

# Wrestlers look forward to successful season

By Rachel Hixson  
The Goodland Daily News

The Goodland Cowboys wrestling team had a successful season last year, winning the league tournament and placing second in regional and state competition, and the coach believes they can do it again.

"I expect the same from them as last year," Coach Randy Bahe said. "If they work hard and have fun, we have the potential to have a good season."

Of the 29 wrestlers who came out this year, eight are seniors and six are returning state qualifiers. Four are ranked by the state wrestling coaches' association.

The seniors include Mathias Goodley, Kyle Schulte, Dustin Klinge, Taylor Brack, Brandon Linden, Landon West, Tyler Rall and Andy Phillips.

Junior Jordan Bedore won the 215-pound state championship last year, Dexter Deeds placed fourth at state in the 103-pound division and junior Blayze Bahe took second at 112. Goodley has qualified for state once and Schulte twice, but neither advanced to the medal rounds last year.

Bedore, Bahe, Brack and Deeds made the coaches' state rankings. (See box.)

Coach Bahe said injuries always play a key role in a team's success, and the Cowboys already have one strike against them in that area.

Deeds' middle knuckle was broken during practice on Wednesday, the coach said, and he will not be able to wrestle for several weeks. Bahe said while Deeds was wrestling, he put his hand on the mat to regain his balance and his middle finger was turned.

"It will hurt to be without him," the coach said, noting that freshman Brett Lalicker will likely replace Deeds. "I think he will step in and do a good job."

Bahe said the rest of the wrestlers are healthy — even Bedore, who played most of the football season with a cast covering his right arm after breaking a bone in his hand. The coach said it's possible to play football with a broken hand, but it won't work in wrestling because a wrestler needs his hands to grasp his opponent.

The team has lost seniors who were good at providing younger wrestlers with support and leadership last year, Bahe said, but hopefully the new seniors will pull the group together in the same way.

"It's something as a coach you really like to see," he said, noting that part of what made the Cowboys successful last year was the wrestlers' dedication.

"Last year's team responded every week," Bahe said, "and improved every week. This team should be able to do the same."

The team has been practicing for two weeks, the coach said, and is focusing on strengthening basic skills in the neutral, top and bottom positions.

"We're making sure we have the basic skills where they need to be," he said.

## Coaches rank four Cowboys

The Goodland Cowboys have four wrestlers in the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association pre-season individual rankings, and two are ranked first in their weight class.

Junior Blayze Bahe is ranked first in the 119 weight class and Junior Jordan Bedore is ranked first in the 215 weight class.

Senior Taylor Brack is ranked fourth at the 160 pound level and Sophomore Dexter Deeds is ranked fourth in the 112 pound class.

Here are the top pre-season ranked wrestlers from northwest Kansas as voted by the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association.

Weight	Wrestler	School	Year
<b>CLASS 1-3A</b>			
130	4th Matt Coleman	Oberlin	jr.
130	5th Kevin Brown	St. Francis	jr.
135	3rd Kenyon Badsky	Oberlin	sr.
140	5th Chance Harmon	Oberlin	jr.
189	3rd Tanner Schmidt	Atwood	sr.
215	6th Dallas Walz	St. Francis	sr.
275	4th Heath Klein	Atwood	jr.
<b>CLASS 4A</b>			
112	4th Dexter Deeds	Goodland	soph.
119	1st Blayze Bahe	Goodland	jr.
119	4th Jesse Tibbles	Colby	sr.
125	1st Danny Mainus	Colby	sr.
125	5th Rees McKinney	Scott City	jr.
145	1st Eric Luedke	Colby	sr.
152	2nd Schuyler Sharpe	Colby	jr.
160	4th Taylor Brack	Goodland	sr.
215	1st Jordan Bedore	Goodland	jr.

The first tournament the Cowboys will attend will start at 8:30 a.m. in St. Francis. Although the team is missing one of its key varsity players in Deeds, Coach Bahe said he thinks the Cowboys will place third or fourth. The Cowboys took second at the tournament last year.

The coach said it will be a challenging tournament, as talented teams from Colby and Scott City will attend, but it won't be the toughest of the season. Those will come in January, he said, when the Cowboys travel to Liberal and Newton.

The team has never attended the Newton tournament, Bahe said, but he's expecting it to be a bear.

"Some people say it's maybe the toughest tournament in the state," he said. "We will find out."

