

# Soccer leagues ready to start season

**By Doug Stephens**  
*The Goodland Daily News*  
Kids are strapping on shin guards and trying to remember not to use their hands. It's time to play soccer at the Goodland Activities Center.

The center's soccer leagues will play their first games on Monday, April 1. They are getting ready for the season now.

There are 230 kids playing in 4 leagues and 22 teams, Administrator Donna Terry said.

There are separate leagues for first and second graders, third and fourth, and fifth and sixth, she said. Boys and girls play on the same teams. There is also a kindergarten league, she said, for students old enough to be in kindergarten this year or next.

The youngest league is noncompetitive, Terry said, and scores aren't kept. "We're just trying to get them out on the field," she said, "and getting them to kick the ball. They don't care which way they kick the ball; they're just happy to be on the field."

The five-week soccer leagues at the center have been a long running pro-

gram, Terry said. They were well established when she took over as administrator 4 1/2 years ago, she said, and she knows someone who played 12 years ago.

The program used to be in the fall, Terry said, but was moved to spring about five years ago to make room for flag football.

Kids get a lot out of playing on team sports, Terry said. They develop camaraderie and learn how to share responsibly. They also learn life lessons about winning and losing and develop hand-eye coordination, or in soccer, foot-eye coordination.

It also helps the kids to stay physically fit, she said.

"It's good for them to get out in this fresh, spring air," Terry said.

The teams aren't scheduled to compete in tournaments, because the weather might get in the way, Terry



Donna Terry



S. Goodwin

said. If possible, they play championship games in May.

"We're at the mercy of north-west Kansas weather," she said, "which can change at a moment's notice."

The kids will compete in a dribble, pass and score contest, formerly known as dribble, pass and shoot, on Saturday, May 11. Terry said it is soccer's equivalent of football's punt, pass and kick competition. It lets the kids show off the skills they have learned, she said. Boys and girls compete separately, and the kids are divided into age categories.

The winners in Goodland go on to compete at the district level, Terry said, and can go all the way to nationals. Goodland players have competed at the Denver Rapids field in regional contests, she said.

"The kids take it pretty seriously," Terry said.

Kindergarten league players will hold their own contest, Terry said, but won't be eligible to advance to other competitions.

Some teams have already started practicing, she said, noting the players should get in two practices before their first game.

The coaches are all volunteers, Terry said. Most of them are parents or connected to someone on the team, but a few of them just like playing soccer and working with kids.

Schyler Goodwin is the coach of a team of first and second graders. The 27-year-old doesn't have any kids on the team, but played intramural soccer in college.

"I figured this was as close as I could get to playing (in Goodland)," Goodwin said.

His team knows the bare basics, he said, and he is having them work on passing and spreading out on the field.

He said he had to deal with a problem with some of the boys on the team who don't like playing with the girls.

"I had to tell them it didn't make any difference."

## Jawhawk's injured Hinrich tired of questions about ankle

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Kirk Hinrich's sprained left ankle has become a sore point with Kansas' junior guard.

"I just want to forget about it and go out and play," Hinrich said Thursday. "I'm tired of answering questions about it."

His health figures to be important Friday when top-seeded Kansas plays No. 4 Illinois in the Midwest Regional semifinals. Second-seeded Oregon plays No. 6 Texas in the other semifinal.

"You know who he's most tired of answering that question from? Me," Jayhawks coach Roy Williams said. "I think he's kind of disgusted or disturbed with me — whatever word you want to use — because I'm constantly bugging him about it."

Hinrich sprained the ankle in Kansas' 70-59 victory over Holy Cross in the first round, but he came off the

bench in the second round to score 15 points and hand out eight assists in an 86-63 win over Stanford on Sunday.

