

Cowgirls seek sub-state title

By Rachel Miscall
The Goodland Daily News
 Coach Jerry McKee said the past won't matter Saturday, when the Goodland Cowgirls take the court at the Class 4A Sub-State Volleyball Tournament at Max Jones Fieldhouse. The team's 26 wins this season won't matter, or its 7 losses. The fact that the Cowgirls are the No. 2 seed going into the tournament won't make a difference, or that they've fallen to the No. 1 seed twice this season.

Coach McKee said anything can happen on Saturday. "It just depends on which team shows up," he said. "It's whether you can take care of them that day."

What the coach is hoping will happen is that the Cowgirls place first in the tournament, advancing the team to state competition next weekend in Salina. He said the possibility is real. "I think we're ready," McKee said, adding that the players have been working hard in practice on serving, passing, attacking and defense. "We'll see if it pays off on Saturday."

Seven teams from across northwest Kansas will meet in Goodland for the tournament, which will determine what team will head to state. The event will start at 1 p.m., with the Cowgirls taking on players from Larned.

Other participants will include Scott City, Colby, Ulysses, Norton and Hugoton. Because Scott City is the No. 1 seed, the team will not have to play a first game and will automatically advance to the semi-finals.

Goodland was the No. 1 seed going into last year's sub-state tournament, which was held in Scott City. The senior-dominated team had finished its regular season undefeated but fell to Scott City at sub-state, dashing any state hopes.

The table has turned this year, as the Cowgirls could face Scott City as underdogs on their home ground. But Goodland has to defeat two other teams first.

If the Cowgirls take down Larned, the No. 7 seed with a 5-21 season record, they will face either Norton, No. 3, or Hugoton, No. 6, in the semi-final match. On the other court, Scott City

will play either Colby, No. 4, or Ulysses, No. 5, in the semi-finals.

The winners of the semi-final matches will face each other for the championship, with the victor advancing to state, held next Friday and Saturday in Salina.

The Cowgirls haven't played Larned, Norton or Hugoton this year, Coach McKee said, and are looking forward to facing new competitors.

If the Cowgirls make it to the finals, they will likely play Scott City or Colby — both teams Goodland has already faced this year. The Cowgirls beat the Colby Eagles twice this past weekend, placing first in the Northwest Kansas League Tournament at Max Jones, but haven't had as much luck against Scott City.

Scott City has defeated Goodland twice this year, and handed the Cowgirls its only loss last season. Despite that, Coach McKee said he thinks the Cowgirls can beat the Beavers.

"I sure do," he said.

The coach added that the pressure will be off the Cowgirls, because if they do face Scott City, it'll be as underdogs. "Scott City feels a lot of pressure as the favorite," he said.

The coach said Goodland may feel a little nervous playing in a single-elimination tournament, where a loss means the end of the season.

"The thing that makes this day tougher," McKee said, "is it's single-elimination. That always adds a little pressure."

Of course, the Cowgirls will have the home advantage.

"I think it's always an advantage to play at home," the coach said. "You're familiar with the surroundings and don't have to worry about travel time. You have crowd support."

The Cowgirls have made it to state competition 10 times since 1987, and Coach McKee said he thinks the young team, which only has one senior player, can do it again.

"This is a team that has continued to get better all year," he said. "A lot of people have made tremendous improvements from the beginning of the year."



Bronco QB expects to play

DENVER (AP) — Brian Griese doesn't understand all the fuss. Bothered by a sore throwing shoulder, the Denver quarterback did not practice Wednesday but remained confident he will play Sunday when the Broncos (3-2) travel to San Diego (3-2). "I don't know whether you guys are just making a big deal out of it or what, but I think I'm going to play this week," he said. Griese, who had reconstructive surgery on his right shoulder in January, began

experiencing soreness in the shoulder two weeks ago and played through the pain during a 34-21 loss to the Seattle Seahawks last week. He grimaced noticeably after being flattened by Seattle defensive end Lamar King in the fourth quarter and did not return. Tests showed no structural damage, and Griese dismissed the pain as part of life in the NFL. "I have a lot of soreness in a lot of other parts of my body. You guys just don't

care about it," he said. "I've got soreness in my groin, I've got soreness in my foot, I've got it in my back. What's in my shoulder is not any more than what's in those parts of my body, so I'm going to get treatment on the parts that hurt and go on."

