sports

Ready for Oberlin



Jordan Riebel and the Cowboys practiced Tuesday afternoon at Max Jones Fieldhouse. They play Oberlin on Friday and Hugoton on Saturday. Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Cowboys and Cowgirls to face hectic weekend

The Goodland Cowboy varsity basketball teams will play Friday in Oberlin, and will face Hugoton Saturday at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

The teams have had since Sunday to regroup after the Orange and Black Classic in Colby and prepare for their next opponents. The girls team finished third at the classic, winning two of three games, and the boys team placed seventh, winning their last game against Liberal.

Girls coach Connie Livengood says the upcoming games will be a good test for the team.

"Oberlin is playing well," she said. Boys Coach Jon McLean said they have been working on ball handling, passing, man-to-man defense and avoiding mental breakdowns in preparation for the upcoming games.

"These are two tough teams," he said, "we'll have to play hard to keep up, but I think if we do well, we have a good chance against them.'

"We have been improving every game," he said earlier in the week.

The Oberlin girls are 8-5, and the boys are 10-3. Hugoton boys are 9-3 and the girls are 1-9, and they play Statton County on Friday.

The Cowboys would like to improve their 4-7 record, and the girls would like to build on their winning record of 7-4

The teams will travel to Oberlin on Friday, with the games starting at 5:30 p.m. Mountain Time for the girls and about 7 p.m. for the boys. The girls will face Hugoton at 4 p.m. Mountain Time at Max Jones Fieldhouse, and the boys will follow at about 5:30 p.m.

Volleyball star named All-American

By Roxie Yonkey

Volleyball player Ashley Hallagin has been marked as one of the nation's best in her sport; she was named second team All-American in junior college volleyball. Only 30 junior college vol-

leyball players received that honor in 2001. So it's really no wonder

that Goodland's Hallagin was surprised to be given the cov-

eted title of All-American. After all, win a tournament honor, but Hallagin Hallagin said that she was surprised when she was named All-Jayhawk Conference. She didn't expect to be All-America.

She received the news after the regional tournament. But the Barton County Community College freshman had another surprise remaining.

Barton County advanced to the na-



Hallagin

tournament, and losing to Seward County for the first time that year in the seventh-place game. They opened nationals by beating Arizona Western, but could not win again.

Barton County's relatively low national tournament placing would not have made anyone anticipate that a Cougar would

picked up the Outstanding Setter Award.

"I was very surprised to win this award," she said, "especially since I played for the eighth-place team."

Barton finished the season with a 33-8 record. They began their season with a 19-0 record before losing to the nation's top-ranked team, Miami- High School in 2001.

ie Yonkey tional tournament for the 13th-straight bade. The Cougars posted a 2-3 record season, placing eighth in the 16-team in that tournament, losing to all nationally-ranked teams.

The losses were a blessing in disguise, she said.

"It kind of showed us where we should be on a national level," Hallagin said. "Being undefeated is a bad thing."

Even though she would have liked to have finished with a win, Hallagin said she had enjoyed her first college season. With such a personal strong finish, it should be no surprise that she also looks forward to next season.

"It was stressful at times, but when I look back on it, it was fun," she said. "But I think next year we'll be more gelled as a team. We had players on the bench this year that could have started for any other team in the conference."

Hallagin was Kansas high school volleyball 4A Player of the Year in 2000. She graduated from Goodland sports briefs

NEW YORK (AP) - Saying he's not "Mr. Politically Correct," Mike Tyson made an apology of sorts for his part in a news conference melee that could deny him a license to challenge Lennox Lewis.

He did not comment on whether he bit Lewis' left leg in the brawl at the Hudson Theater on Tuesday. A source close to Lewis' camp, who asked not to be identified, said Tyson did bite the WBC-IBF champion.

Tyson claims the episode was staged to promote the fight, but says one of Lewis' bodyguards wasn't with the program, causing the rumble.

The Nevada State Athletic Commission is scheduled to consider Tyson's application for a license on Jan. 29.

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Iowa falls to un-favorite son

AMES. Iowa (AP) — Ever since he two free throws," Kansas coach Roy

started playing for Kansas, Nick Williams said. Collison has been a villain in his home state.

And a frustrated one at that. Ahigh school All-American in Iowa Falls. Collison has been booed every time he appeared in Iowa State's Hilton Coliseum, and he never left with a victory — until Wednesday night.

No. 2 Kansas withstood a run by Iowa State to win 88-81 and break a five-game losing streak to Iowa State. "It feels good," said Collison, a 6foot-9 junior who had 16 points and 10 rebounds. "It's been pretty tough on me coming up here losing every time, and

to finally get one is almost a relief." His teammates shared in that relief. Kansas (16-2, 5-0 Big 12) blew a 12point lead in the second half and found itself trailing by four with less than six minutes to play. The Jayhawks managed to claw back, caught a break when Iowa State's Tyray Pearson missed two free throws and finally went ahead to stay when Jeff Boschee hit a 3-pointer to break an 81-81 tie.

Drew Gooden led Kansas with 23 points and 11 rebounds and made some key shots down the stretch after Williams jerked him out of the game for taking a bad shot and letting up on defense. Gooden returned with a just over five minutes to play and promptly made two straight shots. Later, he made two free throws to produce the tie at 81 with 2:09 remaining.

"Iknew I messed up and I knew I had to take a timeout and think about what I did," Gooden said. "I knew when I went back into the game I was going to be able to pick up where I left off and step it up a little bit for my team."

Boschee made all four of his 3-point shots in scoring 14 points, and Kirk Hinrich, an all-state high school player in Sioux City, added 12 points and nine assists

Iowa State (9-11, 1-5) took an 81-79 lead on Jake Sullivan's fifth 3-pointer of the game, and the Cyclones had a chance to regain the lead when Pearson went to the line with 57 seconds re-"We were very fortunate they missed maining.

Kansas State women beat Jayhawks

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP) — Kendra Wecker missed her first three shots Wednesday night. After that, she was perfect.

The resilient freshman was 8-of-11 from the floor, including 3-of-3 from behind the arc, and scored 23 points and grabbed 9 rebounds to lead No. 11 Kansas State to a 72-59 victory over Kansas.

"When you get open looks, you're going to take them and some nights the shots are falling," said Wecker. "Sometimes they're not. I got a couple of easy looks on backdoor plays. I was just open and able to knock them down."

Fellow freshman Laurie Koehn added 21 as the Wildcats fought off two Kansas rallies and held the Jayhawks to just two field goals during a 9minute stretch in the second half.

The Wildcats (18-2, 6-1 Big 12) have won 14 of their last 15. Kansas (5-15, 0-7) is 0-4 against ranked opponents this season.

ten points and each time the Jayhawks defensive breakdowns.'

got within two.

"I think our defense broke down a little bit," said Kansas coach Marian Washington. "But we had some opportunities and we didn't knock them down.'

After the Jayhawks cut an 11-point lead to three at halftime, Kansas State went on a 10-0 run to start the second half. But the Jayhawks scored 11 straight to cut the lead to two with 13:22 remaining.

"The whole season, even though we haven't been winning, we've always had good runs," said KC Hilgenkamp, who led Kansas with 18 points.

Wecker answered with eight straight points in two minutes to fuel a 14-0 run that put Kansas State up for good. She also scored 10 straight during a 10-2 run in the first half. Nicole Ohlde had 15 points for Kansas State, which leads the intrastate series 42-40.

"I felt we played in segments," said Kansas State coach Deb Patterson. "A Twice the Wildcats led by more than lot of that spottiness was due to major

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