

Cowboys fall to the Beavers, 28-12

By Rachel Hixson

The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland Cowboys fell to the Scott City Beavers 28-12 at home on Thursday night, but the game's final score doesn't reflect the intensity and drive with which the Cowboys played during the district championship.

Goodland's defense put forth a valiant effort, stopping the Beavers from scoring in the first quarter and never letting up, even when Scott City was one yard from a touchdown.

The Cowboy offense remained determined despite several mistakes that cost the team yards and helped give Scott City a 16-point lead. After Goodland gave the Beavers two points with a safety during a punt in the third quarter, the offense rallied to drive 64 yards for a hard-fought second touchdown.

Neither team played perfectly, but Cowboy Coach Tony Diehl said Scott City's talented defense was able to take advantage of Cowboy mistakes.

"I was pleased with the effort," he said, "but we didn't execute well. The offense had several costly penalties."

The weather didn't help at all. On the sideline, the Cowboys huddled around propane heaters, wore warm-ups and kept their hands in mufflers as the temperature was 21 degrees. The field was already covered in a thin layer of snow, and more flakes started to fall during the third quarter.

Both teams still plugged away. Coach Diehl said both sides consistently played extremely hard throughout the night.

"Unfortunately," he said, "someone has to lose every game."

The Cowboys, who didn't win a game last year, have made huge strides this season, ending with a record of 5-4 and advancing to the playoffs with a 2-1 district record. Scott City, the 3-0 district champion with a total record of 8-1, will also advance, thanks to a new playoff system which allows two teams from each district to go on.

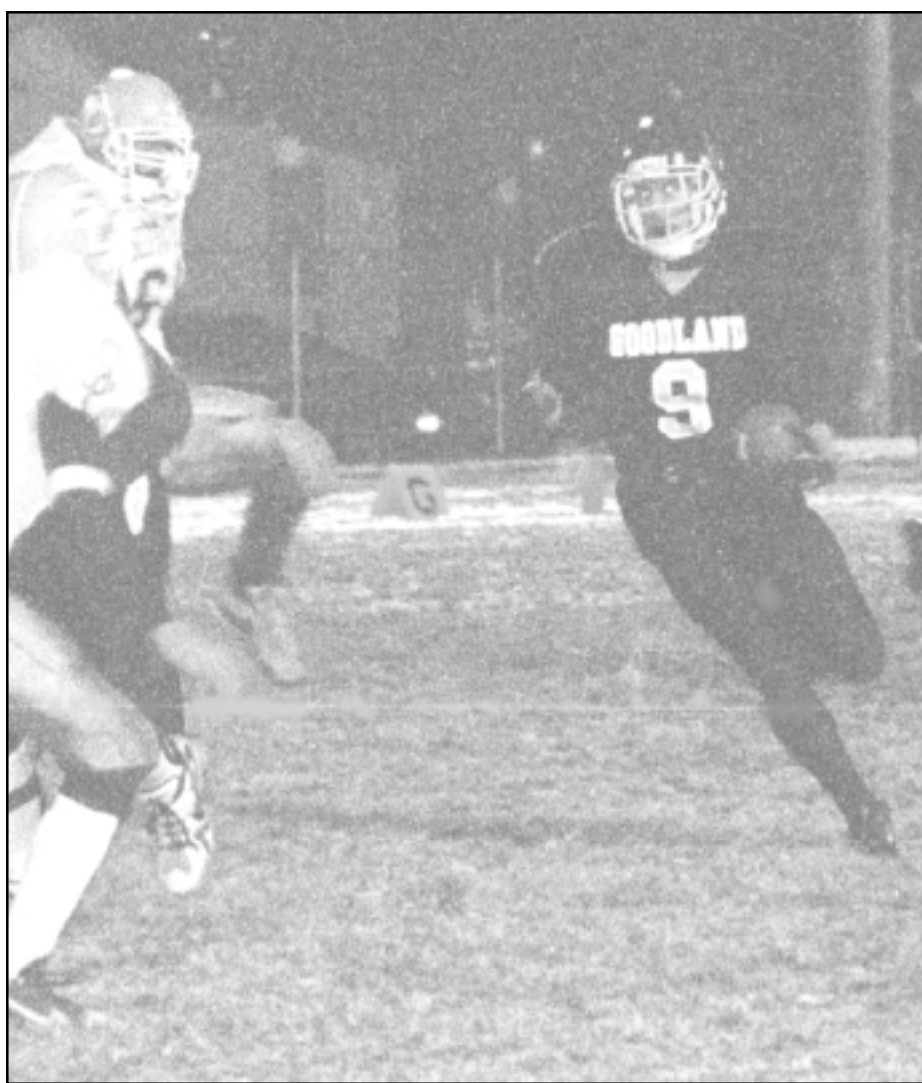
Goodland's district will face teams from District No. 15 in the first round of playoffs on Tuesday.