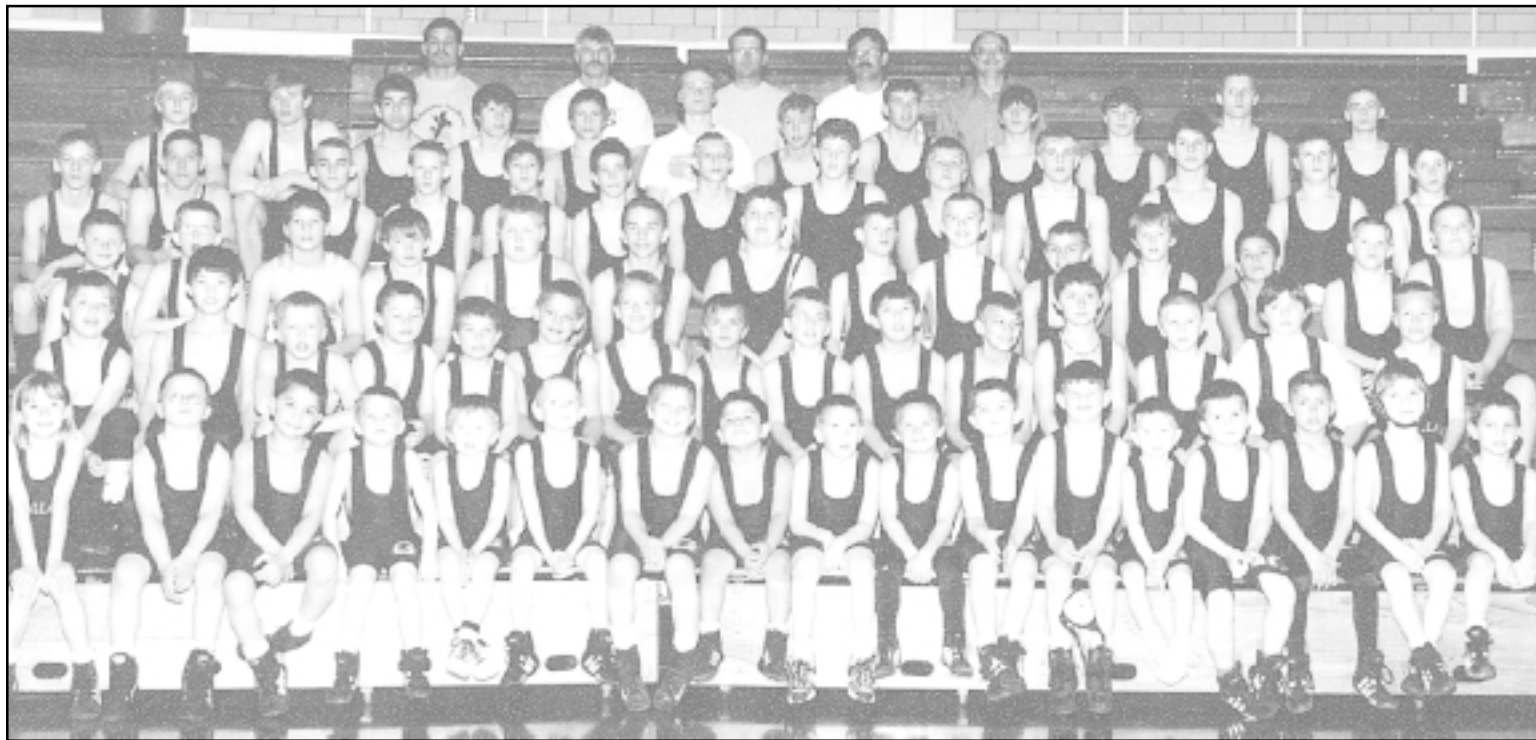
Williams has limited Hinrich's practice time since then. Hinrich was kept out of most of Kansas' workouts until Thursday, when the guard saw limited action in a short scrimmage against reserves.

"That ankle's still awfully blue," Williams said. "I don't want him going out there and tweaking it in practice."

That didn't stop Hinrich from trying to sneak onto the court to take some extra shots in Tuesday's practice.

"I don't think people realize that for 48 hours straight, this kid was treating himself — getting up at 3:00, 4:00 in the morning to do it," Williams said. "That's how badly he wants to play."

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**Friday, March 29** - No school; Partent/Teacher Conference, 8 a.m. to Noon; JV-V SB with Colby, 3 p.m., Spring Break.  
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