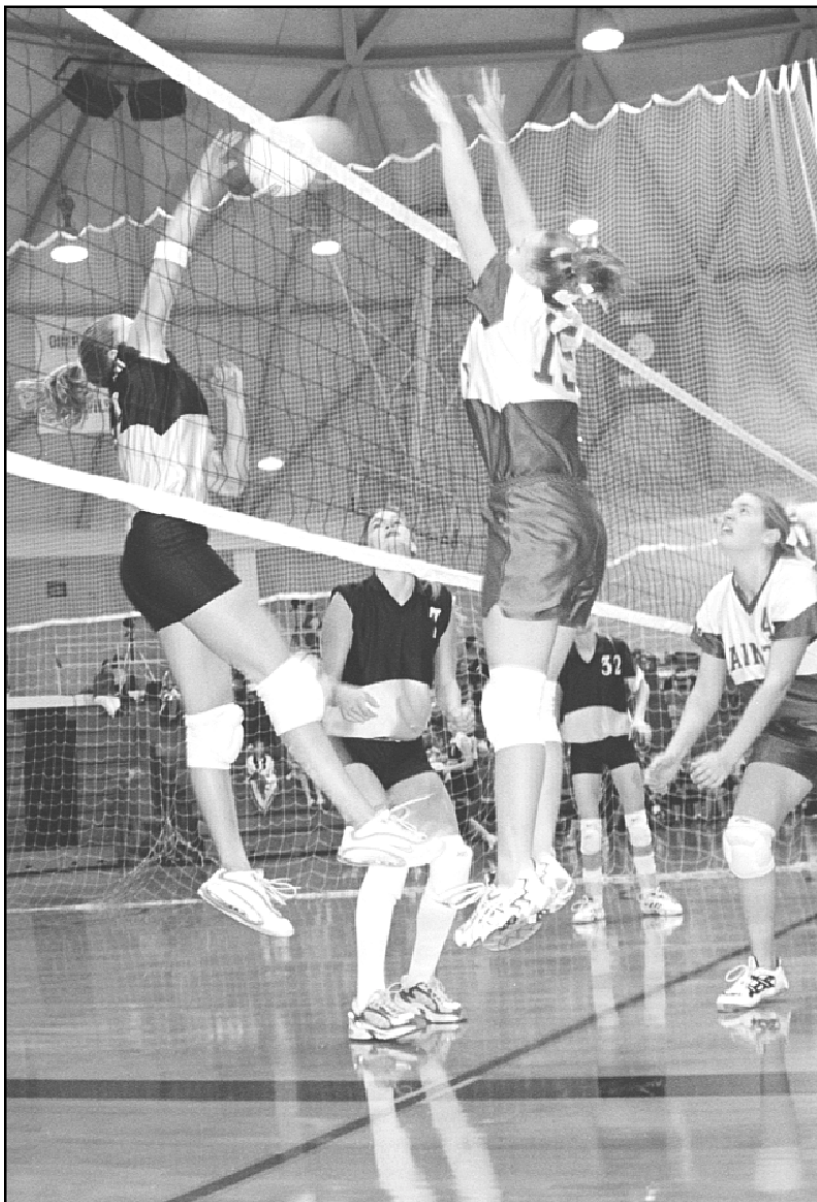
Goodland, the No. 2 seed, managed to win an edge-of-your-seat match against Oberlin in three games. After taking the first game, the Cowgirls fell hard in the second and were down 7-13 in the third when they pulled together and clawed their way to a 17-15 victory.

"We finally took care of things in the end," Coach McKee said.

The Cowgirls had an easier time wrapping up No. 3 seed Colby for the championship, but it was still no piece of cake. Goodland licked the Eagles in a fast first game, 15-4, but faltered in the second, managing a 17-15 win.

That's it for the Cowgirls' regular season — which they ended with a 26-7 record. Now it's time for the sub-state tournament, scheduled for Saturday at Max Jones.

While the young team has made big improvements, McKee said, the players still need to work on their passing skills and focus on offensive play.



Cowgirl Jayci Stone blocked a hit from a St. Francis player at the Northwest Kansas League Volleyball Tournament on Saturday in Goodland while Tomi Windell provided backup.

