

Athletes start season Thursday

After weeks of practice, and, in some cases, dedicated training over the summer, Thursday will be the first chance for most athletes in the Goodland School District to show off their skills.

The cross country, golf, tennis, and freshman and junior high football teams will match off with area schools in their first competitions.

Long distance runners will get to run in a home meet at the Goodland Invitational at 4 p.m. at Sugar Hills Golf Club. The high school teams will run first against 11 schools, and the Grant Junior High runners host a condensed run for the younger set.

Coach Don Smith said two members of the boys' team, Senior Timothy Kafka and Junior Espirion Aguilar, kept up their running over the summer, and two freshmen, Tiffany Thomas and Kali Smith, look to be the strongest runners on the girls' side. There are eight girls and eight boys on the high school squads, just barely enough for team competition.

The varsity girls' tennis team kicks off their season in Larned at 2 p.m. and junior varsity players will be in Scott City at the same time. There are 15 girls out this year, including three seniors, three juniors, five sophomores and four freshmen.

There are no particularly outstanding players on the team this season, Hansen said, but it's a good group as a whole.

The girls' golf team will be in WaKeeney at 2 p.m. There are 13 girls on the team this year, with three seniors, two juniors, five sophomores and three freshmen.

The freshman football team will travel to St. Francis at 4:30 p.m. to take on the Indians. The seventh and eighth grade football squads will play Colby at 3:30 p.m. and the junior high volleyball team will play Colby at the same time.

The only teams which don't start their season Thursday will be junior varsity and varsity football and the volleyball squads. The varsity football team will play at 6:30 p.m. Friday in Hoxie and junior varsity at 4:30 p.m. Monday at Cowboy Stadium. Cowgirl volleyball players will have a home meet at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

baseball scores

By The Associated Press
NATIONAL LEAGUE
Tuesday's Games
Florida 3, N.Y. Mets 2, 12 innings, 1st game
N.Y. Mets 11, Florida 5, 2nd game
Montreal 7, Philadelphia 6, 10 innings
Pittsburgh 3, Atlanta 0
Chicago Cubs 10, Milwaukee 1
St. Louis 3, Cincinnati 1
Los Angeles 3, Arizona 2
Houston 6, San Diego 2
San Francisco 4, Colorado 2

Today's Games
Milwaukee (Figueroa 1-5) at Chicago Cubs (C. Zambrano 2-6), 12:20 p.m.
Los Angeles (Ashby 9-10) at Arizona (Johnson 19-5), 4:05 p.m.
Pittsburgh (K. Wells 12-12) at Atlanta (Moss 9-5), 5:05 p.m.
Philadelphia (Padilla 14-8) at Montreal (Armas Jr. 8-12), 5:05 p.m.
Florida (Tavarez 10-10) at N.Y. Mets (Astacio 11-8), 5:10 p.m.
Cincinnati (Dempster 7-13) at St. Louis (Jam. Wright 6-13), 6:10 p.m.
Houston (Munro 5-2) at San Diego (Tomko 8-8), 8:05 p.m.

Colorado (Neagle 7-9) at San Francisco (L. Hernandez 9-14), 8:15 p.m.
Thursday's Games
Philadelphia (Wolf 10-7) at Montreal (Vazquez 8-12), 11:35 a.m.
Houston (Miller 8-3) at San Diego (Peavy 5-6), 3:05 p.m.
Florida (Penny 6-4) at N.Y. Mets (Trachsel 8-10), 5:10 p.m.
Arizona (Schilling 21-5) at San Francisco (Schmidt 10-6), 8:15 p.m.

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Tuesday's Games
Texas 7, Baltimore 1
N.Y. Yankees 4, Boston 2
Detroit 4, Cleveland 0
Chicago White Sox 5, Toronto 4
Anaheim 10, Tampa Bay 2

Today's Games
Minnesota (Reed 12-7) at Seattle (Moyer 13-6), 4:35 p.m.
Texas (Myette 2-4) at Baltimore (Ponson 6-5), 5:05 p.m.
Boston (Lowe 18-6) at N.Y. Yankees (Pettitte 8-5), 5:05 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (D. Wright 10-11) at Toronto (Walker 7-4), 5:05 p.m.
Cleveland (Jar. Wright 0-3) at Detroit (Maroth 5-6), 5:05 p.m.

Kansas City (Byrd 15-10) at Oakland (Hudson 12-9), 8:05 p.m.



Assistant Coach Steve Raymer watched several Cowboys push the blocking dummies during practice Monday. Their first game will be at 6:30 p.m. in Hoxie and they will play Holcomb at home at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 13. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

Players taught to take practice seriously

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Daily News

"What is the difference between a football player and someone who is on a football team?" Cowboys Head Coach Tony Diehl asked his Cowboys at practice Monday.

