

Scrimmage previews Cowgirls, Cowboys teams

Season opener is Friday against Imperial

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Daily News
Tuesday parents and supporters got a preview of the Cowgirls and Cowboys basketball teams at a soap scrimmage at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Friday is the opening game for the Cowgirls and Cowboys as they host Imperial, Neb. at 5:30 p.m. at the fieldhouse.

The teams from freshman through varsity played inter squad scrimmages to give the audience an idea of what the upcoming season will be, and to give the teams a sense of performing in front of an audience.

The Cowgirls freshman and junior varsity teams played a couple of separate scrimmage games, and several of the junior varsity girls played with the varsity teams.

Cowgirl Coach Connie Livengood says the teams will do OK this year, "if we don't get into foul trouble."

She says the opening game against Imperial should be a good indication of how the girls are doing. She will scout both Imperial and McCook, Neb. as they play on Thursday.

"Imperial lost a couple of their big girls," Livengood said, "but they may be faster on the floor."

She says it will be good to get a look at McCook too because the Cowgirls

may face them in the Topside Tipoff tournament to be held Dec. 12-14 at Max Jones.

Livengood said she has a good core of players who will make the Cowgirls competitive.

Seniors Jayci Stone, Stephanie Fairbanks, Tess Schultz, Kendra Billinger and Anny McCoy are the experienced team members. They are complimented by Juniors Jessica Osborn and Cortney Schields who Livengood says are playing well.

"We are all healthy and hope it stays that way," Livengood said.

The Cowgirls will have quite a run for the next two weeks as they play about a quarter of their games in the 14 day before the Christmas break.

The Cowboys may not have a dominate tall center, but Coach Jon McLean thinks the team is going to be exciting to watch.

"I am pleased with the effort of the boys," said Coach McLean. "We have been practicing for two and one-half weeks and they have worked as hard as they can."

As to the starters McLean said he is not sure who will exactly be the starters, but says that with the style of play he is using he will use an 8-10 player rotation.

"We are going to play a lot of full-

court pressure and pressure defense," he said. "I have told the guys that there will be a lot of rotation because they will find it tough to play more than a few minutes at the speed and tempo we want."

"We want to control the tempo of the game and wear some opponents down with our style," he said.

"We will work into the transition as quickly as possible and look for fast break opportunities," McLean said. "We will not have a lot of set plays, but we want to cause havoc for the other team."

As to facing Imperial in the first game McLean thinks it will be as tough a game as they could have. He says he has someone who will call him with a scouting report after the Thursday game.

"We will be exciting to watch because we are going to play fast while staying under control," he said. "We will have a wide open offense. We want to get the ball moving and have the guys play basketball."

McLean says he will have some good outside shooting with Lance Tedford and Kris Rubio, but expects the inside game to be good as well with Don Raymer, Derrick Raymer, Aaron Gittinger and Bobby Miller.

The Cowboys varsity game Friday will follow the Cowgirls varsity game.



Cowboys fight for a rebound (above) during the varsity and junior varsity soap scrimmage Tuesday. The first game of the season will be Friday when the Cowboys and Cowgirls host Imperial, Neb. at Max Jones Fieldhouse at 5:30 p.m.. Senior Stephanie Fairbanks (below) goes up for a layup on a fastbreak during the Cowgirls varsity and junior varsity scrimmage.

Photos by Tom Betz / The Goodland Daily News

Williams says no panic by Jayhawks

LAWRENCE (AP) — Basketball practice has been more intense than usual this week at Kansas, as the Jayhawks try to rebound from their embarrassing Thanksgiving trip to New York.

On Tuesday, coach Roy Williams was still at a loss to explain what happened last week, when the Jayhawks lost to North Carolina and Florida in the Preseason NIT — and played perhaps their worst game of the 15-year Williams era in the 67-55 setback to the then-unranked Tar Heels.

"I don't know what that was against North Carolina," Williams said. "I've had coaches tell me they've never seen one of my teams play like that. I've never see one of my teams play like that. That was an aberration."

After the losses, Kansas tumbled this week from No. 2 to No. 14.

Before going through a tough practice on Monday, Williams got his staff and team together for a meeting.

