

Wrestling club 'great activity' for kids

By Doug Stephens
The Goodland Daily News

A 5-year-old greets his coach, then lunges and tries to take him down by the leg, while his classmates and friends try holds on each other and fight for position.

Twice a week after school, Goodland kids of all ages hit the mats and learn how to wrestle. They are part of the Goodland Kansas Kids Wrestling Club.

About 125 kids, from as young as 4 up to 16, come together and compete under the guiding hand of brothers Terry and Randy Bahe.

Randy also is the coach of the Goodland High School wrestling team, and is head coach of the club. Terry, a former high school and college wrestler, is president of the club, and stepped in to coach the kids while Randy was busy at the high school.

"I just wanted to be part of the little kids' program," said Terry Bahe, whose son Brook competes in the 6-and-under bracket. He says he also helped coach Brook's T-ball team last summer.

Bahe said wrestling is a great activity for kids to get involved with. The smaller kids just like to get out on the mat and wrestle, he said.

"I'd say it helps the kids burn energy," Bahe said, "but the way they run around at the end of practice, you sure wouldn't know it."

The older kids learn techniques and discipline which will help them in high school, he said.



Larry Stephens, a coach with the Goodland Wrestling Club, worked with Alex Nelson (left) and Ian Bonsall on Wednesday at Max Jones Fieldhouse.
Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

"If you don't wrestle in a program like this when you're young," Bahe said, "your chances of success in high school are limited."

The program started in the mid-80s, he said.

The first batch of kids who went in at 4 or 5 and came out of the club to

wrestle in high school won the state championship in 1997, Bahe said. It was the first state championship for Goodland High in 21 years, since 1976.

Most of the high school wrestlers came out of this program, Bahe said, including Jordan Bedore, a state cham-

panion this year.

High schoolers who are still eligible come back and compete with the club after the state tournament, he said, up to age 16.

The coach said parents of the young wrestlers are great about helping and getting involved, even better than the

parents of high school kids.

"After all, these little kids can't just drive themselves to practice," he said.

The parents get to know each other pretty well, Bahe said.

"We are like one big family," he said. "We spend all day together at these meets, and we care about how everyone else's kids are doing."

"If one kid does well, we all feel good about it. If one kid has a bad match, we all feel it."

These kids do a lot of work, Bahe said. The season starts at the beginning of January and ends in late March, and there are plenty of opportunities for the kids to compete.

"Any weekend across the state," Bahe said, "there is a wrestling meet somewhere," Bahe said.

Terry said the younger kids, like his son Brook, are encouraged to go to the closer meets, like Garden City and Atwood, but older kids might go to bigger meets across the state, such as Wichita or Topeka.

This weekend, there are two tournaments in which the kids can compete, in Atwood and Phillipsburg.

The sub-district tournament will be March 16 in Hays and the district tournament will be March 23 in Goodland. The top four kids in each age/weight category in sub-district advance to district, and the top four there move to the state tournament March 29-30 in Topeka.

"This club is a lot of fun," Bahe said. "The kids seem to enjoy it, and they're not out getting into trouble."

Wildcat 'not bitter' about snub

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Kendra Wecker claims not to be bitter.

But even though she didn't say much about being snubbed for the Big 12's freshman of the year award, her play in Kansas State's 79-63 win over Texas in the first round of the conference tournament told the tale.

Wecker had 18 points and nine rebounds in the first half alone before finishing with 22 points and 13 rebounds. She made 8-of-12 shots and nailed two 3-pointers.

"Kendra establishing herself as a presence was very important to our success," said Kansas State coach Deb Patterson. "She distributed the ball well, she attacked and defended. As always, when she defends well her offense follows."

While Wecker was completing her 12th double-double of the season, Heather Schreiber, the Big 12's freshman of the year from Texas, was nearly a nonfactor. She was 1-of-9 from the floor and scored just three points.

"She certainly was the most impressive player on the court tonight," Patterson said of Wecker. "Another outstanding performance from a consistent freshman."

Successful year filled with standouts

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland Cowgirls are on the outside looking in at the state Class 4A basketball championships this week, but they had a successful season and many standout performances.

The Cowgirls had a winning 16-6 record, 9-3 at home and 7-3 on the road.

Coach Connie Livengood said the last game, when the girls lost once again to Colby at the substate tournament, was a disappointment, but she feels the girls should be proud of their record.

"A few breaks one way or the other and we could have done better," Livengood said, "but it was not to be. The girls played well, and I am proud of everything they accomplished this year."

"We will have a good core of girls for next year, and some good young players as well."

Season wins were against Imperial, Neb.; two over the Wray Lady Eagles; McCook, Neb.; Quinter; an overtime win over Atwood; Ulysses; Liberal; Oberlin; Hugoton; St. Francis; Hays High School; Oakley; Hoxie; and two wins over Norton, including the last regular game of the season, and a last-second win in overtime in the first round of substate.

Of the six losses, three were at the hands of the Colby Lady Eagles, who ended the Cowgirls' season in the

substate semi-finals. (The Lady Eagles were defeated Wednesday by Andale, 49-42, in the first round of the state tournament at Hays.)

Other losses were to the Ottawa Lady Cyclones, 56-46, in the Topsis Tipoff championship; the Lakin Lady Broncs, 49-42; and the Scott City Lady Beavers, 47-40 in the Orange and Black tournament.

Jayci Stone led the Cowgirls in scoring for the season with a 13.3 average per game. Anny McCoy had an 11.2 average; Jessica Osborn 6.1; Lacey Brenner 5.5; Erica Mann 5.1; StevieLee Raymer 4.9; and Hayley Jarmin 3.2.

