

# Cowgirls have talent

By Tom Betz  
*The Goodland Daily News*

The Goodland High Cowgirls are practicing hard, and hope they can take their work back to the state tournament with a chance to improve on their fourth-place finish from last year.

"We've got the talent," says Coach Connie Livengood. "We can improve with hard work."

Livengood has six returning starters, including junior Jayci Stone and seniors Lacey Brenner, Erica Mann, Danielle Hellerud, Stevie Lee Raymer and Hayley Jarmin. Other seniors are Jessica Vignery, Abby Scheopner and Tranda Ihrig.

"We have a good core group," the coach said. "We are going to be a little bit of a running team and a little bit of a play-making team. We hope we are as good at defense as we have been." Livengood says the team is doing

well at practice, but knows they have a ways to go before the first game, on the road against Imperial, Neb., at 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 30.

Before then, Livengood expects the girls to continue to improve, and to that end, will be holding a couple of practices over the Thanksgiving holiday.

Cowgirl fans will get their first look at this year's team at a soap scrimmage at 6 p.m. next Tuesday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. The Cowboys will follow the girls about 6:45 p.m.

Looking at the season schedule, Livengood says the Colby Lady Eagles will probably be one of the toughest teams they face. The Cowgirls will have to play Colby at least twice, with the first match up coming as the first home game of the new year on Friday, Jan. 4. The second meeting may be at the Orange and Black tournament in Colby Jan. 17-19. The third will be in Colby on Feb. 12.

Last year, the Cowgirls won the first two Colby games by close margins, but were blown out in the third. The Cowgirls then defeated the Lady Eagles, 54-45, to win the sub-state tournament and advance to the state tournament in Class 4A.

Another tough team the Cowgirls will get an early look at will be Ottawa, which will be playing in the TopSide Tipoff at Max Jones Fieldhouse Dec. 6-8. The Cowgirls met Ottawa in the first round of the

state tournament last year and came away with a win.

The Cowgirls finished fourth at state, losing the semifinal game to Labette County, and then losing the third-place game to Andale.

The TopSide Tipoff will be the first home court games for the Cowgirls before the regular season. The team will travel to Quinter on Dec. 14 for their last game before the Christmas break.

Other home games of the season will include Lakin, Jan. 8; Atwood, Jan. 11; Hugoton, Jan. 26; Hays High, Feb. 2; Oakley, Feb. 8; Wray, Feb. 16; and the final game of the season against Norton, Feb. 19.

The state Class 4A tournament will be in Salina March 6-9.

Juniors on the team are Kendra Billinger, Stephanie Fairbanks, Deanna Livengood, Anny McCoy, and Tess Schultz. Sophomores are Britney Redlin, Jessica Osborn, Megan Leonard, Cortney Schields, Megan McCall and Jennifer Mentzer.

Freshmen team members are Emily Burkett, Megan Sheldon, Bailee Guyer, Whitney Carmichael, Clara Abbey, Shannon Showalter, Aubrea Winter, Abby Murray, Gami Cloyd and Jennifer Enfield.

Managers are Amy Cebula, Kelsey Leiker, Anna McClung and Christina Beeson. Assistant coaches are Don Smith and Mitch Hixson.



The Cowgirls practiced an in-bounds play from under their own basket. Erica Mann (53) held her position while Lacey Brenner (front right) followed the inbounds pass. Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

## Parents pushing baseball

By Sharon Corcoran  
*The Goodland Daily News*

People who want to see a baseball team at Goodland High School plan an organizational meeting at 7 p.m. tonight at the United Methodist Church fellowship hall.

Liz West, manager of Goodland's American Legion baseball team, said some of the supporters are parents who have sons interested in playing. Others played baseball in college, she said, and want boys in Goodland to have that opportunity. There are several boys definitely interested in playing, she said.

Boys who play on the Legion team, she said, are not getting the opportunity to receive scholarships to play at college because they do not play enough as teens. Those interested in playing in college can't even get a scout or coach to come see them play, she said.

"The community is full of talent," West said, "but if you can't even get anyone to see it..."

Baseball is played in the spring at high schools that have the program, West said, but the new spring sport for Goodland is just in the planning stages.

"We need to get better organized and cover all our bases," she said, "before presenting it to the (school) board."

Some things to be considered, she said, are whether it's feasible as far as cost and scheduling and whether there is enough support for the program.

Some support may come from other schools, West said. Brewster and St. Francis high schools may want to see a cooperative agreement with Goodland, she said, so their students can play baseball here.

The group wants to meet with the school board, she said, when they know the program is feasible and that they have enough support. She said they want the school board's support and cooperation.

"We are not here to demand from the school board," she said, "but to work with them."

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