"It's not panic time," Williams said. "I'm trying to make sure our players don't overreact and our coaches don't either."

"It's not like we've fallen off the top of a bridge, or we've forgotten how to play basketball. You go around the country and pick out some schedules, give us some of those schedules and

we'd be 4-0 right now and we'd be fat and happy. But we don't choose to play that. We played good teams."

Williams said that during the meeting he, asked his players one question: "Tell me or tell yourself, what was your thought process before the Carolina game or in the first 6-8 minutes of the Carolina game?"

The malaise was also present in the consolation game against Florida until the second half, when the Jayhawks chopped a 19-point deficit down to 2 points before finally losing 83-73.

"Everything was lacking in the North Carolina game, a sense of urgency, a sense of humanity," Williams said. "It wasn't Kansas basketball. I guess you have to live through one like that every so often. I hope it's once every 15 years."

The Jayhawks get back into action Wednesday night at home against Division II Central Missouri State. But then the schedule gets tough again with games against No. 7 Oregon and No. 19 Tulsa.

Guard Kirk Hinrich, who will sit out Wednesday night's game with a sore back, said in New York that some players had not been paying attention to details. Senior forward Nick Collison said Tuesday that that, too, had been addressed.

"It was a matter of people being late to a bus, and to a meeting, either late or making it barely on time," he said. "Little things like that are just possible signs of people not being as committed as they should be. Those issues have been addressed. But we'll see how we act and play the rest of the season, how we practice."

Collison said team chemistry was not a problem.

"We get along fine. We just need — certain guys as a team — we need to do a better job focusing on the little things, the details."

While Hinrich struggles with his back problem, sophomore forward Wayne Simien has been nursing a sore ankle but does not plan to take any time off.

"It's going to be a problem," Williams said of Simien's injury. "We know that. It's going to be a problem for a long time. If you give him one month off, he could sprain it the first day back, so what have you gained?"

"It's a sprained ankle. It's going to take its own timetable to get better. To me, the good news is he rolled it twice in the North Carolina game and went back in and played, and played effectively against Florida two nights later. His ankle is bothering him. But we don't have any other choice."

Oklahoma State's Miles named top coach

STILLWATER, Okla. (AP) — Les Miles guided Oklahoma State through one setback after another this season to get the Cowboys to a bowl game for the first time since 1997.

The media in the Big 12 Conference took notice, choosing Miles as The Associated Press coach of the year Tuesday.

"I know there are a lot of deserving guys and a lot of guys who could make a case for their position," Miles said. "I'm very fortunate to have a great staff and a group of guys who love to play."

Miles received eight votes in the balloting. Gary Barnett of Colorado, who led the Buffaloes to their second straight North Division title, received six votes. Bill Snyder of Kansas State, Mike Leach of Texas Tech and Bob Stoops of Oklahoma also received votes.

The Cowboys had high hopes for this season after winning their final two games of 2001 — including an upset of Oklahoma in Norman. Miles often pointed to that game as an example of what kind of effort it takes to be a consistent winner.

Injuries and an eligibility question concerning a player left the Cowboys with a patchwork offensive line until the week of OSU's opener, and tailback

was a question mark due to injuries.

In the first game, at Louisiana Tech, the Cowboys squandered an 18-point third-quarter lead and wound up losing 39-36.

"It really hammered us," Miles said. "But in the same vein, this is a quality, character group of guys, both coaches and players, and they just hung together and believed in each other."

Two games later, Oklahoma State committed five turnovers against UCLA and turned a game it felt it could win into an easy Bruins victory.

After beating SMU and then coming within two points of Texas, the Cowboys went on the road and got hammered 44-9 by Kansas State.

That was followed by a home game against Nebraska, a team the Cowboys hadn't beaten since 1961.

"It was imperative that the team would have to play a physical brand of ball and be able to handle that challenge," Miles said. "They had to match Nebraska's physical style."

The Cowboys did, winning 24-21.

"To me, that was easily the biggest turnaround in the season," Miles said.

The Cowboys went on to beat Texas A&M to even their record at 4-4. But more disappointment followed — a 49-24 loss to Texas Tech in a game the

Cowboys figured they could win.

