

Mustangs win championship

The Grant Junior High eighth grade boys basketball team finished the season with a 13-0 record and as champions of the Northwest Kansas League. The Mustangs won both games in Oakley Thursday to secure the championship routing Atwood 51-15 and edging out Quinter 50-46. This group of boys coached by Wallace Hansen and assistant coach Michael Nelson was 13-0 as seventh graders. The team was 26-0 for the two years. Being undefeated for two years and winning two league championships is something to be proud of, Hansen said. In the first game of the tournament, balanced scoring by Goodland led them over Atwood. Jase Herl had 14 points, Brandon Zelfer had 12, Bobby Miller eight, Jon Beeson six and Wyatt Dautel four. Miller and Derek Fenner led in re-

bounds with eight and six. Beeson had five steals and three assists. Team rebound advantage went to Goodland 28-10. In the championship game, the Mustangs led the entire game by margins of one to eleven points. Good free throw shooting, seven for eleven, was a factor for Goodland. Miller led in scoring with 35 and was aided by seven points each from Herl and Dautel. Miller made 17 of 21 shots. Herl was 5 for 5 at the free throw line, and Herl had seven assists, mostly to Miller. Quinter was led by Reed with 20 points. Good tenacious defense was a key in the victory, Hansen said. The team played hard in every game, he said, and out rebounded every team which brought many scoring opportunities.

Broncos fill empty spot with Stanford alum

DENVER (AP) — Filling the roster spot vacated by the injured Gus Frerotte, the Denver Broncos on Thursday signed free-agent quarterback Todd Husak. Husak most recently was on the New York Jets' practice squad. The 6-foot-3, 216-pound Husak was a sixth-round draft pick of the Washington Redskins in 2000. He saw action in the final game of his rookie season, completing 2-of-2 passes for minus-2 yards. The Redskins' new coaching staff cut Husak last summer. The Jets signed him to their practice squad on Oct. 2, where he remained until the Broncos signed him. Frerotte, Denver's backup quarterback, was placed on injured reserve Wednesday because of a separated throwing shoulder. Defensive end Kavika Pittman also went on injured reserve with a torn calf muscle, but the Broncos haven't filled his roster spot. "We had Todd ranked fairly high

coming out of the draft," coach Mike Shanahan said Thursday. "We liked what we saw coming out of college. "With our quarterback situation, we were hoping we'd be able to get him off the practice squad, which we did. It's good to have him in. We're going to get a chance to evaluate him." Husak now becomes third-string behind Brian Griese and Jarious Jackson. Griese missed last week's game in Kansas City with a concussion but is expected to return when the Broncos, in the midst of a bye week, return to action against Oakland on Dec. 30. Husak was one of the most prolific quarterbacks in Stanford history, finishing fifth in passing yards (6,564) and TD passes (41). As a junior, he became the third Stanford quarterback to throw for more than 3,000 yards in a season (3,092), joining Steve Stenstrom (3,627 in 1993) and John Elway (3,242 in 1982).

Elks Hoop Shoot planned Saturday

The 30th annual Elks Hoop Shoot "free throw contest" will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday at the Max Jones Fieldhouse. The competition is open to boys and girls ages eight through 13. Each contestant has 25 shots at the hoop. The boy and girl in each age group — eight to nine, 10-11 and 12-13 — with the best scores then advance through four tiers of competition to qualify for the national finals. Over 3 million young people from throughout the country participated in last year's competition. Goodland Lodge winners will compete against other contestants on Saturday, Jan. 5, in Russell. Local competitions have been conducted in area schools. The winners from these schools will compete in Goodland. Last year's winners were: Katie Clancy and Greg Farris, age eight to nine; Taylor Elder and Morgan Witzel, age 10-11; and Lauren Cox and Heath Baird, age 12-13. The national winners will have their names inscribed on the Elks National "Hoop Shoot" plaque which is on permanent display in the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in Springfield, Mass.

Skeleton winner slides into history

LAKE PLACID, N.Y. (AP) — Headfirst and flat on his belly, Jim Shea slid into Olympic history. Shea finished second at a World Cup skeleton meet Thursday to earn a spot on the U.S. Olympic team and make his family the first to produce three generations of American Olympians. "I'm really excited to have this tradition," Shea said. "To be able to follow in my grandfather's and my father's footsteps is a great honor." Shea's grandfather, Jack, was a double gold medalist in speedskating at the 1932 Winter Olympics at Lake Placid, and his father, Jim, represented the United States at the 1964 Winter Games in Innsbruck in three skiing events. Joining them wasn't easy for the youngest Shea, who needed at least a third-place finish to make the team. Snow squalls hampered track conditions and forced the cancellation of the second men's heat. Gregor Stahli of Switzerland remained unbeaten in four races, winning in 56.85 seconds. Shea finished in 57.03 to edge U.S. teammate Chris Soule, of Trumbull, Conn. Soule's podium finish also qualified him for the Olympic team. But the day belonged to Shea and his family, all of whom were present to cheer him on. "It's like a dream come true," Jim Shea Sr. said. "We are so proud of Jim. It's been a long time coming." Well-wishers congratulated Jack Shea, the oldest living Winter Olympian in the world at 91, after the announcement canceling the second heat made his grandson an Olympian. In skeleton, returning as an Olympic event in Salt Lake City, competitors

ride 90-pound sleds headfirst on their bellies, reaching speeds of 80 mph with their chins just inches from the icy track. **Wednesday Nite Darts Dec. 19** Can't Get Started over 3MTA3 11-5 No Luck over Bad A's 11-5 Just Us over 10-6 **4th Round Outs:** Kevin Delano, Duane Hanke, Mel Bracelin, Larry Woodard, Paul Simons. **9 Dart Out:** Mark Wear (2), Duane Hanke. **Hat Tricks:** Chris Dawdy, Mel Bracelin, Larry Woodard, Kevin Delano (3), Mark Wear. **Most Tons:** Mark Wear (9), Duane Hanke (7), Paul Simons (5), Bryan Varney (5), Kevin Delano (4). **Most Wins:** Paul Simons (5), Mark Wear (5), Duane Hanke (4). **How Low Can You Go?:** Rodney Corke (None). **Standings:** 1. Just Us 140, 52; 2. Can't Get Started 119, 73; 3. Bad A's 92, 100; 4. ??? 85, 107; 5. 3MTA3 71, 121; 6. No Luck 69, 123. **High Individual Score for the Year:** Krista Pummer: 15.47

Rockies let catchers, outfielder go

DENVER (AP) — Catcher Scott Hatteberg, outfielder Clifford Brumbaugh and catcher Sal Fasano became free agents when the Colorado Rockies decided Thursday not to offer them 2002 contracts. Rockies general manager Dan O'Dowd spent the day negotiating with the agent for Hatteberg, acquired Wednesday from Boston for second baseman Pokey Reese. By allowing Hatteberg to become a free agent,

Colorado can re-sign him and get around the rule prohibiting salary cuts of greater than 20 percent. "We've made a lot of progress," O'Dowd said. "He wants to see if there's more out there."



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