

Cowgirls exorcise Oberlin Red Devils

By Doug Stephens
The Goodland Daily News

The varsity Cowgirl volleyball team escaped from the fire Tuesday, coming back to beat the Oberlin Red Devils at a triangular meet at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Goodland lost the first set 7-15, before coming back with two wins, 15-9 and 15-12.

In the first set, Goodland got to a 2-0 lead with an uncontested serve by Colleen Koehler and a soft block by Janae McKee. Goodland lost possession when a hard hit by Jayci Stone went out of bounds.

Oberlin came up with a point of its own, and Goodland answered with a long bump the Red Devils couldn't handle. Oberlin scored three times with one server, then on a Goodland possession spiked the ball out of bounds to tie it up at four points.

The score stayed close, with no team gaining a great advantage until Oberlin broke out with the score tied at six. They put three points on the board before the Cowgirls answered, their last point of the set.

Oberlin's blockers stopped most of Goodland's hits, and the Cowgirls only got possession of the ball twice more.

The two teams stayed close through most of the second set. Goodland got the first two-point lead at 6-4, and the Red Devils called a time-out. Oberlin then came back with four straight points.

Goodland's next scoring drive came when Alisha McKee spiked the ball on a Goodland possession. It was blocked and came right back her, but she was able to tap it over the blocker's hands.

With the score 9-8, Janae McKee faked out an Oberlin player and hit the ball where the Red Devil wasn't looking. Alisha McKee scored again with a spike to put the score at 11-8.

Oberlin came up with one more point before the Cowgirls scored four on one possession to win the set. Oberlin led early in the third set, 6-5. The Cowgirls hit a few balls out of bounds, and the Red Devils were leading 8-4. The Cowgirls scored twice with Janae McKee serving before she hit it into the net. Oberlin couldn't do anything with their possession, and Alisha McKee eared three points to give Goodland a lead 9-8 lead.

The Red Devils answered with two points of their own to take back the lead. After two changes of possession, the Cowgirls called a time-out. Afterwards, they tied it up, but Oberlin came up with two more to lead 12-10.

Alisha McKee blocked an Oberlin spike to earn Goodland's next point, then tapped the ball over the Red Devils' hands to put Goodland up 13-12. On the next play, an Oberlin block went out of bounds. Koehler's final serve was not returned and Goodland won the match.

The Cowgirls played the other team at the meet, Atwood, later in the evening. The junior varsity and freshmen girls also played Oberlin and Atwood. The results from these matches were not available this morning.

The freshmen and junior varsity girls will be in Hays at 8 a.m. Saturday, and the varsity and junior varsity teams will play host to Oakley, Grinnell and Weskan at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday.



Cowgirl Alisha McKee spiked the ball during the third set of a match against Oberlin on Thursday at Max Jones Fieldhouse, while Shanae Calkins (from left to right) Janae McKee and Jayci Stone prepared for a return hit. Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Bufs and ex-coach punished

By John Mossman

The Associated Press
BOULDER, Colo. — The NCAA punished the Colorado football team for recruiting violations.

And it didn't spare former coach Rick Neuheisel, either.

The team was placed on two years' probation, and Colorado had its scholarships cut Tuesday. Because most of the violations occurred under Neuheisel, now the coach at Washington, he was barred from off-campus recruiting at that school until May 31.

Colorado was not banned from television or bowl appearances, but it must reduce the number of scholarships it offers from 25 to 20 in either the 2003-04 or 2004-05 academic year.

The school voluntarily reduced the number of expense-paid visits by recruits to its campus to 51 this academic year.

It will also be limited to 51 visits next year, down from the normally allowed 56.

In addition, the number of coaches who can recruit off-campus at any one time must be reduced from seven to six through July 31.

The football program was accused of 53 rules violations, 51 when Neuheisel was Colorado's coach from 1995-98.

Many of the infractions involved improper contact with recruits.

"I want to stress that at no time did I intend to break NCAA regulations, and I never suggested to my staff we operate outside those rules," Neuheisel said in a statement. "I never deceived anyone, nor was I dishonest.

"While being creative in approach, I felt that I was operating within the letter of those rules. It was my mistake to make those judgments without consulting the proper sources at my disposal as a head coach."

The NCAA's infractions committee ruled that Colorado didn't properly monitor its football staff.

"This was a serious case in which a football coaching staff, led by the former head football coach, in a calculated attempt to gain a recruiting advantage, pushed beyond the permissible bounds of legislation, resulting in a pattern of recruiting violations," the committee's ruling said.

During a 12-hour hearing in August,

Neuheisel told the committee he and his staff had accidental encounters with prospects on high school campuses — called "bumping" — and that Colorado did not gain a recruiting advantage as a result.

However, committee chairman Tom Yeager noted that of the 26 prospective athletes involved, seven eventually enrolled at Colorado.

Other alleged violations included letting recruits keep apparel, and excessive compensation to recruits ranging from \$3.20 to \$36.76.

"The committee's obvious message is that these bumps should no longer be a part of the college football culture," Neuheisel said.

Gary Barnett, Neuheisel's successor at Colorado, argued before the committee that any penalties should follow Neuheisel.

The committee ruled that both Colorado and Neuheisel were at fault.

"There are consequences both for the institution that benefitted by these recruiting violations as well as a consequence for the coach who was involved in the majority of the violations," Yeager said.

Mexican billionaire wants to buy Angels

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Carlos Peralta, a Mexican billionaire who owns Tigres de Puebla, one of Mexico's most successful baseball franchises, has asked major league baseball for the chance to buy the Anaheim Angels from The Walt Disney Co.

Peralta said he was one of three parties interested in buying the Angels and that Peter Ueberroth, who served as baseball commissioner in the 1980s, was another. Ueberroth did not return phone messages from the Associated Press.

Injured coach gets new job

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The most famous first-base coach in the major leagues has a new job.

Tom Gamboa, who won sympathy when he was attacked by two White Sox fans in the first base coach's box during a game in Chicago, is now Kansas City's bullpen coach.

Gamboa said he still hasn't been given a reason for the change, but Royals' general manager Allard Baird said it has nothing to do with the bizarre episode in Comiskey Park last month that made Gamboa the talk of not only baseball, but an entire nation.

"Looking at it from the outside, I can see where people might wonder if the Chicago incident had something to do with this," Baird said. "But I can assure you it did not."

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