

Freshmen win opener

The Goodland Cowboys freshman basketball team is building a successful season, dominating their first two games against Atwood and Quinter.

The Cowboy's season began last week, with Goodland taking on the Buffaloes in Atwood on Monday and the Bulldogs in Quinter on Friday. The Cowboys stomped both teams, beating Atwood 76-54 and Quinter 51-24.

Coach Travis Witman said it took the players awhile to warm-up during their first game against the Buffaloes, but they soon got into the flow.

"We started the first quarter off slow," he said, "making a lot of turnovers and not scoring many points. The kids did a good job after half-time of executing the offensive and working the ball into the past players."

The first quarter score was 12-9 in

Goodland's favor, and the Cowboys ended the half with a score of 30-21. They widened the gap in the third quarter, 53-31, and took off in the fourth, ending the game 76-54.

Witman said it was a successful first game for more reasons than one.

"Everyone got to play," he said, "and that game time experience will be valuable to them as we head into the season."

He said the players have skills to sharpen.

"It was your typical first game," the coach said, "and we need to work on the defensive end. We need to have a good week of practice to get ready for a good Quinter team."

The Cowboys apparently practiced hard, because they beat the Bulldogs by 27 points.

Goodland started off slow again, but still ended the first quarter on top, 5-2. They took off in the second quarter, ending the half 20-11, and then didn't look back in the second half. The Cowboys dominated the third quarter, 34-13, and held down the Bulldogs to win the game, 51-24.

Scorers included Lane Winter, 14; Brock Lohr, 13; Drew Wilkens, 12; Josef Felver, 6; Daniel Melia, Wade Taylor, 2; and Jake Johnson, 1.

In the Atwood game, scorers were Wilkens, 22; Jace Terry, 15; Melia, 7; Derrick Raymer, Craig Mason, 6; Lohr, David Livengood, Winter, 5; Johnson, Jason McClung, 2; Felver, 1.

The Cowgirls freshman basketball team will take on St. Francis at home today, but the Cowboys won't play again until January.

Hispanic leaders, Issel plan to work together

DENVER (AP) — Hispanic business leaders on Wednesday accepted Denver Nuggets coach Dan Issel's apology for an insensitive ethnic remark, and the two sides agreed to work together to benefit the community.

"We accepted his apology and we're excited and we're looking forward to the future relationship between the Nuggets and the Hispanic chamber and the Hispanic community," said Monica Pleiman, a member of the Denver Hispanic Chamber of Commerce board.

During a luncheon meeting at a north Denver restaurant, Issel apologized specifically to the Hispanic community.

"I think what I said a week ago is even a stronger statement today," Issel said. "That was not me making those remarks. That is not the person I am and I will spend the rest of my life proving to this community that that is the case."

"I am willing to do whatever it takes to show to the people of this community that that is the case."

The two sides then met behind closed doors to discuss their future relationship.

As Issel walked off the court after the Nuggets lost to the Charlotte Hornets on Dec. 11, a fan shouted at him. The coach responded: "Go drink another beer, you Mexican ...," adding an expletive at the end of the sentence.

Chiefs fight injuries

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — NFL rushing leader Priest Holmes was held out of practice Wednesday with a groin injury but will probably get back on the field on Thursday, Kansas City coach Dick Vermeil said.

Holmes, who also leads the NFL in yards from scrimmage, pulled the groin muscle in the final minutes of last week's 26-23 overtime victory over Denver.

"I think he'll be able to practice (on Thursday)," Vermeil said. "He said he could practice today but it was just good judgment to allow him to relax a little bit."

A bigger concern as the Chiefs prepared to play host to the San Diego Chargers was safety Greg Wesley, who was held out with a turf toe.

"Turf toe can be seriously sore," Vermeil said. "I think he's questionable."

The Chiefs (4-9), who held off a late rally for a 25-20 victory in San Diego on Sept. 28, are looking for their first series sweep of the Chargers since 1997. To get it, they will need back-to-back victories for the first time this season.

Wildcats blow lead, fail at foul line

MANHATTAN (AP) — Kansas State simply couldn't make free throws or 3-point shots Wednesday night.

As a result, the Wildcats blew an 18-point second half lead and failed to capitalize at the free throw line in the waning minutes to lose 66-64 to Western Carolina. It was the Wildcats' (5-4) third loss of its last four games.

"The first thing I have to say is wow," said Western Carolina head coach

Steve Shurina. "I was not happy at half-time. I just went right after our guys. I can't say what I said to them, but boy, they came out in the second half and just played."

"It was an unbelievable effort they had."

Kevin Martin led Western Carolina (6-3) with 29 points and the Cata-mounts overcame 34.8 percent shooting in the first half to make 13-of-24 in

the second.

Western Carolina's zone defense fooled the Wildcats and helped them erase a 16-point halftime deficit with a 24-3 run early in the second.