Photo by Rachel Miscal/The Goodland Daily News

"We need to stay on attack more," he said, saying that they've got a shot at state — but so does every team.

"Their chances are good," the coach

said. "but every team has a chance now. It's just who is ready to play on that day."

Last year's senior-dominated team

Lady Dawgs take fourth in the league

By Jay Kelley

BREWSTER — The host Brewster High School varsity took fourth at the Western Kansas Liberty League volleyball tournament on Saturday.

The Lady 'Dawgs went 3-1 in pool play and took second in their pool. They beat Weskan 15-10, 15-12; Jennings, 15-7, 15-7; and Healy 15-7, 15-13, losing to Sharon Springs 15-6, 15-3.

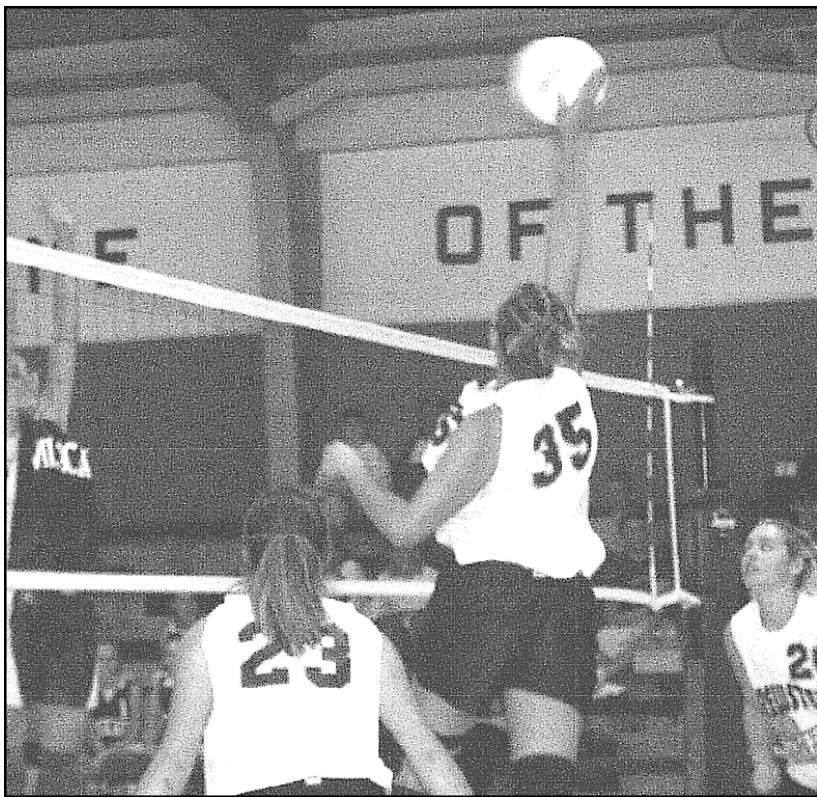
They lost in the opening round of bracket play to the Grinnell Lady Warriors, the tournament champions. They lost the opening game 15-8, won the second 15-8 and lost the final, 15-6.

The girls faced Golden Plains in the consolation final, losing 15-11, 15-7.

Leading hitters were Sara Luckert with 21 kills, Alicia Collett, 20, Andrea Horney, 18, Miranda Starns, 16, Christi Somers, 11, and Ashley Carpenter, 10.

Tara Fulwider led the assists with 22. Starns had 15 and Collett had seven.

Amber Fulwider led servers with four aces, 96 percent efficiency and 30 points. Kristy Jamison four aces, 98



Brewster High School's Sara Luckert hammered an opponent's serve in the Western Kansas Liberty League Volleyball Tournament in Brewster Saturday. Luckert and teammates Andrea Horney and Tara Fulwider (shown) took fourth at the tourney and are in regional play in Brewster today.

Photo by Jay Kelley/The Colby Free Press

percent, 27 points. Tara Fulwider two aces, 93 percent, 18 points.

Luckert was the leading blocker with

17 stuffs and 12 deflections, followed by Collett, 16 stuffs and 16 deflections, Carpenter, 12 stuffs and nine deflections. Passing and serve receive leaders were Starns, Somers and Jamison.

"We played some good volleyball throughout the day, but wore down at the end," said coach Lynda McKee. "As a team, we hit well and played good defense, but didn't fare as well with our serve receive efficiency and serving percentage."

