

Cowboy, Springs girls snare spots in state meet

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News

The numbers are small, but the heart is big and Cowboy Speedy Aguilar's sprint in the last 50 yards Saturday assured him a place at the state cross country meet in Wamego as the ninth finisher in the Class 4A regional meet at Larned.

Another sprint in the last few yards gave Kalie Smith a spot in the girls Class 2-1A state championships. Smith has been running with the Cowgirls during the season, but since she is from Sharon Springs she had to run her own regional at Dighton. She also finished ninth.

Coach Don Smith said he was proud of the team effort, noting that nearly all the runners had their best times of the season.

"I thought we might do a bit better, but there was more competition than I expected," Smith said. "We had good times, but there were more good runners too."

Aguilar was the top finisher for the Cowboys, and Coach Smith and he will run in the state race at 8 a.m. Saturday in Wamego. Aguilar had a time of 17:15, his best of the year.

"Speedy had turned his ankle during practice last week," Coach Smith said, "and I was not sure how well he would do. He had excellent times the first two miles, 5:15 and 5:41.

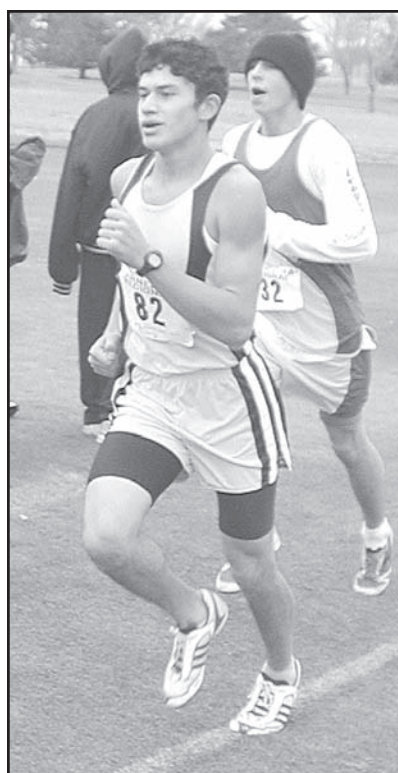
"However, he was struggling the last mile (6:19) and had to sprint to the finish. I am hoping his ankle improves this week before the state meet."

Other Cowboys who had their best times at Larned were Daniel Blake, who finished 41st, 18:29; Craig Mason 44th, 18:37; Timothy Kafka 61st, 19:02; and Brandon Zelfer 73rd, 19:32.

Zach Breninger finished 91st at 22:02, and Coach Smith said he was running to allow the Cowboys to have enough people for a team score.

"I was truly proud of his effort," Smith said.

The Cowboys finished 10th as a team with 224 points. Clearwater won



Speedy Aguilar (above) sprinted to the finish line Saturday at the Class 4A regional cross country meet in Larned. He finished ninth to qualify for the state championship Saturday in Wamego. The seven members of the Cowboys cross country team were led by Aguilar (upper right) at the start of the boys race.

Photos by Bob Crawford Larned Tiller and Toiler



the meet, 69; Hugoton second, 81; Pratt third, 107; Andale fourth, 158; Colby fifth, 159; Abilene sixth, 171; Mulvane seventh, 181; Ulysses eighth, 194; Smoky Valley ninth, 202; Chaparral 11th, 233; Scott City 12th, 315; and Larned 13th, 326.

Daniel Simon of Andale won the individual championship in 16:12.

For the Cowgirls, Tiffany Thomas was the top finisher at 21st, 13:22, and Coach Smith said it was her best time.

Deanna Livengood was 24th, 13:34; Chelsea Ontiveroz 60th, 14:26; and Wendy Keith 73rd, 15:25. Smith said both Livengood and Ontiveroz had their best times of the season.

Mallory Champa of Clearwater won the girls individual championship winning in 11:18.

Colby won the Class 4A regional girls meet with 66 points. The Cowgirls did not have a team score because they did not have enough runners for a com-

plete team. "Colby had their best day of the year," Coach Smith said, "and with the larger number on their team they were able to surprise everybody to win the meet."