"It is the difference between lightning and a lightning bug."

One is counterfeit, he said, while the other is the real thing, emphasizing the need to take practice seriously, something they seem to be doing so far.

Diehl had scheduled practices on the holiday weekend and expected the

team to be there. On Monday, he asked for 40 pushups from the few who missed the 6 a.m. Saturday practice, and he told the team they would need to take practice seriously in order to win.

The Cowboys kick off their season against the Hoxie Indians at 6:30 p.m. Friday on the road. The team will face Holcomb in the Cowboys' first home game at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 13, at Cowboy Stadium.

The Cowboys are a better team than Hoxie, Diehl told the guys in practice Monday, but have a long way to go to beat them Friday. It would be a trag-

edy, he said, for the lesser team to win. To prevent that from happening, Diehl has worked the 51-man team since midnight on Aug. 19.

The first-year coach said he wanted the team to start practicing as early as possible under state regulations and has emphasized the need for the team to have a positive attitude through the season.

Diehl wants the team to be mentally ready to play. He said things have been going well so far, and the team's biggest strength is a positive attitude and unity.

After an 0-9 season last year, he

said, the Cowboys are ready for a turnaround with a new coach, a new philosophy and a new attitude.

The team has also worked on the physical aspects of the game, such as offensive plays, defensive alignments and plays and special teams, Diehl said.

The Cowboy running game and defensive blitz are the team's strengths, he said, but team needs to improve their confidence.

"We want to get better at defending against Hoxie's offense," the coach said, "and get better at executing what we've worked on."

Athletics making history with 19 wins

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Although no manager in 55 years has led a team on such an epic winning streak, Art Howe's perspective on the Oakland Athletics' 19 straight victories doesn't stretch beyond last week.

"I'm just happy people are talking baseball again," Howe said. "We spent a long time talking about the strike. We're doing something really unexpected and special, and it's great to focus on what's happening on the field."

What's happening on the field has been somewhat magical. The Amazing A's just might be the perfect antidote to weeks of labor strife in America's pastime.

With peerless pitching, Miguel Tejada's emerging superstardom and an uncanny knack for late-game heroics, the A's have turned the dated, half-empty Coliseum into the most happening building in sports.

Oakland extended its streak to 19 on Monday when Tejada's ninth-inning single beat the Kansas City Royals. The A's tied the 1906 Chicago White

Sox and 1947 New York Yankees for the longest winning streak in AL history. The major league record is 26, set by the 1916 New York Giants.

After resting on Tuesday, the A's will go for their record-breaking 20th straight victory night, with Tim Lincecum pitching Wednesday night against Royals ace Paul Byrd.

"We realize this is something for the record books," A's pitcher Barry Zito said. "It's so big that it's not going to set in for a while. Maybe when we're in the playoffs, we'll look back and say, 'Man, we were hitting on all cylinders for a long time there.'"

Each time Tejada raps a game-winning hit or one of Oakland's powerful starting pitchers beats an overmatched opponent, the A's remind the baseball world that it doesn't take a big budget to do big things.

Their payroll and fan support are among baseball's smallest. And their success — along with the startling run of the Minnesota Twins — contradicts commissioner Bud Selig's assertion that low-budget teams can't compete.

Dyer out, Whittemore in as Kansas' starting quarterback

LAWRENCE (AP) — Kansas will have a new starting quarterback when it plays at UNLV Saturday night.

Zach Dyer, who started against Iowa State last week in Mark Mangino's debut as head coach, has been replaced by Bill Whittemore, the man Dyer had supposedly beaten out.

"We will go with Bill Whittemore at quarterback," Mangino said at his weekly news conference Tuesday. "Zach will go as the backup. We made that decision based on the fact that we just feel that we got a little more of a spark out of Bill."

Dyer played the first half of a 45-3 loss to the Cyclones and was 6-of-14 for 50 yards. Whittemore, a junior college transfer who battled Dyer for the starting job throughout fall drills, hit 4-of-17 for 31 yards. Both were intercepted once.

"Zach has a good qualities. (But) he has to learn to keep his poise," said

Mangino.

The Jayhawks, thoroughly outmanned by the more talented Cyclones, managed only 150 yards of total offense. Whittemore drove the ball down the field 63 yards before they settled for a 28-yard field goal by Johnny Beck for their only score.

"Bill gave us a spark," Mangino said. "He can be the guy to get us rolling."

Dyer shared time with departed Mario Kinsey last season.

After being named No. 1 last week, he talked about the need for stability at the position and not being afraid of getting benched after one bad game as was the case the previous year under

Terry Allen.