For the first time in about 12 years, Goodland will host the Class 4A Regional Wrestling Tournament in February, Coach Bahe said. The two-day event will bring hundreds of families and wrestling fans to town, he said.

"I think the field house is going to be full," Bahe said. "It will be a fun and exciting tournament. I'm looking forward to it."

Regionals won't be easy, the coach said, as four of the top five ranked teams are in Goodland's region and five of the top 10. The top four include Clay Center, which won the Class 4A state championship last year, Goodland,



Randy Bahe, (above) head coach of the Goodland Cowboys wrestling team, demonstrated how get out of a hold during practice on Monday afternoon. Coach Bahe (right) watched and directed two wrestlers in a ranking match during practice Monday.

Photos by Rachel Hixson  
The Goodland Daily News



Abilene and Colby, Concordia, which ranked eighth, is also in the region.

Bahe said one of the toughest teams the Cowboys will face this year will be Hoxie, which won the Class 1-2-3A state championship last year. Last season, the Cowboys tied with Hoxie at a dual and beat the Indians at the league tournament.

"Hoxie will be the team in our league to beat," he said. "They were a tremendous team last year and most of their same players are returning."

This will be Bahe's second season in the head coaching spot — after being an assistant coach for several years — and he said he's feeling more comfortable.

"I've a lot of the head coaching responsibilities," he said. "I know more what to expect."

# Wildcats make case for Orange Bowl appearance

MANHATTAN (AP) — Kansas State will guarantee the sale of at least 25,000 tickets to the Orange Bowl if the Wildcats are awarded an at-large bid to the game in Miami, athletic director Tim Weiser said Monday night.

The Wildcats are 10-2 and ranked No. 6 but still considered long shots for a first-ever Bowl Championship Series bid. Kansas State is No. 8 in the latest BCS standings, released Monday.

Weiser said he, coach Bill Snyder and university president Jon Wefald would plead Kansas State's case in per-

son to bowl officials today in Miami.

"Our main intentions are to go there and share with them specific information on how well the Kansas State football team is playing right now," Weiser said. "We'll also talk about the fan support that we enjoy and what we anticipate we would have traveling with us."

The Orange Bowl, set for Jan. 2, 2003, is no longer played at its namesake stadium but at Pro Player Stadium, which seats 75,540.

"We're pretty confident we would be able to sell a minimum of 25,000, based

on how well we've traveled in the past," Weiser said. "But that's going to be secondary to the competitiveness of our team."

Kansas State's two losses have come by a total of seven points and both were against ranked teams: 35-31 at No. 12 Colorado on Oct. 5, and 17-14 in overtime to No. 9 Texas on Oct. 19.

Since losing to the Longhorns, the Wildcats have beaten Baylor 44-10, Kansas 64-0, Iowa State 58-7, Nebraska 49-13 and Missouri 38-0. Their wins over the Jayhawks, Cyclones and Cornhuskers were the most lopsided ever in series that go back decades.

"This is a team that's playing its best football of the year late," Weiser said. Even if Snyder, Weiser and Wefald

manage to impress Orange Bowl officials, their point would be moot if No. 9 Washington State wins at UCLA on Saturday. Win, and the Cougars are guaranteed a BCS bowl as Pac-10 champions.

"We recognize our chances are tied directly to the outcome of the Washington State-UCLA game," Weiser said, "but it's our responsibility, mine in particular, to go down there and make the case for Kansas State."

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## Bufs get second chance at Sooners

HOUSTON (AP) — Colorado made too many mistakes against Oklahoma the first time the teams played this season. The Buffaloes have been looking for a second chance, and they get it Saturday in the Big 12 championship.

Colorado lost 27-11 to the Sooners on Nov. 2. In the first half, the Buffaloes lost two fumbles, had a pass intercepted, muffed a pooch kick and had a field goal blocked.

"We didn't give ourselves much of a chance," Colorado coach Gary Barnett said Monday. "You can't play a team like Oklahoma and expect to win when you turn the ball over."

Oklahoma quarterback Nate Hybl knows the Sooners did enough to win. "The feeling I got was they left some plays on the field and we didn't finish the game like they were expecting us to," Hybl said. "We made enough plays and we did get a little conservative. I don't know how they reacted but we deserve a lot of credit."

The eighth-ranked Sooners (10-2)

struggled late in the season. They lost to Texas A&M on Nov. 9, then Oklahoma State upset them 38-28 Saturday for the second year in a row.

Colorado enters the game with a three-game winning streak. They beat Nebraska 28-13 on Friday.

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