

Players named to all-league

By Doug Stephens
The Goodland Daily News

The Northwest Kansas all-league basketball teams for 2001-2002 have been named, and six Goodland students were honored.

Don Raymer, Andrew Melia, Jayci Stone and Anny McCoy made the all-league teams, and Jordan Riebel and Jessica Osborn were given an honorable mention.

Coaches from the seven league schools nominate players from their teams for all-league and then vote for the top 10 players in the league. Coaches are not allowed to vote for players from their own team.

Girls' coach Connie Livengood said she wished some senior Cowgirls had been voted in, but she was happy three of her players were honored.

"You're always pleased when somebody from your team is recognized," Livengood said.

Boys Coach Jon McLean said Raymer and Melia worked hard and deserved first team, and he was happy Riebel was given an honorable mention.

"I'm kind of disappointed (Aaron)

Gittinger didn't get it," McLean said, "but that's the way it goes."

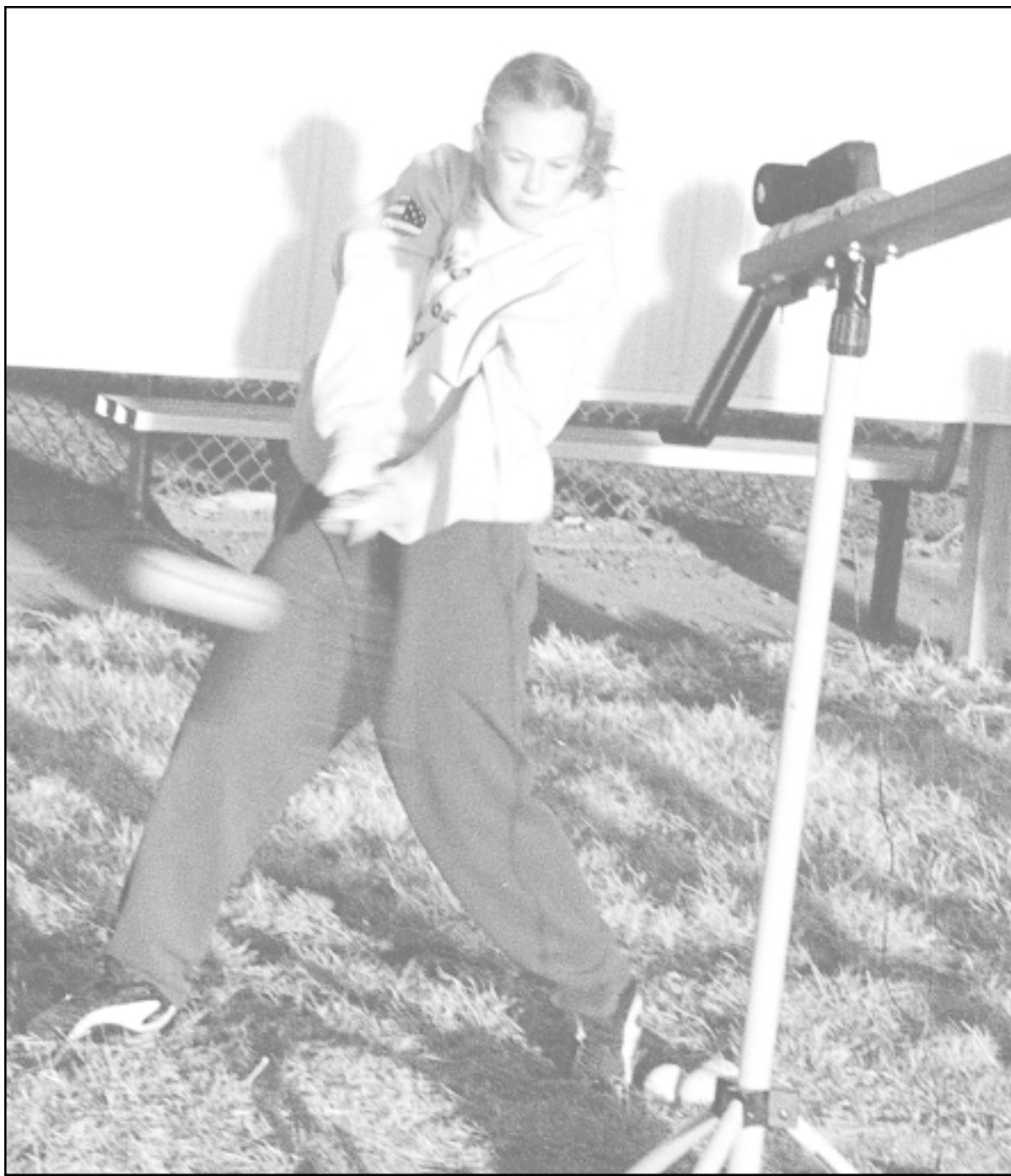
All-League Teams 2001-2002
Boys: Don Raymer, Andrew Melia, Goodland; Clayton Kaiser, Jordan Harris, Colby; Nate Spresser, Josh Campbell, Dave Sutton, Hoxie; Ryan Ruf, Rusty Grafel, Oberlin; Sage Hemmert, Matt Seidl, Quinter; Stuart Withington, Atwood.