Griese plans to practice Thursday and said his latest shoulder problem is nothing compared to the past two years when he had surgery following the 1999 and 2000 seasons.

Chiefs may get help against Arizona

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Fullback Tony Richardson, whose absence has been a big hindrance to the Kansas City offense, looks like he may get back in time for Sunday's game at Arizona. "I was able to do everything in practice, but unfortunately, we were in shells and it's hard get a clear indication of taking a hit and giving a hit," he said. "Tomorrow will be a true gauge of what I'm able to do."

Richardson hurt his shoulder late in the 45-13 victory over Washington on Sept. 30. Since he's been out, the of-

fense has struggled, and the Chiefs have lost to Denver and Pittsburgh, falling to 1-4. After seeing how his fullback was moving around on Wednesday, there was little doubt in coach Dick Vermeil's mind. "Right now, I've made my evaluation. It looks like he's going to be ready to play," Vermeil said. "He did everything. It's exciting to have him back there again. We're going to put pads on tomorrow but he was moving very well today."

Adept as both a runner and blocker, Richardson is certain to give a lift to an

offense that's been averaging just a shade better than 100 yards rushing. The running game did look more promising in the final quarter of last week's 20-17 loss to Pittsburgh when the Chiefs adjusted their approach and sprang Priest Holmes for 150 yards and two touchdowns. "I think I'll be ready," Richardson said. "I felt ready two weeks ago but coach Vermeil thought otherwise. You see the guys work so hard and come up short and you think, 'Man, is there anything I can do?'" It was hard to sit on that sideline."

Golfer medals

One of the two Goodland girls who traveled to Hutchinson to compete in the state golf tournament Monday earned a medal. Jessica Osborn earned a medal at state for her 12th place finish with a score of 104. The top finisher scored 88. Kendra Billinger finished 65th out of 74 with 125. Osborn and Billinger qualified for the state competition by finishing in the top five individuals not on a state qualifying team at the regional competition Monday, Oct. 15.

Royals change prices

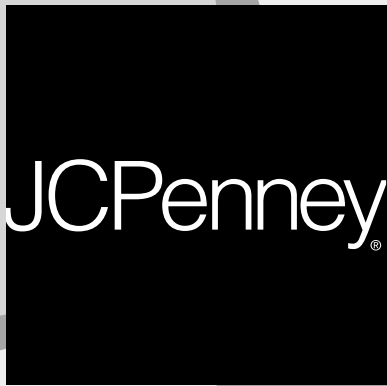
KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Kansas City Royals have announced several ticket price changes for next season, including eliminating general admission tickets. The cost of general admission tickets — which will now be called "outfield plaza" seats — will increase from \$7 to \$10 the day of the game, or \$8 if they are purchased in packages. "It's a change that will reward the committed Royals fan," said Charlie Seraphin, vice president of communications and marketing. "You can still get those seats that used to be GA, but now they will be reserved for you, and you don't have to wait in line or worry that once you leave your seat, someone else will take them."

Prices for tickets in the upper bowl corners will be reduced from \$11 to \$5. Others sections of season-ticket seats will drop prices \$1 from last season. All seating will be reserved seating for the first time in club history.

Final days!

Sale ends Saturday, October 20

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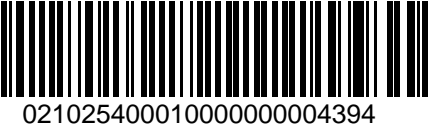
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