"If we play like we are capable of, we will come out of our regional today."

The Class 1A volleyball regional will be in Brewster today.

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ended the regular season undefeated, but fell to Scott City at sub-state, shattering state dreams. Coach McKee said he should know this week what teams the Cowgirls will face on Saturday.

Goodland must win three more matches to get to state, he said, but the players have to clean up their game a little.

The Cowgirls started the league tournament by stomping Quinter in two games, 15-6, 15-7, and taking down St. Francis in two, 15-12, 15-11. Despite the victories, Coach McKee said the girls weren't playing up to their potential and were making mistakes.

That was evident when Goodland faced the Colby Eagles in the team's last pool match.

Colby dominated the first game, taking it 7-15, and it looked like the Eagles were handing Goodland another loss in the second game until the Cowgirls pulled out a 15-13 win.

Goodland managed another 15-13 win in the third game, snatching the match and advancing to the semi-finals, where the Cowgirls took the court against the Oberlin Red Devils.

Goodland allowed Oberlin to rack up 8 points early in the first game, but soon recovered and a spike from Alisha McKee tied it up, 8-8. The Cowgirls milked the advantage for a few points, but a couple of errors later, the game was again tied at 11-11.

Mistakes on Oberlin's side pushed Goodland to the top once again, and an ace from Colleen Koehler and a long shot by an Oberlin player won the game for Goodland, 15-12.

The second game's ending wasn't as happy.

With Oberlin's Kelsey Dorshorst serving, the team brought in a quick 4 points, starting the game 0-4. The Red

Devils kept the lead throughout and reached game point after Goodland had only scored 4 points.

The Cowgirls managed to bring in another three points before losing the game 7-15.

Tension mounted in the final game, as both teams struggled for a win and a chance at the championship. Colby faced Hoxie in the other semi-final match, with the Eagles taking it in two games and advancing to the final match.

With Janae McKee serving, the Cowgirls rolled in some points, and a spike from Alisha McKee tied the game at 3-3. A Goodland error gave Oberlin the ball, and the Red Devils racked up another three points for a score of 3-6.

The Cowgirls eventually tied up the game again, but couldn't keep Oberlin

from bringing in points and soon the score was 7-13, with Goodland in a position to lose.

The Cowgirls made an amazing comeback, however, with an ace from Janae McKee starting the movement.

Alisha McKee spiked. Lacey Brenner blocked. Jayci Stone tipped the ball. An Oberlin player hit the ball out. Brenner spiked. The Red Devils hit the net.

Soon the Cowgirls were up with a score of 14-13, and in a position to win.

The teams passed the ball back and forth, and Oberlin was able to tie up the game after Goodland hit the ball out. The Red Devils took the lead with a spike the Cowgirls couldn't return, but a kill from Alisha McKee soon tied the game at 15-15.

Alisha McKee helped bring in another point and strong play at the net by Jayci Stone wrapped up the game, 17-15.

The Cowgirls went on to beat Colby for the championship.

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Friday, Oct. 19 – End of 1st Quarter; HS FB at Rexford, 7:30 p.m.

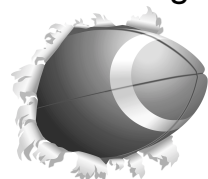
Saturday, Oct. 20 – HS VB Sub-State; Regional CC

Monday, Oct. 22 – JH Scholars Bowl at Cheylin, 4 p.m.; B.O.E. Meeting, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 23 – Little 8 VB Tournament at Sharon Springs, 2 p.m.

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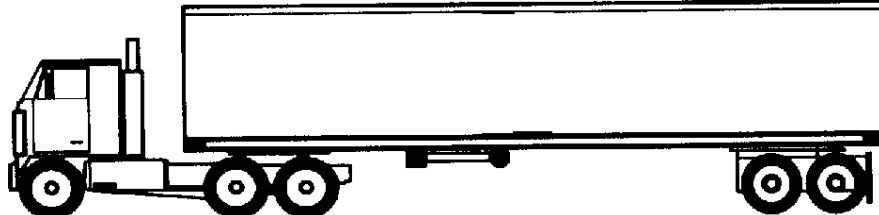
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