

Cowgirls shaken by sub-state loss at home

By Rachel Miscal
The Goodland Daily News
Teary-eyed Goodland Cowgirls walked off their home volleyball court Saturday and into the arms of parents and friends, some of whom cried with the players.

The team was visibly shaken by its loss to Scott City in the Class 4A Sub-State Volleyball Tournament championship match, which the young players worked hard to qualify for.

The loss squashed any hope the Cowgirls had of competing at the state level, and ended the team's season. For Goodland's only senior player, Lacey Brenner, it meant the end of her high school volleyball career.

"The team always takes it hard when the season comes to an end," Coach Jerry McKee said. It's especially hard when they come so close to qualifying for the state tournament, he said.

The Cowgirls dominated their first two matches, but fell in the finals against Scott City, losing the championship match in two games, 8-15, 5-15.

After the sub-state tournament at Max Jones Fieldhouse, the coach said he doesn't know what's in store for the young team next year.

"I can't comment on next year's team," he said. "We'll just have to wait and see what we have."

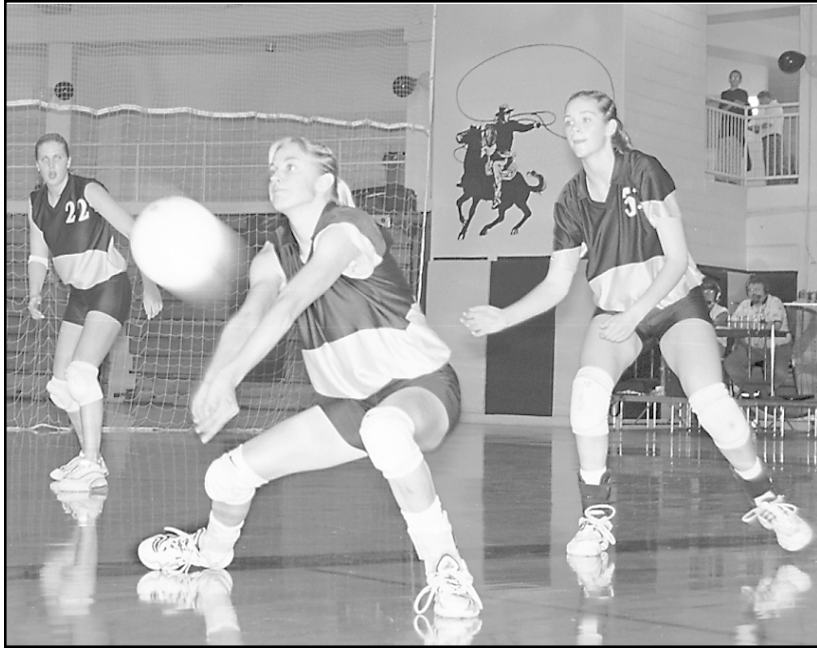
The coach was more focused on this year's team and their commendable, but disappointing performance at the annual tournament, which decides what team will advance to the state competition in Salina this weekend.

Seven teams participated in the five-hour event, with Goodland entering as the No. 2 seed behind Scott City — which beat Goodland at sub-state last year, handing the Cowgirls their only loss of the season and winning the tournament.

This year, the Cowgirls — a younger, more inexperienced team — came in with a 26-7 record, falling twice to Scott City during the regular season. The Beavers entered with an impressive 33-2 record, and lived up to their No. 1 designation, taking the tournament again.

The Cowgirls, who finished second, looked strong in the two matches they took before facing Scott City in the finals, but Coach McKee predicted mistakes would catch up to the team when it really mattered.

He was right.



Cowgirl Lacey Brenner hit the volleyball during the championship match at the sub-state tournament on Saturday in Goodland. The Cowgirls fell to Scott City in the match. Photo by Eric Yonkey/The Goodland Daily News

"Scott City just played better than we did," he said. "They forced us to keep the ball in play and we just couldn't get it put away. We did a whale of a job preparing to get to the championship, but we just couldn't get it."

The coach said this year's team was young, but played extremely well.

"These girls had a very good year," he said. The players' improvement was obvious in their first matches against Larned and Norton.

Brenner served at least seven aces, while Alisha McKee scored one point after another and recovered the ball with strong, precise kills. McKee said each player made big improvements, and overall the team had a good last tournament.

In their first match, the Cowgirls walked all over Larned, the No. 7 seed, taking the match in 25 minutes and two games, 15-2, 15-0.

