

Welcome to the NFL, Scott Fujita

By Doug Tucker
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Knowing the San Diego Chargers would try to trick a rookie linebacker making his first start did not keep Scott Fujita from getting tricked.

On the very first play last weekend in San Diego, the Chargers brought tight end Josh Norman around on a play-action pass in Fujita's direction. Thinking run, Fujita bit.

Norman easily found his way down field in a 29-yard catch-and-run for the Chargers.

Welcome to the NFL, young man. "I wouldn't say I was overly nervous," said Fujita, who'll be one week older and a whole lot wiser in his second start for Kansas City on Sunday against Denver.

"But I was just SO pumped up. I was expecting run. I was ready to knock the heck out of somebody and then they fooled me with a play-action pass.

"I said to myself, 'One snap and clear. One snap and clear. You've got 35 seconds to get this out of your mind.'"

Overall, however, the fifth-round draft pick out of California got high marks from coaches.

"They took him to school on a play with the tight end right off the bat," said coach Dick Vermeil with a fatherly smile.

"But all in all, Scott played pretty well. He did make some mistakes. There were some situations where he wasn't sure how to react. But he's growing."

Adding to his nervousness were about 120 friends and relatives in the stadium who'd driven from his home in the Southern California area to watch his debut as a starter.

"More than anything, I was just too amped up," Fujita said. "Sure, they were picking on me. I expected it. That's what happens. You always try to exploit the young guy. That's smart football."

The 6-5, 245-pounder, an unusual blend of brains and brawn, had already completed work on a graduate degree in government when the Chiefs drafted him.

He made an immediate impression in training camp with how hard he worked and how quickly he learned.

His first start, Fujita said, taught him more than he could ever have learned in practice. Hopefully, the experience was good for him.

"A whole lot. Just little things like on that first play," Fujita said. "Now I'll teach myself to relax a little bit. Little things like learning what the offense is going to do throughout the course of the game. Learning that everything is methodical.

"As the game went on, I felt more and more comfortable and more and more confident of what I was doing. Hopefully, I'll start off this next game at the point where I left off the last game."

Something else the native Californian has learned is that it's a lot more fun to play football in the Midwest than down on the beach.

"Fans in California aren't like they are out here, I can tell you that," Fujita said.

"I've been playing out there my whole life, and it's a different world here. When I was in college, we had some good fans. But they don't go nuts like they do here. It's a pleasure to play in Arrowhead Stadium. "I'm really looking forward to coming out of that tunnel and hearing them yelling for me. It's really something."