The Cowboys will travel more than 260 miles to play Kingman, which is No. 1 in District No. 15 after defeating Hugoton 14-0 on Thursday. Scott City will host Hugoton on Tuesday.

Coach Diehl said the Cowboys can't dwell on the loss.

"We don't have time to stay down very long," he said.

Goodland will get in some extra practice time before the playoffs, as the school board gave the team permission to practice on Sunday.



Cowboy Bobby Miller tried to gain some yards for Goodland during the third quarter of Goodland's home game against the Scott City Beavers. Despite a valiant effort, the Cowboys lost the district championship 28-12.

Photo by Rachel Hixson/The Goodland Daily News

Defense played well, but mistakes hurt offense

Goodland's defense managed to hold the Beavers scoreless in the first quarter, despite the fact Scott City came uncomfortably close to the end zone a couple of times.

At the top of the second quarter, the Cowboys held the Beavers at the Goodland one and recovered the ball on downs.

Scott City scored first, with Jordan Carter diving to catch a 21-yard pass in the far south corner of the end zone, but it didn't sway the Cowboys, who answered with a touchdown run by Quarterback Jared Duke. Both teams failed to bring in extra points, making the score 6-6 with 1:50 left in the half.

Goodland received a 15-yard penalty for pass interference when Cowboy Bobby Miller stopped a Beaver from catching a pass around the Goodland 10. The penalty actually worked in Goodland's favor because Scott City only moved to the Goodland 22, but the Beavers made their way into the end zone anyway, bringing the score to 14-6 with 15 seconds left in the half.

In the third quarter, Scott City ran a counter play that allowed Beaver Garrett Huck to run 77 yards for the team's third touchdown, 20-6. The Beavers tacked on another couple points when the Cowboys accidentally snapped the ball through the end zone during a punt for a safety.

But Goodland still wasn't shaken.

Scott City was penalized in the fourth quarter for roughing the passer, giving the Cowboys, who had just had an incomplete pass on a fourth down, a first down and another shot at a score.

Goodland capitalized on Scott City's mistake, with Duke running four yards for a touchdown. Quarterback Duke tried to run in for an extra two-points, but he didn't make it and was injured during the play.

With a score of 22-12 Scott City and 6:12 left on the clock, Goodland's momentum swelled as the Cowboys defense stopped the Beavers on a third-down conversion and forced Scott City to punt.

Derrick Raymer took over for the injured Duke, and although he made some good plays Raymer wasn't able to score more points for the Cowboys. Goodland lost eight yards when Raymer was sacked on the Goodland 38, and even a successful 20-yard pass to Donald Raymer wasn't enough for a first down.

A couple big runs put the Beavers in the end zone again, bringing the score to a final 28-12 with 1:28 left in the game. Raymer wasn't able to complete passes when the Cowboys got their hands on the ball again, and Scott City let the clock run out when they recovered control.

Bedore led in rushing gaining 67 yards in 20 carries. Miller was right behind with 64 yards in 14 carries and Duke had 38 yards in 15 carries and scored both of Goodland's touchdowns.

In passing, Duke completed five of 14 attempted passes for 88 yards and Derrick Raymer one of four for 16 yards.

Drew Wilkens made three catches for 45 yards, Donald Raymer two

catches for 31 yards and Alan Cebula one for 28. Mark Starr recovered one fumble.

Cebula led in tackling with a total of 13 and Bedore and Kris Rubio both had eight tackles.



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The stands will likely be full or nearly so at Memorial Stadium on Saturday when No. 14 Kansas State visits the Jayhawks. But since the Wildcats' rise to national prominence

began in the early 1990s and the Jayhawks' slide into mediocrity followed a few years later, the game has lost much of its luster.

Now, Kansas State fans measure success by which bowl the Wildcats play in and whether they beat Nebraska. The players, many of whom are from Texas, consider the Big 12's former Southwest Conference teams among their top rivals as well.

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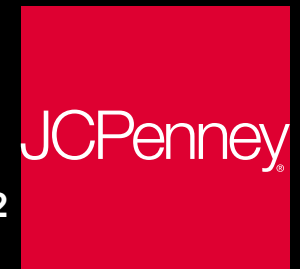
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