

Despite illness, Goodland wrestlers beat St. Francis

By Rachel Miscall
The Goodland Daily News
Injury and illness kept four Goodland senior wrestlers off the mat Friday at a home dual meet, but didn't stop the Cowboys from defeating the St. Francis Indians 40-30.

The Cowboys racked up a bunch of points in the first few matches, but not being able to rely on the experienced wrestlers hurt them. A few wrestlers moved up in weight to compensate and two pins in the final two matches helped secure a win.

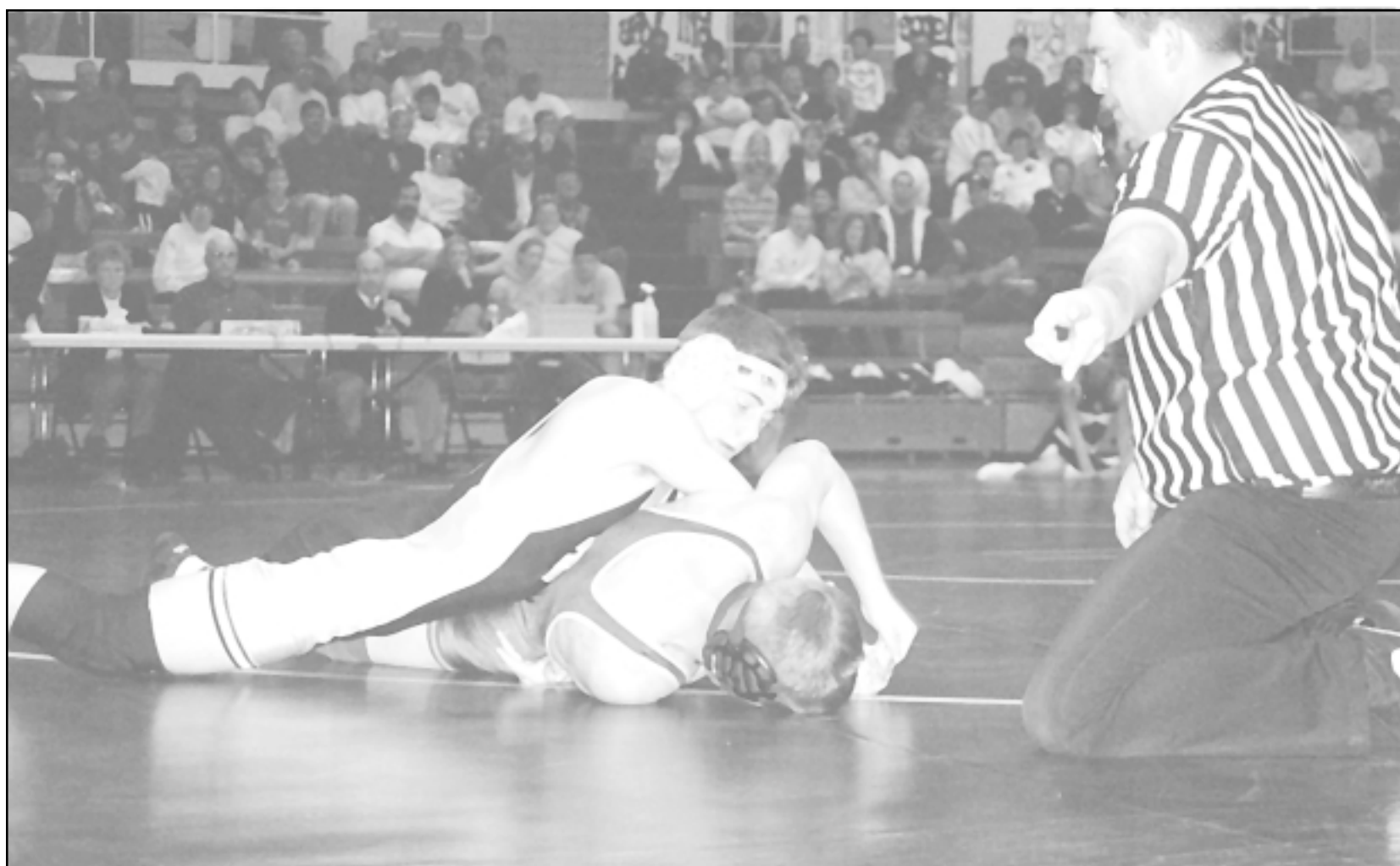
Between the junior varsity and varsity matches, the team took a break for the tradition of recognizing the seniors' parents. The parents and seniors lined up on opposite ends of the mat and the students crossed to present their parents with yellow roses. The seniors on the cheerleading squad also participated.

The Cowboys started the 2 1/2-hour meet, which was held at Max Jones Fieldhouse, strong, with a 19-0 score in Goodland's favor after 125-pounder Kyle Schulte pinned Brad Davis in the second period.

The team's lead started to slip in the heavier weight classes as younger wrestlers with less experience took the mat for their injured or ill teammates. Malcom White, a sophomore who replaced sick Bryce Bahe in the 130-pound weight class, hurt his back during his match against Gabe Glenger, losing by injury default and giving up 6 team points.