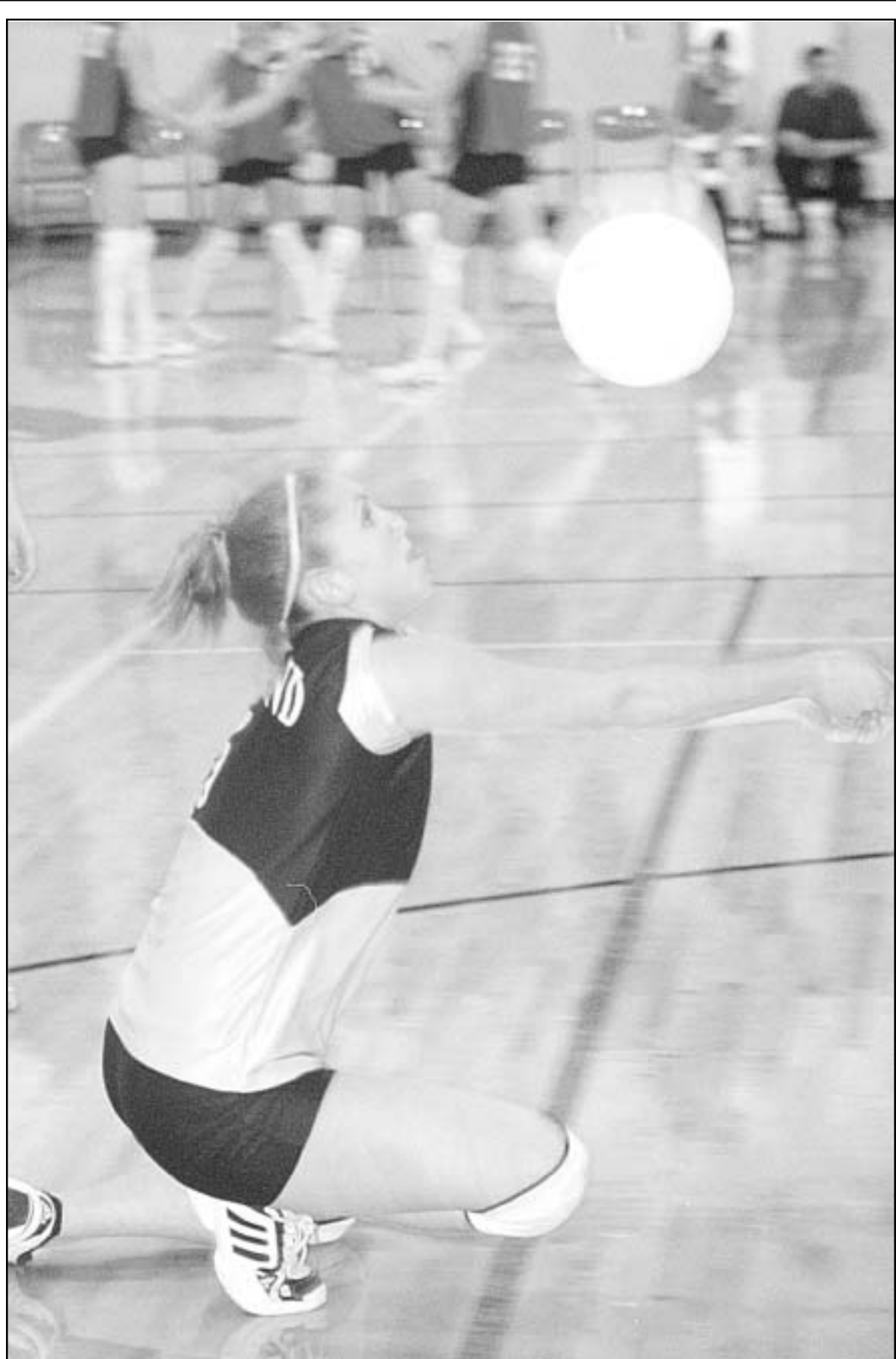
bowling results

Wednesday Night Men's Scratch Classic
Bowliadium Lanes over Basgall Construction 19-1

Sigco over Sunflower Satellite 18-2
ProLine over Witzel & Rhea 15-5
L&M Steel over Western Kansas Valley 16-4
Fitzgibbon's over Weber Kennels 17-3
High individual game: Jerry Amthor-279
High individual series: Jerry Amthor-969
High team game: Fitzgibbon's-631
High team series: Bowliadium Lanes-2,320
Standings: Bowliadium Lanes 134, 26; L&M Steel 101, 59; ProLine 94, 66; Sigco 88, 72; Fitzgibbon's 85 1/2, 74 1/2; Basgall Construction 83 1/2, 76 1/2; Weber Kennels 77, 83; Witzel & Rhea 62, 98; Sunflower Satellite 46, 114; Western Kansas Valley 29, 131.

Wednesday Night Mixed League
Oct. 16

Shear Dimensions over JIBG 3-1
The Gamblers over Palace Barber Shop 3-1
The Pits over Blind No. Ten 3-1
Fun Lovers over D&G Clan 4-0
Guzzlin' Socializers over Phillips Brothers 4-0
High women's game: Elaine Matthews-234
High women's series: Julie Crow-596
High men's game: Travis Gillihan-283
High men's series: Travis Gillihan-705
High team game: Fun Lovers-849
High team series: Guzzlin' Socializers-2,429
Standings: Guzzlin' Socializers, Palace Barber Shop and Funlovers.



Cowgirl Kelsey Herl "bumped" the ball to her teammates during a victory over Weskan Tuesday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. The Goodland freshmen, junior varsity and varsity won all their matches in the last regular meet of the season.
Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Cowgirls win every home match

By Doug Stephens
The Goodland Daily News

The Cowgirls won every match they played Tuesday at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

The varsity girls beat Oakley 15-0 and 15-3, Weskan 15-1 and 15-12 and Grinnell 15-3 and 15-12, bringing their record to 21-3, good for the second seed at the upcoming Northwest Kansas League Tournament.

Coach Jerry McKee said he was pleased with the team's performance at the last regular meet of the season.

"We played some good volleyball," he said. "We seemed to come together."

Saturday in Hoxie the girls will compete in the league tournament starting at 9 a.m. The competing teams are Colby, Oberlin, Atwood, St. Francis, Quinter, Hoxie and Oakley.

Colby is the top-ranked team with a record of 21-2, McKee said, but Goodland could be considered the favorite, having won the tournament the past five years.

It won't be an easy tournament to win, McKee said,

even if they get past Colby. "Any given team can be eliminated on any given day," McKee said.

Once the teams get past pool play, the tournament is single elimination. One bad match could put a team out of the running, McKee said.

Once the girls are through with the league competition they have to get ready for sub-state on Saturday, Oct. 26.

The seeding won't be determined until next week, McKee said, after this weekend's tournaments. Every game played during the season effects a team's ranking at sub-state, he said.

Tuesday, the junior varsity team beat Oakley 15-3 and 15-6 and Weskan 15-5 and 15-12. The freshmen split into teams, both of them beating Oakley teams, the first 12-15, 15-10 and 15-9, and the second 15-9 and 15-7. The Grinnell varsity beat Oakley 15-12 and 15-11.

The Cowgirl freshmen will be in Colby at 3 p.m. today. Other teams will include Scott City and Hoxie. It will be the girls' last meet of the season.

Wildcats to put pressure on offense

MANHATTAN (AP) — All four of Kansas State's defensive ends are in agreement: To stop Texas quarterback Chris Simms, they will have to put pressure on him. And lots of it.

