

Football team seeks win away

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News
The Goodland Cowboys travel to Scott City today to finish a tough football season, seeking a win against the Beavers in a 6:30 p.m. game.

The Cowboys have suffered injuries and shot themselves in the foot with turnovers and penalties throughout the season and have an 0-8 record to show for it.

Today's game will be tough, as the Beavers already have beaten Colby, who won the match of rivals against Goodland on Friday. But Scott City's varsity is fairly inexperienced and they are a Class 4A school, the same size as Goodland.

Scott City has a smaller offensive line this year than they usually have and began the season with an inexperienced offense.

The Beavers have senior Lance McKinney returning at quarterback and Zach Winter returning as receiver

but are looking for players to put points on the board.

This may provide an opening for the Cowboys, but they will have to focus and avoid the mental mistakes they have been prone to this season. The Beavers have faced tough opponents this season and have had time to sharpen their skills.

The Cowboys had a strong defense against Atwood in the first half, but their offense failed to execute and their defense weakened leading to a 40-7 loss. Their offense was strong against Phillipsburg, but their defense crumbled and they lost 64-32.

Quarterback Jared Doke has improved in passing throughout the season, allowing the Cowboys to rely less on their running game, and Andrew Melia has shaped up as a tenacious receiver.

Bryan Mai has been a strong receiver as well and Alan Cebula has provided good punt and kick returns.



Chiefs, Colts share misery

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Key injuries. Interception-prone quarterbacks. Angry fans, sagging morale, three-game losing streaks.

Heading into their Thursday night kickoff in Arrowhead Stadium, the Indianapolis Colts (2-3) and Kansas City Chiefs (1-5) have a lot in common.

"We're in a slump. They're in a slump," said Chiefs safety Jerome Woods. "They're probably thinking the same thing we're thinking — this team needs a win."

Said Indianapolis defensive tackle

Mike Wells, "We're at a point where we've got to win right now. I'm still confident we can win and be in the playoffs, but we've got to win right now."

After starting 2-0 and appearing to justify their high expectations, the Colts have lost three straight. Peyton Manning, with injuries to some of his best receivers, has thrown nine interceptions.

In a strange game last week against New England, Indianapolis seemed to defy football physics and math. Manning threw for 335 yards, Edgerrin

James ran for 143 and Marvin Harrison caught for 157 as the Colts totaled 484 yards but still found a way to lose to New England by 21 points.

"It's just a matter of trying to execute even better, trying to maintain that same focus we have from our own 20 to their own 20," said Manning.

"Most of our mistakes have been lack of execution, more mental mistakes than physical mistakes. We played very well in our two wins. Since then we just haven't played well enough. It's pretty simple."

Coach wants less press

LAWRENCE (AP) — Kansas football coach Terry Allen admonished reporters Wednesday to stop focusing so much attention on the possibility that he's about to be fired.

"Let me make it easy. Why don't I try to answer the question that everybody wants answered but nobody wants to ask," Allen said at the beginning of his weekly news conference.

"We ought to be talking about the players. We ought to be talking about the game. I understand there's a place for the job security situation. But every day? That's not fair to the football team. It's not fair to coaches' wives either."

Allen is 20-31 in his fifth year at Kansas and widely expected to be fired at the end of the season. Al Bohl, who has a history of firing football coaches, was hired as athletic director a few months ago with the specific charge of reviving the struggling football program.

Allen said he rarely reads newspapers but had been checking the sports pages at the urging of his wife.

He never raised his voice or appeared confrontational while making his remarks.

"Now we're talking to the players about my job. And the essence of what I'm getting is it's a bad deal for our football team if Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, every article is about Terry Allen and his job," he said.

"I feel bad about that not for me, but for the players."

Kansas is getting ready for its annual grudge match against Kansas State, which has beaten Allen four years in a row.

"This is the Sunflower Showdown. We ought to be talking about Roger Ross, he had 110 yards in punt return, or K-State they're 10th in the country in total defense but they're 0-4 in the league."

Allen has never ducked the issue and has admitted he does not know if he will be retained.

Judge's decision puts Bonds' baseball in limbo

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Barry Bonds' 73rd home run ball was caught in legal limbo Wednesday after a judge ordered the man who ended up with the record-setting ball not to sell it until an ownership dispute is settled.

San Francisco Giants fan Alex Popov first caught the ball Oct. 7, but he lost it after fans piled on top of him. On Wednesday, he sued Patrick Hayashi, who wound up with the ball that could fetch an estimated \$2 million.

Lawyers said it was the first time they knew of anyone asking a judge to settle a dispute over ownership of a ball obtained from the field of play at a major league baseball game.

"I've never heard of such a thing. This is a free country. Anybody can

sue," said Donald K. Tamaki, Hayashi's lawyer.

San Francisco Superior Court Judge David Garcia, who ordered the ball not to be sold, set a hearing for Nov. 13.

Popov's lawyer, Marty Triano, said the judge's decision was a victory for baseball fans.

"My whole issue is this is America's pastime," Triano said. "I want kids — big or little — to be able to go to the ballpark and catch the ball with their eyes wide open."

The sports agent brokering the sale of the ball hit at Pacific Bell Park believes it might fetch considerably less than the \$3 million Mark McGwire's 70th homer sold for just three years ago to comic creator Todd McFarlane.

Bronco does not need new injuries

DENVER (AP) — Terrell Davis has enough trouble staying healthy without other people creating new injuries for him.

Five weeks removed from arthroscopic knee surgery, the Denver Broncos running back was taken by surprise Wednesday when told of news reports saying he may have a stress fracture in his leg and could be lost for the season.

"At this point in time, I'm on sched-

ule to play this Sunday," Davis said.

Davis, who has missed five games this year and 29 since 1999, admitted that his right knee remains sore, but he has been well enough to play on the scout team the past two weeks.

He remained on the scout team Wednesday as the Broncos (3-3) prepared for this week's game against the New England Patriots (3-3). Davis was listed as questionable on the weekly injury report

"Some days he feels good, other days he feels bad," coach Mike Shanahan said. "Is he going to be back this week? Until he actually says, 'Hey I'm ready to go and I'm close to 100 percent,' it's all speculation."

The speculation was rampant Wednesday when the CNNSI.com and the Baltimore Sun reported that a potential trade between Denver and the Baltimore Ravens fell through because of uncertainty about Davis' health.

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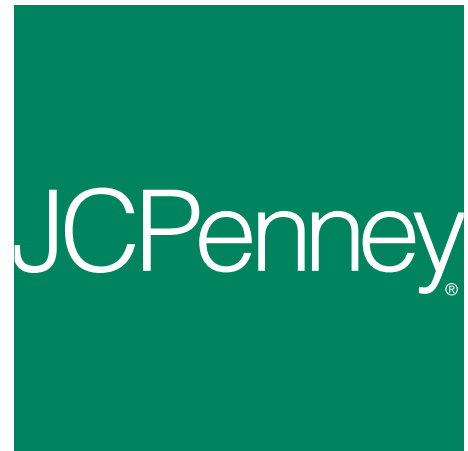
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