Junior Brandon Linden wrestled in place of senior L.J. VonLintel in the 160-pound weight class, losing by fall to Derek Ross. Sophomore Mike Zimmerman wrestled for senior Max Saint, losing by an 8-7 decision to Justin Lindsten.

By the 189-pound weight class match, the Indians were only four points behind the Cowboys and were looking to get a free 6 points in the open



Mike Zimmerman wrestled a St. Francis Indian Friday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. He lost by 8-7 decision, but the Cowboys won 40-30.

Photo by Skilar Boland/The Goodland Daily News

275-pound or heavier match. Heavyweight senior Andy Phillips had hurt his ankle in a dual against Colby earlier in the week and still wasn't healthy enough to wrestle.

Coach Randy Bahe did some rearranging so sophomore Jordan Bedore could wrestle in Phillips' place. Senior Thomas Tompkins, usually 189-pounds, moved up to the 215-pound class, and junior Landon West filled in for Tompkins.

It was a good move because Tompkins and Bedore were able to turn a 2-point deficit — after West lost by fall to Troy Hilt — into a Cowboys' victory.

In an exciting back-and-forth match that riled up the crowd, Tompkins pinned Dallas Walz in the third period, bringing in 6 points for his team. Goodland wrestling fans cheered as Bedore won by fall over Travis Hilt in the final match.

Before the match, Coach Bahe said he knew the Cowboys had a good shot at winning, but it would be tough because the team was missing four top wrestlers.

"It was about what I expected," he said after the match, "with four varsity guys out. I told the guys earlier that we've got to be ready to go."

He said they listened. "I'm real pleased with the effort," the coach said, adding that they might

have lost if Bedore hadn't been able to step up.

"I knew the heavyweight was open," he said, "so I put in Jordan Bedore. I figured that would be our best shot to ensure a win."

Bahe said every wrestler worked hard for the victory.

He said junior Mathias Goodley, 119, had an exceptional match, defeating a strong wrestler who took him down at an earlier tournament.

Goodley beat David Rose by an 8-6 decision.

Senior Chris Zimmerman, 171, did an excellent job against a tough opponent, the coach said. Zimmerman beat Jeremiah Wiley by a 3-1 decision.

"Chris wrestled a heck of a match," he said, adding that even he is amazed at the team's success this season.

"I never would have guessed this season would have gone this way at the start of the year," Bahe said. "Every week to guys just keep coming along and doing what we need to win."

Building a successful season, the Cowboys defeated Colby on Tuesday, took first at the league tournament in Oakley last weekend and were champions of tournaments in Hays and Liberal last month.

Goodland will travel to Oakley on Friday for a tough dual meet, and the coach said he hopes they're prepared.

"I certainly hope everyone will be healthy," he said. "We'll take it day by day and see whether they get better."

In other individual results:

103 — Dexter Deeds won by default.

112 — Blayne Bahe won by a 12-3 major decision over Kevin Brown.

135 — Dustin Klinge won by fall over Troy Zweggardt.

145 — Michael Middleton lost by fall to Ryan Zweggardt.

152 — Taylor Brock lost by a 11-6 decision to Ty Long.

The junior varsity wrestlers hit the mat before the varsity meet. Those individual results include:

152 — Brandon Cowan won by fall over Luke Keller, Brett Jarmin lost by fall to Keller.

171 — Adrian Hernandez lost by fall to Kyle Buttingham, Hernandez lost by fall to Nick Keller.

160 — Brian Imel lost by fall to Grant Keller.

189 — Landon West lost by fall to Troy Torrence.

Underdog Patriots become 'top dogs' in Super Bowl upset

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — They came through in the blustery snow of New England and in perfect conditions inside the Superdome. They went from being a 5-5 also-ran to nine straight victories and their first Super Bowl title.

On a day designed for heroes, in a site that resembled a military fortress as much as a stadium, the Patriots' charmed season brought them to the top of pro football with a 20-17 upset of the St. Louis Rams on Sunday.

"This is something to relish, sit back and soak in," said Adam Vinatieri, whose 48-yard field goal on the final play set off wild celebrations by the Patriots.

"We've got a whole team full of underdogs," quarterback Tom Brady said. "And now we're the top dogs."

Vinatieri has never missed inside a dome — he also had a 37-yarder Sunday — but, far more impressively, he made two critical field goals at home in the snow two weeks ago against Oakland to keep New England alive.

"I think that about every close game we had a chance to win, we won," he said. "I think when we were 0-2, everybody wrote us off except for the members of this team. We got on a streak and we just kept going."

The game was as much a victory for America as for the red-white-and-blue clad New Englanders. On a day filled with patriotic themes inside the Superdome and high security outside, everything went off without a hitch.

Fans were urged to show up five hours before kickoff to get through a perimeter filled with soldiers on the ground and sharpshooters on the roof. For their cooperation, they were treated to one of the great endings in NFL history.

