

Cowboys seeking second win

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Cowboys travel to Quinter Friday to take on the Class 2A Bulldogs in what could prove to be a difficult game.

Tip-off time for the girls varsity game is 5:30 p.m. Mountain Time and the boys game will follow about 7 p.m. The Bulldogs have good athletes, Coach Jon McLeansaid, and get up and down the court really well. They are scoring a lot this year, he said, and it will take some effort to beat them.

But McLean said his Cowboys are up to the challenge.

The team has had three good days of practice, the coach said, and have been working on defense and handling the ball offensively. They are getting better, McLean said, and that is the most important thing.

The players are the ones who have to make the effort, the coach said. And he's hoping a desire to win will make them do just that.

"Hopefully they are getting sick of losing," he said, "and want to do something about it."

The Cowboys earned their first win of the season, beating the Yuma, Colo., Indians 56-43 Friday at the Topside Tipoff. Goodland took the lead early and outscored Yuma in the first three quarters and played even in the fourth.

The Cowboys put forth a good defensive effort, the coach said, and handled the ball well. But what really made the difference, he said, is they were good on free throws, hitting 18 of 25.

The Cowboys lost their opener in Imperial, Neb., and lost to Wray and Burlington at Topside for a 1-3 record.

The games in Quinter are at the junior/senior high school at 600 Long. Quinter is about 100 miles east of Goodland on I-70.

Nuggets coach fined for racial slur

DENVER (AP) — Denver Nuggets coach Dan Issel was suspended for four games by the team Wednesday for shouting a profanity and an insensitive ethnic remark at a fan.

Issel made the remarks as he walked off the court after a 99-96 loss to the Charlotte Hornets on Tuesday night. The coach responded to a taunt from the fan by yelling back, "Go drink another beer, you Mexican ...," adding an expletive at the end of the sentence.

The exchange was caught on videotape by KUSA-TV.

Team general manager Kiki Vandeweghe called the penalty "very severe." "We take this very seriously," he said. "Does it fix the situation? I think only time fixes the situation."

Issel makes just over \$28,000 a game, so the suspension will cost the coach more than \$112,000, Vandeweghe said.

At a news conference attended by several members of the Hispanic media and Hispanic community, a visibly upset Issel apologized. He called the confrontation "very stupid and regrettable."

"I apologize to the fans, to the Nuggets organization and the people of Denver for that uncaring and un-Christian-type comment," Issel said. "I take full responsibility for my actions and I'm sorry for the embarrassment it's caused my team, my family."

Choking up for a second time, he abruptly left the news conference, leaving Vandeweghe to answer questions.

At a press conference Wednesday, Veronica Barela and other members of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce demanded Issel be fired. "Dan Issel is a public figure and a role model in our community and this demands some sensitivity for the public and a higher standard," she said.

John Calipari was fined \$25,000 by the NBA in 1997, when he was coach of the New Jersey Nets, for making a similar comment to a Hispanic reporter. "We took this many steps beyond what happened with John Calipari," Vandeweghe said.

The fan shouted at Issel as he left the court after the loss to Charlotte, the Nuggets' fifth defeat in a row and 14th of 21 games this season. It was unclear what the fan said.

Nuggets point guard Nick Van Exel tried to steer Issel away from the confrontation, but the coach stopped and shouted at the fan before he was hustled into the arena tunnel by assistant coach Mike Evans.



Jayhawks win at Princeton

PRINCETON, N.J. (AP) — Princeton hasn't exactly had an easy early schedule — and the team's record shows it.

The Tigers played their third game against a Top Ten team Wednesday night and absorbed their third defeat against the nation's elite, losing to No. 4 Kansas 78-62.

By no means has Princeton (2-6) faced the toughest competition possible — No. 6 Arizona, for example, played five of six games against ranked teams — but the Tigers have had an

uphill climb.

"We've always played a difficult schedule and the top teams. What happened this year is not abnormal," second-year Princeton coach John Thompson III said. "Obviously, in eight games to have played three is extreme, and we are a young team. For large stretches, we had freshmen and sophomores out there."