Kalie Smith was ninth at the Class 2-1A meet with a time of 13:29. The individual champion was Erin Locke of Trego.

Charlie Short of Sharon Springs, who ran with the Cowgirls for the sec-

ond year, finished 79th, 17:13.

It was the final race for Cowgirls Livengood and Keith, and Smith said he will certainly miss their contribution.

On the Cowboys side, it was the end of the season for Kafka and Aaron Gittinger, who did not run in the final two meets for medical reasons. Smith has praise for their efforts, and said he was sorry it did not end better for Gittinger.

"They were a very good group of young people to work with," Coach Smith said. "I'll look forward to having them back next year, and hope we can increase our numbers. With the small numbers we have had, it makes it very hard, because you cannot afford to have injuries, and without the girls from Sharon Springs, we would not have had enough for team scores most of the year."

Oklahoma, Colorado head into big game as conference leaders

By Jaime Aron

AP Sports Writer

Oklahoma and Colorado have two distinct things in common: Both lead their Big 12 division and both have done so after losing their starting quarterback.

The Sooners and Buffaloes meet Saturday in Norman in what could be a preview of the conference championship game.

If they make it that far, it won't be because they get their preseason leader back. It will be because the squads have proven their merit as true teams, not just a bunch of players led by a hotshot passer.

"It's a credit to the mentality of the program that somebody is going to always step up and play," Colorado coach Gary Barnett said Monday. "No one team in college football should feel

that success or failure is based on one guy."

Robert Hodge has replaced Craig Ochs and led the Buffaloes (6-2) to five straight wins and a No. 13 ranking. Ochs was lost to a concussion after the second game and has since announced plans to transfer.

Nate Hybl has replaced Jason White and kept the Sooners (8-0) ranked second in the nation. White was lost for the season with a knee injury in the second game.

Neither team is a stranger to such situations.

Ochs was hurt last season and Bobby Pesavento was the quarterback who led CU to the Fiesta Bowl. Oklahoma got to the Cotton Bowl despite going from Hybl to White and back to Hybl.

"It shows that you have some depth at quarterback, first of all," Oklahoma

coach Bob Stoops said. "It also shows when you're winning and winning a lot, it's more than one guy. It's solid teams around them. You win and lose as a team. I think that's what we've done is play well as a team."

When Colorado started 1-2, it seemed like this matchup wasn't going to live up to its preseason hype. But the Buffs have come roaring back and will be seeking to extend their 8-0-1 record against Oklahoma since 1989. Colorado also is 11-1 in its last 12 conference games.

SYMPATHIZING WITH STEELE: Coach Bill Snyder is widely credited for one of the greatest turnarounds in college football history for making Kansas State a perennially ranked program. This past weekend, he got a firsthand look at Baylor, which desperately

needs the same kind of jolt.

Although the Wildcats won 44-10, the game was close early. Snyder came away impressed with the Bears and coach Kevin Steele, whose job is in jeopardy as he's gone 9-32 in three-plus seasons.

"It takes time to get the right people in place, a philosophy in place," said Snyder, noting what Dan McCarney has done at Iowa State. "Kevin is a guy that does everything exactly as it should be done, at least in my eyes."

"We were in for a ballgame when we got there. It's easy for me to say we weren't well prepared or emotionally in the ballgame. But the bottom line is Baylor played and prepared extremely well. Is he going in the right direction and doing the right things? Yes."

DEFENDING THEIR TURF: Now

that Nebraska has ended its five-game road losing streak, the Cornhuskers can concentrate on protecting a home winning streak that started after losing to Texas in 1998. Next up: The Longhorns.

Solich noted that such streaks are hard to come by these days, pointing to road victories this past weekend by Nebraska at A&M, Notre Dame at Florida State and Iowa at Michigan.

"That home field advantage has been lessened a bit because you're playing great home teams every week," Solich said. "If you play athletes at the top of their game, you're going to get beat regardless of where you play."

THANKS, COACH: First-year Kansas coach Mark Mangino has nothing but good things to say about his old boss, Snyder, whom he'll face Satur-

day. "I can tell you I have great respect for Bill Snyder. If not for Bill Snyder, I wouldn't be here at KU today," said Mangino, who went from high school coach in Pennsylvania to K-State assistant in 1991 and worked his way up to assistant head coach in '98, then left to work with Bob Stoops at Oklahoma.