League MVP Kurt Warner woke up to rally the Rams, who had the NFL's



best record (14-2) and most powerful offense this season, from a 17-3 hole. He sneaked for a 2-yard touchdown, his first rushing score all season, two plays after a holding penalty on New England's Willie McGinest negated Tebucky Jones' 98-yard romp with Warner's fumble that would have clinched the win.

Then Warner needed only three plays and 21 seconds to take the Rams 55 yards, with Ricky Proehl's 26-yard TD reception tying it with 1:30 remaining.

"We had a lot of new life," said Warner, who was harried all game and threw two interceptions that resulted in 10 points. "We figured we'd hold them and have overtime."

Instead, Brady, who sprained his ankle in the AFC championship game, but was healthy enough to start the Super Bowl, earned game MVP honors with a poised 53-yard drive. It included a 23-yard completion to Troy Brown that got the Patriots in range for Vinatieri.

"I was planning to go out there and win the game," said Brady, who was so calm he took a nap in the locker room before the game. "Adam wasn't going to miss that kick."

Vinatieri, who nailed a 45-yarder in

a fumble recovery to set up another touchdown, an 8-yard leaping reception by David Patten. And Otis Smith ran another interception 30 yards, leading to Vinatieri's first field goal.

The Rams led the NFL with 44 giveaways this year. Their biggest giveaway — the Super Bowl — came Sunday.

"I think we didn't help the cause," said Ricky Proehl, whose fumble was forced by Antwan Harris' helmet, leading to Patten's score. "They have capitalized on turnovers all year, and that's how they won the game."

New England got physical from the start, giving Warner a bloody lip and slamming Rams receivers to the turf with regularity. The Patriots also didn't let Offensive Player of the Year Marshall Faulk damage them much.

Credit coach Bill Belichick, who reinforced his image as a defensive mastermind. While the Rams got their yards and did make their comeback, they never were in control.

"Coach Belichick definitely had a vision," safety Lawyer Milloy said. "This organization had a vision. We all came together. That's what is so sweet about this."

The Patriots, 50-1 shots to start the season, are the first from the New En-

gland region to win a pro football title since the 1928 Providence Steamrollers. It was an improbable ride after going 5-11 in 2000 and then losing starting quarterback Drew Bledsoe to a chest injury in Game 2.

But after their 0-2 start, the Patriots found their way with Brady, an aggressive defense — and some good fortune.

A replay reversal in the playoff game with the Raiders was as pivotal as anything in getting the Patriots to their third Super Bowl — all in New Orleans, the previous two ending in de-

feat. Special teams scored twice in the AFC championship game victory at Pittsburgh.

When the St. Louis Rams won the Super Bowl two years ago, Kurt Warner got much of the credit as MVP.

This time around Warner didn't shy away from taking the blame.

"The offense basically gave up the first 17 points on turnovers, he said. "Our defense played well enough to be world champions. And that's what hurts the most — that I let some guys down."

sports briefs

PEBBLE BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Redemption for Matt Gogel came in the right place Sunday at Pebble Beach.

Two years after he was victimized by Tiger Woods' incredible comeback, Gogel holed a 25-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole and won the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am when Pat Perez took a triple bogey on the final hole.

Gogel, a former University of Kansas golfer, closed under 69 for his first PGA Tour victory.

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correction

Stephanie Sheldon was incorrectly named in the caption for a picture with the story "Mustangs show spirit in beating Scott City" in the Thursday edition of *The Goodland Daily News*.

The photo actually was of Vanessa Crotinger. This was a reporting error.

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Kansas to visit Kansas State

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP) — Three in a row, or 19 in a row — someone's guaranteed to extend a streak when No. 2 Kansas visits Kansas State on Monday night.

The Wildcats have put together two straight upset wins, 71-70 over Texas on Wednesday and 70-61 over No. 9 Oklahoma State on Saturday. Saturday's victory was their first over a Top 10 opponent since an 68-64 upset of Kansas — then ranked No. 1 — on Jan. 17, 1994, in Lawrence.

The Jayhawks, though, haven't lost in Manhattan since Jan. 29, 1983 — a string of 18 straight wins that predates the Wildcats' move from Ahearn Fieldhouse to Bramlage Coliseum in 1988.

"It is very important for me to finish my career 4-0 at Kansas State," said Kansas guard Jeff Boschee, one of

three Jayhawks players to score 20 points in Saturday's 100-73 win over Colorado. "I don't want to be the first senior on the losing end."

Both teams say the right things about their approach to Monday's game: Kansas State preaches the value of confidence, while the Jayhawks promise to guard against a surplus of it.

"They beat a good Oklahoma State team, so they're on a roll," said Kansas forward Drew Gooden, who also had 20 points against Colorado. "They really are a good team that's just had some trouble getting started. It will be a great game."

And this from Kansas State forward Matt Seibrandt, who had 16 points in the Wildcats' win over Oklahoma State: "This team has gained a lot of confidence."