Terrence Woodyard stole the ball from Kansas State's Larry Reid with 21 seconds remaining and the Cata-mounts leading 65-62. Woodyard was fouled and made a free throw with 9.8 seconds left, putting the game out of Kansas State's reach.

"My plan was to penetrate and make something happen," Reid said. "But I lost control. We gave them lots of opportunities and they took them."

bowling results

Wednesday Night Men's Scratch Classic League Dec. 19 Weber Kennels over Sigco 13-7 Fitzgibbons over Pro Line 11-9 Bowladium Lanes over L&M Steel 13-7 Basgall Construction over Western Kansas Valley 11-9 Individual high game: Paul Weber-274 Individual high series: Jerry Amthor-882 Team high game: Weber Kennels-656 Team high series: Weber Kennels-2269 League Standings: 1. Pro Line 98, 62; 2. and 3. Bowladium Lanes and Fitzgibbons' 91, 69; 4. Basgall Construction 75, 85; 5. Western Kansas Valley 73, 86; 6. L&M Steel 72.5, 87.5; 7. Weber Kennels 70.5, 89.5; 8. Sigco 69, 91.	Women's high series: Betty Wright-508 Team high game: Phillips Bros.-877 Team high series: Mueller Grain-2479 League Standings: 1. Gamblers 42, 22; 2. Mueller Grain 41 1/2, 22 1/2; 3. and 4. Kanorado Coop and Guzzlin Socializers 41, 23; 5. Shear Dimensions 37, 27.
Wednesday Night Mixed League Dec. 12 Kanorado Coop over Blossom Shoppe 3-1 Mueller Grain over Shear Dimensions 4-0 Gamblers over Mudslingers 3-1 D&G Clan over Guzzlin Socializers 3-1 Phillips Brothers over Phantoms 4-0 Men's high game: Marvin Matthews-214 Men's high series: Travis Gillihan-576 Women's high game: Elsie Matthews-188	Thursday Night Mixed League Dec. 13 The Grannies & The Gramps over Charlie's Angels 4-0 Sun America over The Blind Team 3-1 Weis Oil over Our Team 4-0 Goodland Development Corp. over Half Fast Four 3-1 McDonald's split with Mex & Company 2-2 Women's high game: Joann Matthews-191 Women's high series: Diana Nichols-523 Men's high game: Terry Sapp-246 Men's high series: Pat Thompson-546 Team high game: The Grannies & The Gramps-861 Team high series: The Grannies & The Gramps-2437 League Standings: No. 1 and No. 2 The Grannies & The Gramps and Mex & Company 9-3; No. 3 Weis Oil 8-4.

NBA at a glance

<i>By The Associated Press</i>				
Eastern Conference				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New Jersey	16	7	.696	—
Boston	15	8	.652	1
Washington	12	12	.500	4 1/2
Orlando	13	14	.481	5
New York	12	13	.480	5
Philadelphia	10	15	.400	7
Miami	5	18	.217	11
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	14	7	.667	—
Detroit	14	9	.609	1
Toronto	13	12	.520	3
Indiana	14	13	.518	3
Charlotte	12	13	.480	4
Cleveland	10	15	.400	6
Atlanta	9	16	.360	7
Chicago	4	19	.174	11
Western Conference				
	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	19	4	.826	—
Minnesota	16	8	.667	3 1/2
Dallas	16	9	.640	4
Utah	12	14	.461	8 1/2
Denver	9	15	.375	10 1/2
Houston	7	19	.269	13 1/2
Memphis	5	19	.208	14 1/2
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	18	3	.857	—
Sacramento	19	8	.704	2
L.A. Clippers	14	11	.560	6
Phoenix	14	12	.539	6 1/2
Portland	12	12	.500	7 1/2
Seattle	12	15	.444	9
Golden State	10	16	.385	10 1/2
Wednesday's Games				
Washington 103, Atlanta 76				
Boston 104, Cleveland 98				
Charlotte 94, Philadelphia 85				
Orlando 98, Utah 90				
New Jersey 117, Minnesota 112, OT				
Toronto 102, Indiana 90				
San Antonio 97, Portland 79				
Seattle 104, Sacramento 92				
Golden State 101, Detroit 88				
Thursday's Games				
Chicago at Toronto, 5 p.m.				
Memphis at New York, 5:30 p.m.				
Milwaukee at Dallas, 6:30 p.m.				
L.A. Lakers at Houston, 7 p.m.				
Friday's Games				
New Jersey at Indiana, 5 p.m.				
Atlanta at Philadelphia, 5 p.m.				
Utah at Boston, 5:30 p.m.				
Cleveland at Miami, 5:30 p.m.				
Washington at Orlando, 5:30 p.m.				
L.A. Lakers at Memphis, 6 p.m.				
Charlotte at Minnesota, 6 p.m.				
Denver at San Antonio, 6:30 p.m.				
Detroit at Portland, 8 p.m.				
Seattle at Golden State, 8:30 p.m.				

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