Stone averaged 39 percent from the floor, made 29 percent of her 3-point shots and 71 percent of her free throws, and led the team with 58 assists. She averaged 6.1 rebounds per game with a team-leading 124 defensive rebounds. She also had a team high 92 turnovers and 17 blocked shots.

McCoy had a team high 49 percent shooting average from the floor, and made 57 percent of her free throws. She averaged 5 rebounds a game with 52 offensive and 58 defensive rebounds. She had 32 turnovers and 25 blocked

shots. Brenner hit 36 percent of her shots, and 63 percent of her free throws. She had a team high 43 steals, and averaged 3.1 rebounds a game. She had 70 turnovers.

Osborn hit 46 percent of her shots, 37 percent of her 3-point shots and 68 percent of her free throws. She had 32 assists, 39 steals and averaged 1.9 rebounds. She had 36 turnovers and a single blocked shot.

Mann hit 47 percent of her shots, and 50 percent of her free throws. She had 10 assists, 10 steals and averaged 6.1 rebounds. She had 27 turnovers and a team high 30 blocked shots.

Raymer hit 35 percent from the floor and 61 percent of her free throws. She had 20 assists, 23 steals and averaged 4.4 rebounds a game. She had 46 turnovers and 6 blocked shots.

Jarmin hit 40 percent from the floor and 54 percent of her free throws. She had 9 assists, 7 steals and averaged 1.8 rebounds a game. She had 17 turnovers and 2 blocked shots.

Danielle Hellerud hit 25 percent of her shots and 33 percent of her free throws. She had 17 assists, 14 steals and 1.4 rebounds a game, with 38 turnovers and one blocked shot.



Livengood



Jayci Stone

basketball results

Kansas High School Basketball Scores

By the Associated Press

Results of Wednesday games:

Class 3A

Lakin 77, Wichita Collegiate 44

Riley County 74, Hillsboro 46

Central Heights 46, Nemaha Valley 27

Beloit 65, Neodesha 52

Class 1A

Centralia 73, Weskan 56

Hanston 63, Hartford 35

Ashland 56, Baileyville B&B 52

Tribune 64, Argonia 45

Girls:

Class 4A

Ottawa 58, Holton 46

Andale 49, Colby 42

Topeka Hayden 61, Spring Hill 60

Towanda Circle 63, Independence 58

Class 2A

Ness City 63, Lyndon 34

Moundridge 57, Troy 49

Osborne 61, Onaga 41

Sublette 58, Remington 55, OT

Kansas favored at Big 12 tourney

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Officially, it's the Big 12 tournament.

Unofficially, it's the one-more-shot-at-Kansas invitational.

The top-ranked Jayhawks (27-2), fresh off a perfect 16-0 romp through the conference schedule, will be trying to make it 19-0 and prove that nobody can beat them this season in the Big 12.

"It's not out of the question" that someone could beat the Jayhawks, said Baylor coach Dave Bliss, whose Bears lost 87-72 at Kansas in a game most Jayhawk fans felt was a weak effort.

"But you better learn how to run backwards. They really fast break and put pressure on you."

Kansas, No. 4 Oklahoma, No. 12 Oklahoma State and Texas all have first-round byes and will be waiting on

Friday for the winners of Thursday's opening-round games. If the tournament winner emerges from one of the eight lower seeds, it will be the first time anybody has been able to withstand the grueling task of winning four games in four days.

In Thursday's first game, ninth-seeded Colorado meets No. 8 seed Nebraska. Then it's 12th-seeded Texas A&M against No. 5 seed Texas Tech, which brings a turnaround record of 21-7 into Kemper Arena on the heels of Bob Knight's first season as head

coach.

In the evening session, 10th-seeded Baylor meets No. 7 seed Kansas State and sixth-seeded Missouri goes against No. 11 Iowa State.

If Kansas and Oklahoma State both win on Friday, they would meet in the semifinals on Saturday in a rematch of a game the Jayhawks won by 18 points.

"They're beatable," said Oklahoma State coach Eddie Sutton.

"But it will take great effort on someone's part. And they'll probably have to have a bad night."



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Working hard



Jordan Bedore was working out as the Goodland High School track team held its first practice Wednesday at Max Jones Fieldhouse.
Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Rockies beat struggling Cubs

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Ben Petrick hit a two-run triple and Greg Norton added a two-run single, leading the Colorado Rockies past the Chicago Cubs 11-8 Wednesday.

Colorado (5-1) pounded out 14 hits, rallying from 2-0 and 6-5 deficits to hand the Cubs their third straight loss. Chicago has given up 41 runs during its losing streak.

Jesus Sanchez, bidding for the No. 5 spot in the Cubs rotation after being acquired from Florida in December, pitched three hitless innings, allowing a walk in each frame.

Donovan Osborne, another starter contender who didn't pitch the last two seasons because of an accumulation of injuries, had a rough two-inning outing, surrendering six hits and five runs

— two earned. Denny Neagle, Colorado's No. 2 starter, went three innings, allowing three hits and two runs, which came in the third on Roosevelt Brown's two-run single.

Petrick tripled over Sammy Sosa's head in the fourth.

Chicago took a 6-5 lead with four runs off Matt Whiteside in the sixth, highlighted by Seung-Yeop Lee's two-run double. It was the first of two straight fly balls misplayed into doubles by Rockies left fielder Benny Agbayani.

Colorado pushed across four runs in the seventh. Jack Cust and reliever Justin Speier (1-0) had RBI singles off Ron Mahay, and Norton added a two-run single off Courtney Duncan.

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