Honorable mention: **Jordan Riebel, Goodland;** Marcus Dodd, Dustin Dunn, St. Francis; Brett Robben, Oakley; Nate Mauck, Hoxie; Michael Shannon, Atwood; Skyler Tacchini, Oberlin; Trevor Blackwill, Quinter.

Girls: Jayci Stone, Anny McCoy, Goodland; Summar Stephens, Ivy Ramsey, Colby; Kelsey Andrist, St. Francis; Brooke Inlow, Oakley; Amy Green, Atwood; Heidi Koster, Hoxie; Dani Dorshorst, Oberlin; Lindsey Johnson, Quinter.

Honorable mention: **Jessica Osborn, Goodland;** Amanda Seeman, Colby; Tricia Geist, Oakley; Shannon Lowry, Atwood; Christy Oelke, Hoxie; Haley Vollertson, Oberlin; Kelsey Kuchera, Quinter.

Keep an eye on the ball



Emily Burkett practiced her batting during softball practice Wednesday at Centennial Park. Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Rockies outfielder not happy

DENVER (AP) — Colorado Rockies right fielder Larry Walker said he is frustrated with the club's changes over the past few years.

"A lot of lies. A lot of lies. We have been told this and told that, then nothing was done or the complete opposite was done," Walker said Tuesday at spring training in Tuscon, Ariz. "There has been a lot of stuff that has happened and said from upstairs that hasn't come true."

General manager Dan O'Dowd said everyone in the organization has the same goal: to win.

"But the only way we are going to win is if we all pull in the same direction. If that doesn't happen, it's going to be hard to be successful," O'Dowd said.

Walker, who has been criticized for not taking a more active leadership role, said he tries to lead by example, not by acting as a cheerleader.

"I am not a rah-rah guy. And that gets written about a lot. But the funny part that doesn't get written is what I do on the field," he said.

"Me jumping around in the clubhouse or waving pompoms on the bench doesn't do any good," he said. "I am playing with grown men with children of their own. I swing the bat, play defense, run the bases, that's leadership to me."

Rockies get Pierre again

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Colorado Rockies outfielder Juan Pierre agreed to a four-year, \$7.5 million contract Wednesday.

Pierre batted .327 with 55 RBIs and 46 steals last year in his first full season in the majors.

"It's a great moment," Pierre said. "Being a 13th-round pick, there's so many doubts people have had. It just goes to show you don't have to be a highly touted draft choice."

"If you go about business the right way and put up the numbers, you'll get your chance somewhere down the line."

He appeared in 156 games and made 140 starts in center field last year.

He set a club record with 163 singles and his 11 triples tied a franchise record.

With 202 hits, Pierre also became only the sixth player in team history to record 200 or more hits in a single season.

No. 1 Kansas ready for NCAA tourney

By R.B. Fallstrom
AP Sports Writer

ST. LOUIS (AP) — After a nearly flawless regular season, it's back to the proving ground for Kansas.

The Jayhawks, top-ranked in the Midwest Regional, hope Thursday night's NCAA first-round game here against Holy Cross erases the bad taste left by their loss to Oklahoma in the Big 12 Conference tournament final last Sunday.

"We try to put that loss behind us and forget about it," guard Jeff Boschee said. "But I don't think we want to forget about the things we did wrong, and the carelessness. It's a whole new tournament, and everyone is 0-0."

Kansas (29-3) became the first Big 12 team to go 16-0 in conference play, led the nation in scoring, had a school-record 11 100-point games and won 16 games in a row before the weekend loss to the Sooners.

In that setback, the Jayhawks had season lows in points, field-goal percentage and 3-point percentage — enough to drop them from the nation's top ranking after a three-week run to second behind Duke.

Still, Kansas has won 18 straight NCAA tournament first-round games and were 28 1/2-point favorites to get past Holy Cross (18-14), the Patriot League Tournament champions who have won 10 of 12.

"Their transition game is the most devastating I've seen in 10 years," Holy Cross coach Ralph Willard said. "Obviously, if we get into a shooting contest with Kansas, we'll lose."

"We have to make the whole better than the sum of the parts, because their parts are better than our parts."

Kentucky-Valparaiso is the first

game here Thursday, followed by No. 5 Marquette against Tulsa in another East game. In the other Midwest sub-regional game, No. 8 Stanford plays Western Kentucky.

Both Stanford and Western Kentucky have 7-foot centers. Western Kentucky's 7-1 Chris Marcus averages 16.1 points and nine rebounds, and has played well since returning in February from a stress fracture that sidelined him for two months.

"We've never been over-reliant on any one player, including Chris," Western Kentucky coach Dennis Felton said.

"We played the same way with him that we did without him," he said.