Once again the Cowboys regrouped, beating Kansas and Baylor to get to 6-5, then putting an exclamation point on the season by beating then-No. 3 Oklahoma 38-28 last weekend.

They finished 7-5 overall, 5-3 in the Big 12, and beat Nebraska and Oklahoma in the same season for the first time. After being picked to finish next-to-last in the South Division, the Cowboys tied for third.

"He's been so positive, and he's not allowed for anything other than for people to be positive about our football program — coaches, players, everybody involved, and it's paid off," said offensive coordinator Mike Gundy.

As the season progressed, Rashaun Woods emerged as the best receiver in the Big 12. Tatum Bell solidified the running back position by gaining 100 yards or more in five of the final six games. Quarterback Josh Fields got better and better.

"There is a belief in this football team that they can play better and they can be better, and they've kept working at it," Miles said.

"There are a number of spots where this team's improved, but we're very fortunate to be in the position we're in."

Rockies trying to sign pitcher Armando Reynoso

DENVER (AP) — Colorado is trying to sign Armando Reynoso, an original member of the Rockies in 1993.

Oscar Suarez, the agent for the free-agent right-hander, has had preliminary discussions with Rockies general manager Dan O'Dowd. Suarez said Tuesday he expects to have more in-depth talks when he returns from a trip to Mexico next week.

Reynoso, 35, missed most of the last two seasons with the Arizona Diamondbacks because of problems with his right shoulder and neck.

"Armando has always enjoyed pitching at Coors Field. It's not a stadium that's every intimidated him," Suarez said.

Reynoso went 30-31 with a 4.65 ERA in 87 starts and two relief appear-

ances with the Rockies from 1993 to 1996. He pitched for the New York Mets in 1997 and 1998 before joining the Diamondbacks.

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bowling results

Thursday Night Mixed League
November 21, 2002
Pirate Electric over The Loop 4-0
Three Men and A Little Lady over HoJo's 3-1
Sunamerica over Lucky Horseshoes 4-0
The Grannies and The Gramps over The Blind Team 4-0
Weis Oil over Not Again 4-0

Women's high game: Diana Nichols-208
Women's high series: Diana Nichols-561

Men's high game: Aaron Thompson-235
Men's high series: Aaron Thompson-654

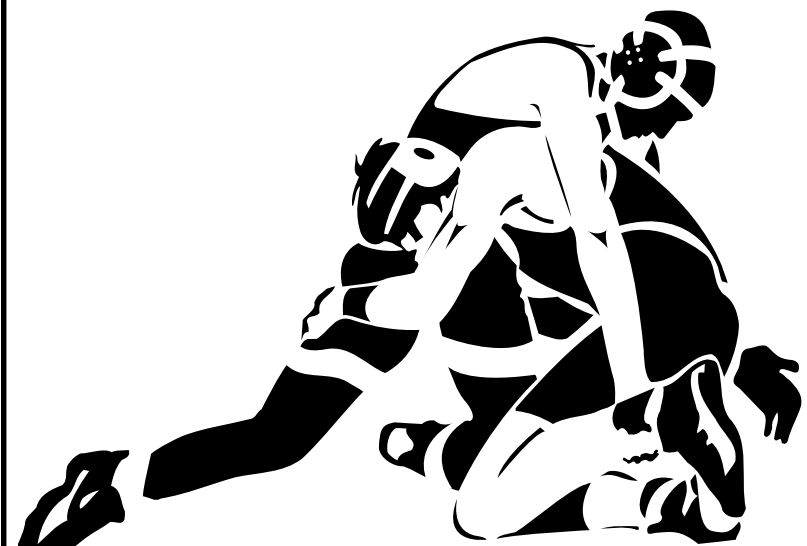
Team high game: Three Men and A Little Lady-933
Team high series: Three Men and A Little Lady-2530

League Standings: No. 1 The Grannies and The Gramps; No. 2 Weis Oil; No. 3 Sunamerica

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Season opener Saturday, Dec. 7th
Varsity at St. Francis Tournament 8:30 a.m.
Jr. Varsity at Goodland Tournament 9:00 a.m.