"All our quarterbacks have a good understanding that we need to get things rolling on offense," Mangino said. "For Zach, it wasn't a matter that he didn't do this right or he didn't do that right, so we're going to pull him. It's just that we needed a spark, and it looked like things picked up a little bit under Bill."

"We're not afraid to make those decisions. They're tough decisions to make. What we'll do is go with Bill here and see how he progresses."

Mangino said he hasn't "given up" on Dyer.

"You just have to hang in there and keep sawing wood. I felt by halftime

during the streak. The A's have outscored opponents 129-54, and they've trailed in only a handful of innings.

"It's really like a playoff climate now," Howe said. "I think the energy in the air is outstanding."

Tejada, the undersized Dominican shortstop, has assumed Giambi's role as the big bat and most reliable clutch slugger. New acquisition Ray Durham has become a strong leadoff hitter. What is no surprise is the pitching — the starting rotation of Mark Mulder, Cory Lidle, Zito and Hudson has been the best in baseball.

"There's not one guy carrying the team," Hudson said. "Guys are just doing their jobs. It's a lot of fun, though. Except for the playoffs, it's the most fun I've ever had in baseball."

Oakland's streak is the third longest since 1900.

The Giants' record 26-game streak actually included a tie; the only team with a longer streak and no ties was the 1935 Chicago Cubs, who won 21 in a row.

that he wasn't able to do that," Mangino said.

"He wasn't able to overcome bad plays. But I believe that with time and repetitions and being exposed to our system more, he'll be OK."

Giants keep early lead, beat Rockies

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Shortstop Rick Aurilia drove in two runs, Reggie Sanders homered and Russ Ortiz helped himself at the plate in another strong start as the Giants beat the Colorado Rockies 4-2 Tuesday night.

San Francisco won for the eighth time in nine games to remain 2 1/2 games behind the Los Angeles Dodgers in the NL wild-card race. The Giants moved within 6 1/2 of first-place Arizona in the NL West.

Colorado, meanwhile, was swept in four games by the Giants last week at home and has lost 10 of 11 overall.

The Rockies held Barry Bonds in check Tuesday but couldn't manage much offense against Ortiz and four other Giants pitchers.

Ortiz (10-10) retired 10 of 12 batters during one stretch. Last Thursday, he pitched eight scoreless innings in a 9-1 win over Colorado.

"I'm pretty happy with the way I'm throwing right now," Ortiz said. "I'd like to finish strong."

Robb Nen worked the ninth for his 35th save in 43 opportunities, moving within one save of the franchise record of 199, set by Rod Beck from 1991-97.

During the game, San Francisco reacquired infielder Bill Mueller from the Chicago Cubs for minor league pitcher Jeff Verplanck.

Mueller, who played for the Giants from 1996-00, won't be eligible for the playoffs if the Giants advance because he wasn't with them before Sept. 1. But the team hopes he can provide a boost off the bench.

"I think Billy can help us," Giants manager Dusty Baker said.

Colorado did everything to make sure Bonds wouldn't hurt them this week the way he did last — with five home runs in a span of three games at Coors Field. Bonds was 0-for-2, got hit by a pitch and walked.

The Giants got a home run from Sanders instead, a solo shot in the eighth that gave them an insurance run.

Mike Hampton (7-15) plunked Bonds in the right forearm with a curveball on a 2-2 pitch in Bonds' first at-bat.

Hampton then threw a head-level curve on the first pitch to Bonds in the third inning and walked him on four pitches.

Avalanche dealing with two holdouts

DENVER (AP) — History shows that the Colorado Avalanche has not been kind to players who hold out for contract deals, but two high-profile players are still without deals prior to the Sept. 13 training camp.

Negotiations with Martin Skoula and Alex Tanguay have not produced contracts. Since 1995, six Avalanche players who have missed parts of a training camp or regular season over contract issues have been traded or let go as free agents within two years of their holdouts.

"I am optimistic a deal can be done, but there are still some differences between us," Skoula's agent, Jiri Crha, told The Denver Post on Monday.

Skoula and Tanguay both are 22 years old with three years of NHL experience. Both made \$975,000 last season, and both are coming off seasons in which critics said they performed worse than previously.

Advertisement for Head Start Aide

The Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center is accepting applications for a Sherman County Head Start Aide for the 2002-2003 school year. This is a 12-month position.

Qualifications: High School Diploma or equivalent. This will be a 40-hour per week position, Monday thru Friday assisting the teacher in completing duties and assisting on the school bus.

Contact Person: Keva Scheib, Head Start Director, 785-672-3125 extension 144. To receive an application, contact Leslie Herl, Administrative Assistant, 785-672-2125 extension 145.

Application Deadline: Will be taking applications until position is filled.

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