"I think you're making a grave mistake if you just try to stop him."

Stanford's 7-foot Curtis Borchardt led the Pac-10 with 11.4 rebounds per game and averaged 17 points.

Western Kentucky is the last Sun Belt Conference team to win an NCAA tournament game, in 1995.

Stanford has lost three of its past five games but it is in the tournament for the eighth straight season, looking to make it eight first-round victories in a row for the team.

Kentucky is a shaky No. 4 seed in the East, losing four of its past nine games in what's been a tumultuous regular season. The Wildcats are less than confident heading into the Valparaiso game.

"It's been a very distracting season, and hopefully we'll learn from it," forward Tayshaun Prince said.

The lowlights for Kentucky (20-9) include the recent firing of athletic director Larry Ivy, and the suspensions of guards Gerald Fitch and Adam Chile.

Knoblauch wants better season

HAINES CITY, Fla. (AP) — Chuck Knoblauch does not want to see the numbers .250, .339 and .351 next to his name this season, his first with the Kansas City Royals.

Knoblauch hit .250 last season with a .339 on-base percentage and a .351 slugging percentage. His batting average and on-base percentage represented career lows, while his slugging percentage was his worst since he was a rookie with the Minnesota Twins in 1991.

He had only 32 extra-base hits in 521 at-bats and scored a career-low 66 runs.

"If I knew what went wrong I would have corrected it," Knoblauch said. "Obviously, it was the toughest season I've had. It just got worse and worse."

"That season is over. I'm looking for a new beginning in Kansas City."

The whispers were at the age of 33

that Knoblauch was on the downhill slope of his career.

"I'll go along with that I have something to prove this year," Knoblauch said. "I don't need much motivation. I think I've been motivated since I started playing baseball. That's something that hasn't changed with me. I don't need any push. I'm pretty self-motivated."

The Royals signed Knoblauch to a one-year contract for \$2 million as a free agent after the New York Yankees, where he played the previous four years, did not bring him back.

"Hopefully it will be a great marriage for both of us and maybe it will expand beyond one year," Knoblauch said. "The Yankees didn't make an offer. They told my agent after the season that was it. I kind of knew at the end of the year that was my last year in New

York."

Knoblauch made the switch from second base, where he had throwing problems, to left field last year. The Royals want him to play left field and bat leadoff.

After trading Johnny Damon, one of the best leadoff hitters in the game, last year to Oakland, the Royals' leadoff hitters combined for a major-league worst .282 on-base percentage in 2001.

"We've acquired an experienced leadoff hitter, which was one of our top priorities in the off-season," Royals general manager Allard Baird said. "Chuck brings winning experience and a winning attitude, which makes his signing a good fit for our club."

Knoblauch has played on four World Series championship clubs with the Yankees and Twins and appeared in 24 World Series games.

FREE

Saturday
March 16

Goodland High School

1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

bowling results

Hoot 'N Holler Mixed League
March 4
Kear's Quality Liquor over Western Insurance 3-1
Luci's Aquarium over Pirate's Electric 3-1
Budweiser over Truck & Tractor 3-1
Fitzgibbons over Just 4 Bowlers 3-1
Rasure's over Accounting & Tax 3-1
Lonny's Quality Auto Body over Motor Doctor 3-1

Women's high game: Kara Smith-212
Women's high series: Kara Smith-612
Men's high game: Todd Cunningham-270
Men's high series: Darren Hickson-676
Team high game: Kear's Quality Liquor-896
Team high series: Kear's Quality Liquor-2,505

March 11
Lonny's Quality Auto Body over Pirate's Electric 3-1
Rasures over Western Insurance 3-1
Motor Doctor split Just 4 Bowlers 2-2
Accounting & Tax over Budweiser 3-1
Fitzgibbons over Luci's Aquarium 3-1
Kear's Quality Liquor over Truck & Tractor 3-1

Women's high game: Kara Smith-225
Women's high series: Kara Smith-605
Men's high game: Darren Hickson-277
Men's high series: Darren Hickson-641
Team high game: Western Insurance-869
Team high series: Fitzgibbons-2,454
Standings: Kear's Quality Liquor 17, 3; Fitzgibbons 13, 7; Rasure 12 1/2, 7 1/2.

Wednesday Night Men's Classic Scratch League
March 6
Fitzgibbons over Weber Kennels 17-3
Bowladium Lanes over ProLine 11-9
L&M Steel over Basgall Construction 17-3
Sigco over Western Kansas Valley 16-4
High individual game: Darren Hickson-278
High individual series: Darren Hickson-901
High team game: Sigco-673
High team series: Bowladium Lanes-2,374
Standings: Sigco 29, 11; Fitzgibbons 28 1/2, 11 1/2; Bowladium Lanes 26, 14; L&M Steel 26, 14; ProLine 17 1/2, 22 1/2; Western Kansas Valley 15, 25; Basgall Construction 10, 30; Weber Kennels 8, 32.



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