Coach McKee said the team performed well, but was making too many mistakes. He said the same thing after the Cowgirl's first match at the league tournament the previous weekend, but Goodland managed to leave that event as champions.

That wasn't the case on Saturday, but the Cowgirls did defeat Norton in the semi-final match, before facing Scott City in the finals. It's been many years since Goodland has played Norton, as

the Blue Jays are in a different league and have been in a lower class in the past.

Goodland racked up a quick 4 points in the first game against Norton, but allowed the Blue Jays to close the gap, and an ace from Norton's Chelsey Wicker tied the game 4-4. That was the closest Norton came to a win, as the Cowgirls didn't allow them to score another point, taking the game 15-4.

The Cowgirls lead in the second game wasn't as dramatic, as the Blue Jays trailed close behind at the start of

play and managed to sprint ahead, gaining four points on Goodland, 4-8. But the Cowgirls didn't let Norton have the advantage for long.

With three aces from Brenner — adding to the three she had in the first game — and a kill from Janae McKee, the game was soon tied at 8-8. Goodland brought in another point, but Norton's Staf Sloan managed to tie the game at 9-9, with a tip.

The Blue Jays took the lead again, bringing the score to 10-13, and a spike from Alisha McKee closed the gap a

bit, before Norton grabbed another point for a score of 11-14.

Goodland made another comeback, as Jayci Stone served an ace, Colleen Koehler tipped the ball into a hole and Janae McKee made a kill. Norton couldn't return, tying the game at 14-14. With Koehler serving, Sloan hit the ball into the net, giving Goodland the advantage, and Alisha McKee made a quick kill, taking the game 16-14.

The Cowgirls kept their confidence for the first part of the match against Scott City, taking the lead early in the

first game, but broke down after the Beavers opened a five point gap for a score of 8-13.

Goodland fought hard, with the two teams passing the ball back and forth, but couldn't get it done. Cowgirl errors handed Scott City several points and the first game ended 8-15 when Janae McKee hit the ball into the net and Scott City's Bridget Kuntzsch made a kill.

The Cowgirls couldn't recover in the second game, losing 5-15, and ending their season with a 28-8 record.

Brewster All-Star Booster Club

Thursday, Oct. 25 – School Picture Retakes, 1 - 2:30 p.m.; HS FB with Cheylin, 7:30 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 26 – HS VB State at Hays.

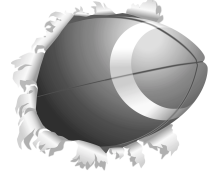
Saturday, Oct. 27 – HS VB State at Hays; State CC.

Monday, Oct. 29 – JH Scholars Bowl at Herndon, 4 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 30 – HS FB Playoffs.

USD 314

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Congratulations Cowgirls Volleyball on a fine season. NWKL Champions, Runner-up at Goodland Substate.



The 2001 Goodland Cowgirls volleyball team after they took second place at the Class 4A Sub-State Volleyball Tournament on Saturday. From left to right, back row, Coach Jerry McKee, Hannah Schlosser, Tammy Weeter, Tomi

Windell, Alisha McKee, Shanae Calkins, Tess Schultz, Jayci Stone, assistant coach Dave Hardy, assistant coach Mitch Hixson. Bottom row, Stephanie Fairbanks, Alissa Schields, Janae McKee, Lacey Brenner and Colleen Koehler.

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Goodland All-Star Booster Club

Wednesday, Oct. 24 – Screening Comm. Meeting, 3:45 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 25 – V-FB at Scott City, 6:30 p.m.; Atwood Scholars Bowl, 3 p.m.

Friday, Oct. 26 – No School; End of 1st Nine Weeks; 1/2 Inservice, 1/2 Workday; VB State at Salina; CC State at Wamego.

Saturday, Oct. 27 – ACT Testing in Goodland; VB State at Salina.

Monday, Oct. 29 – Elem. Book Fair, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.; Scott City Quiz Bowl.

Tuesday, Oct. 30 – FB Bi-District; JH Picture Retakes.

Wednesday, Oct. 31 – Elem. Book Fair, 7:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

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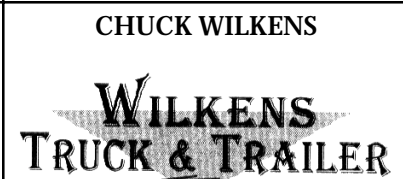
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