Unfortunately for Princeton, the Jayhawks (7-1) used upperclassmen such as Nick Collison, Drew Gooden and Kirk Hinrich, who gave coach Roy

Williams 33 good minutes.

"I was very happy with the way we played except for the last six, seven minutes of the first half," Williams said. "We had a nice lead, and they made a great run, and that got the crowd into it, and we made a mistake to let them get a big 3. That might have been the maddest I've ever been, but I was really pleased with the second half."

What got Williams so angry was the Jayhawks' letting a 19-point slip away as the Tigers closed the first half with a 12-2 run to close to 35-29.

Kennison prepared for cheap shots

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — If the Denver Broncos try to cheap-shot Eddie Kennison, he'll be ready to give as good as he gets.

"If that's the way they feel, and if they don't understand, then to hell with them," the Kansas City wide receiver said Wednesday. "I'm a grown man and I'm going to do everything I possibly can to protect myself and protect this ballclub."

On Sunday, Kennison will face a

Broncos team that apparently feels betrayed by the way he abruptly walked out last month, just 16 hours before a game.

"Knowing the way our defense felt about that situation, I think there could be a lot of cheap shots if he gets out on that field," Denver linebacker John Mobley was quoted as saying on Monday.

On Wednesday, Mobley denied saying anything about "cheap shots," but

otherwise did not back off.

Kennison, who signed with the Chiefs last week, said "If they really feel they want to go out and hurt me, I'll have to go out and return some blows and do whatever I need to do to protect myself and help this team win."

He insists he was justified in walking out at Denver. At the time, his wife was experiencing a difficult pregnancy and his father was being treated for a heart condition.

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Darin Miller
Director, External Affairs



Darin Miller



Cowgirls play Lady Bulldogs before break

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

The Cowgirls take their 3-1 record to Quinter on Friday for the final game before the Christmas break.

The girls varsity is to begin at 5:30 p.m. Mountain Time, with the boys following at 7 p.m. The Quinter girls coach said this morning he does not expect there to be a freshman girls game because he has several players out sick. Goodland High School officials said they had not received any calls about cancellation, however.

Cowgirl Coach Connie Livengood says the Lady Bulldogs have a couple of pretty good players as a core.

"We will match up against them very well," she added.

Cowgirl Erica Mann, who injured her ankle during the Topside Tipoff, practiced this week, and Coach Livengood expects she will play against Quinter. Except for Mann's ankle, the Cowgirls are injury free and in good physical shape, she believes.

"We have had some good practices this week," Livengood said. "I think we will be ready to play."

The Lady Bulldogs have a 2-3 record. Coach Bill Seidl thinks his team is doing pretty well, and has been in most of the games with a chance to win in several cases.

"We can play a little bit," he says pointing to the performance of his top three players, each averaging 10.8

points a game. Callie Coberly, a 5'10" sophomore, was honorable mention all-league as a freshman; Lindsey Johnson, 5'10", is a senior; and Kelsey Kuchera, a 5'7" junior guard.

"We look forward to the challenge," Coach Seidl said. "We know Goodland has a good ball club. I don't know much about their players, but I remember the Stone girl who was all-league as a freshman, and the Mann girl was a good player."

"We will try to put some pressure on them and compete," he said. That is our goal, to compete on a daily basis. We are a lot better than we were last year. We just have to play with confidence."

Nov. 31, the Lady Bulldogs lost their opening game to Hoxie, 49-46. Dec. 3, they lost to Wheatland, 49-47, in the opening game of the Castle Rock Classic.

Last Thursday, they defeated Triplains 74-37, and Saturday morning they defeated Ellis, 39-25, in a game for fifth place.

Tuesday, the Lady Bulldogs lost to Grinnell 66-42. Grinnell is ranked fifth in the Class 1A division.

Coach Seidl thinks the Grinnell ranking is a bit high, and felt that it was more of a lack of getting the ball into the hoop than the play of Grinnell which led to their loss.

"I think Grinnell will find out how good they are this week when they play Tribune," Seidl said.

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