It may take all of them to do it. Head coach Bill Snyder wouldn't have it any other way. Although Snyder will start two players at defensive end, all four on his two-deep depth chart — juniors Andrew Shull and Thomas Houchin and seniors Melvin Williams and Henry Bryant — could play on Saturday against the Longhorns.

"They've all played pretty well," Snyder said. Defensive ends coach Del Miller, Snyder said, "will tell me constantly that he thinks you can just draw them out of a hat because they are all playing pretty well. Therefore, the competition is there and the competition is good. I think it's good for our defense and I love the competition."

The four ends have combined for 85 total tackles in six games and have been able to pressure opposing quarterbacks. Overall, the Wildcats are fifth in the country in total defense at 268 yards per game.

Shull and Williams lead the team with three sacks apiece. Williams recorded two sacks last week against Oklahoma State and Shull had two sacks Sept. 7 against Louisiana-Monroe. Houchin has 1 1/2 sacks, and

Bryant has 3 1/2 tackles for loss but no sacks.

"We've got four starters that can all play," Williams said. "We've all got

great talent and everyone has something different to his game. It's kind of hard for offensive tackles to scout us and it wears them out."

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Cowboys start 'second season'

Goodland boys travel to Ulysses
By Rachel Hixson
The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland Cowboys' slate will be wiped clean on Friday, when they face the Ulysses Tigers about 160 miles from home for their first district game of the season.

Nothing either team did so far this season will matter because advancement to the playoffs only depends on how teams perform during district games. Goodland's district includes Ulysses, Colby and Scott City.

Cowboy Coach Tony Diehl said the top two teams from each district will advance to the playoffs, which means Goodland has a fair chance of making it. It will be easier to get to playoffs this year, the coach said, because in the past only one team has been allowed to advance.

Diehl said the system changed this year to give more quality teams a chance at the state championship. In some districts, he said, there are two or three excellent teams that deserve a shot at the championship, but in the past only one team got it.

While season records no longer matter, they can be a good indication of how each team will perform during district play. But Coach Diehl said that's not the case with Ulysses.

"Their record doesn't show how good they are," he said. "They are a young team and they've been getting better all year."

The Tigers' season record is 2-4, including wins against Larned, 33-21; and Thomas More Prep, 19-8; and losses to Dodge City, 29-14; Hugoton, 35-7; Pratt High, 12-0; and Hoisington, 14-6.

Goodland's record is a little better at 3-3, and the Cowboys can claim some big wins against Holcomb, 39-0; Oakley, 56-12; and Oberlin, 35-27.

The Cowboys have fallen to Hoxie, 26-14; St. Francis, 30-0; and Atwood, 35-19.

The Tigers are a young team, Diehl said, but it's evident watching tapes of their games they are a physical team and love to play the game.

"I think their youth contributes to their strength and energy," he said, adding that the team likes making big plays and has a good defense.

The Cowboys have to be ready to adjust to the several different formations Ulysses uses, the coach said.

"We have to know where to line up," he said, noting that the Tigers tend to run similar plays out of each formation.

A wiser Goodland team is going into district play, Coach Diehl said.

He said the Cowboys learned last week against the Oberlin Red Devils that they can't ever let up — not even for one quarter.

Goodland led the Red Devils 28-6 going into half-time, but the Cowboys let down their guard in the third quarter, allowing Oberlin to almost tie up the game before the Cowboys pulled together a 35-27 win.

One obstacle the Cowboys will face this week, Coach Diehl said, is having to travel 160 miles and then play a football game. The trip to Ulysses will be the longest of the season, he said, and the team will have to find a way to use the more than two-hour drive to its advantage.

The coach said he won't show too much game footage during the trip because that could stir up more nerves.

"I don't want them sitting on the bus getting tense and tight," he said.

Coach Diehl said he's been telling the players all season that they control their own destiny.

"We can win games if we play well," he said.

Indiana finishes off Nugetts in exhibition

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Ron Mercer scored 17 points and Jonathan Bender added 13 as the Indiana Pacers beat the Denver Nuggets 91-86 Wednesday night in an NBA exhibition game.

Oliver Miller, the 6-foot-9, 325-pound center trying to revive his career after sitting out the last two seasons, scored seven points and established himself as a fan favorite. He drew rousing ovations each time he touched the ball.

Owens told to stop signing

SANTA CLARA, Calif. (AP) — Terrell Owens can't understand why others aren't seeing the humor in his latest innovation in touchdown celebrations — pulling a pen from his sock to autograph the ball.

His move in San Francisco's 28-21 victory over Seattle on Monday influ-

Miller had a basket and an assist on consecutive plays in the fourth, giving Indiana an 80-75 lead.

Mercer has started all four exhibition games at shooting guard in place of an injured Reggie Miller, and Bender got his first start at forward in place of Jermaine O'Neal.

Miller and O'Neal were joined on the bench by point guard Jamaal Tinsley, who bruised his right thigh late in the first half. He received treatment at halftime and did not return.

riated many of the Seahawks and prompted a national debate. Some saw it as creative and funny; to others, it was a boastful taunt.

Owens won't be fined or suspended by the NFL, but a repeat act won't be tolerated, league spokesman Greg Aiello said.

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