EXTRA POINTS: QB woes: If Bill Whittemore can't start for Kansas because of an apparent knee injury, Jonas Weatherbie will. Baylor expects to have Aaron Karas, who hurt his shoulder, back but if not could go with sixth-year senior Greg Cicero. ... Texas Tech must win two of its last four — against Baylor, Oklahoma State, Texas and OU — to be bowl eligible. "I don't think about big picture, bowl picture, universal impact or any of that stuff," coach Mike Leach said.

Big 12 players of the week from Texas, Colorado

DALLAS (AP) — Texas running back Cedric Benson, who rushed for 199 yards and two touchdowns in Saturday's game against Iowa State, was named Big 12 offensive player of the week.

Colorado free safety Medford Moor and Colorado punter Mark Mariscal also were named players of the week on defense and special teams, respectively.

Benson's 199 yards was the most of any player in the Big 12 and second

nationally in games Saturday.

Early on, Benson carried the ball nine times for 61 yards, including a one-yard TD run on the opening drive of the game.

He later scored on a 59-yard run that allowed UT to reclaim the lead 14-10 early in the third quarter. Benson registered 160 of his 199 yards on Texas' three scoring drives which totaled 240 yards.

Moor made eight solo tackles, had three tackles for a loss including one

sack, three third down stops, one fourth down stop, a pass deflection, two interceptions with 69 yards in returns, and one return for a 51-yard touchdown that gave Colorado a 37-13 victory over Texas Tech. The win kept the Buffaloes undefeated in Big 12 play at 4-0.

Mariscal kicked four punts for 231

yards, a 57.8 average, and one inside the 20-yard line with a net average of 53 yards per kick. Three of his punts were more than 60 yards, including a 66-yard punt with Colorado facing 4th-and-12 on its own 6 and the score tied at 10-10. Tech went three-and-out on its next drive as the game's complexion was altered.


Top 25

The Top Twenty Five teams in The Associated Press college football poll:

| | Record | Pts | Pvs |
|-------------------|--------|-------|-----|
| 1. Miami (59) | 7-0 | 1,832 | 1 |
| 2. Oklahoma (14) | 7-0 | 1,788 | 2 |
| 3. Virginia Tech | 8-0 | 1,611 | 3 |
| 4. Notre Dame (1) | 8-0 | 1,597 | 6 |
| 5. Georgia | 8-0 | 1,582 | 5 |
| 6. Ohio St. | 9-0 | 1,575 | 4 |
| 7. Texas | 7-1 | 1,351 | 7 |
| 8. Washington St. | 7-1 | 1,271 | 9 |
| 9. Iowa | 8-1 | 1,269 | 13 |
| 10. N.C. State | 9-0 | 1,232 | 12 |
| 11. Southern Cal | 6-2 | 1,100 | 15 |
| 12. Alabama | 6-2 | 955 | 19 |
| 13. Colorado | 6-2 | 894 | 21 |

| | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----|----|
| 14. Kansas St. | 6-2 | 778 | 20 |
| 15. Michigan | 6-2 | 702 | 8 |
| 16. Arizona St. | 7-2 | 625 | 23 |
| 17. LSU | 6-2 | 604 | 10 |
| 18. Florida St. | 5-3 | 551 | 11 |
| 19. Oregon | 6-2 | 536 | 14 |
| 20. Penn St. | 5-3 | 388 | 18 |
| 21. Bowling Green | 7-0 | 361 | 24 |
| 22. Iowa St. | 6-3 | 335 | 17 |
| 23. Minnesota | 7-1 | 327 | 25 |
| 24. Colorado St. | 7-2 | 144 | — |
| 25. Tennessee | 4-3 | 119 | 16 |

Others receiving votes: Marshall 104, Florida 103, Maryland 84, Pittsburgh 58, Auburn 54, Boise St. 43, TCU 23, Nebraska 18, Air Force 12, Virginia 7, Oregon St. 6, Wisconsin 5, Texas A&M 3, UCLA 3.



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