

Cowboys beat Bulldogs 71-66



Cowboy Aaron Gittinger reached for a rebound Friday against the Quinter Bulldogs. The Cowboys won 71-66 to improve their record to 4-2. The Cowboys' next action will be Friday, Jan. 10, when they play host to the Colby Eagles at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Photo by Skilar Boland / The Goodland Daily News

Local swimmer receives 'big' honor

By Michelle L. Hawkins
The Goodland Daily News

Hard work and years of dedication have paid off for Goodland swimmer Rachael Hagerman, who was named this week's Swimmer of the Week for the Big 10 Conference.

Rachael, a freshman at Michigan State University, said she has been swimming since she was very young. After joining the Goodland Swim Club, she said, both she and her older brother Morgan decided not only were they good at the sport, but they liked it. Morgan swims for St. Bonaventure College in New York.

Rachael's parents, Mark and Sue Hagerman of Goodland, both got involved in their children's swimming careers. Mark became their coach and Sue was the transporter, she drove Rachael and Morgan each day to train at the swimming pool at Colby Community College. Since then, they have traveled to nearly every state for swim events.

"It was excellent family time," Sue

said of the swim club years. "We spent plenty of time in the van traveling to meets."

Rachael graduated from Goodland High School this spring. She said she was recruited by several colleges, but chose Michigan State.

"I wanted a place where I could succeed," she said.

Rachael swims the 50-yard freestyle, 100-yard freestyle and 100-yard butterfly, plus several relay teams. She was named Swimmer of the Week after placing first in a dual meet with the University of California-Irvine. In the 200-yard medley relay, she swam the final leg with a time of 1:47.48, and in the 200-yard freestyle, she swam the first leg in 1:40.70. She placed first in the 50-yard freestyle, her third title in the event this season.

Being a freshman, Rachael said, she has much to look forward to in her swimming career. She wants to swim in the 2004 and 2008 Olympics and will be trying out this summer. She said she needs to shave some time off of her events, but with hard work, she knows

she can do it.

Her training program includes morning and afternoon practice. In the afternoon, she said, the team does dry-land training, which includes running and weights. After the afternoon practice, there is a mandatory two-hour study hall for all athletes.

Rachael admits that with her classes and swimming, she doesn't have time for much else, but she enjoys what she is doing.

"I am very excited to be on a team like Michigan State," she said. "They are a great group of people."

She said she works with several coaches, including head coach Jim Lutz.

"Rachael is one of the most talented and gifted athletes that I have ever seen," Lutz said at the beginning of the year. "I think that she is going to open up some eyes this year. She was a high school champion in the hurdles and she is just very athletic all the way around."

Through the break, Rachael and her brother are continuing dryland workouts and swimming at the Colby College pool. Her next competition will be on Jan. 10, when Michigan State hosts Big 10 rival Northwestern.



Hagerman



Go Cowboys!

Goodland High Sports
We at Peoples State Bank want to wish all of our Goodland athletes a joyous new year.

Brought to you by:



Go Cowgirls!



Nebraska's sea of red will be a pond in Shreveport

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska fans typically go in droves to the football team's bowl game each year.

Not this year. For many reasons, few Cornhusker fans are heading to Shreveport, La., where Nebraska plays Mississippi in the Independence Bowl on Friday.

They blame the timing. They blame the economy. They blame a 7-6 season, the worst in 41 years.

Only 5,000 to 8,000 Husker fans are expected at the game, which comes two days after Christmas. Bowl organizers anticipated about 12,000 Husker fans at first.

About 20,000 to 25,000 Husker fans usually show for a bowl, said Marc

Shkolnick, associate executive director of the university's Alumni Association. Last year, about 60,000 showed for the Rose Bowl against Miami in Pasadena, Calif.

Of course, that was the Rose Bowl. This year, Shkolnick said, will be different.

"It won't be quite the sea of red," he said. "It'll be the pond of red."

Shawn Jones, an aerial crop sprayer from Benkelman, has gone to the Huskers' last four bowls. He won't go this year, but not because of the 7-6 season. He blamed the farm economy.

"You might say we splurged last year to go," Jones said. "And I didn't even plan on going this year — no matter

where they went."

Few local travel agencies are taking people to Shreveport. Bill Bennett, owner of Lincoln's Adventure Travel, said this is the first time in 25 years his company is not offering a bowl trip.

When he tried to round up 45 people for a bus package, he called his loyal customers. He ended up with 18 — not enough to make a go of it.

Shkolnick said the alumni association also canceled its trip. He had figured they'd have no problem finding at least 120 fans to charter a plane.

"I think we had only 20 or 25," he said. "I've been at the association nine years, and I haven't seen anything quite like this."

Glen Krupica, executive director of the Independence Bowl, said Husker fans shouldn't fear going at the last minute. Tickets and hotel rooms will be easy to get.

"We will paint the town red for you," he said.

Jean and Denny Lutt of Wayne flew to the Rose Bowl last year. This year, they're flying to South Carolina to play golf. If the Huskers were in a big bowl, she said, she and her husband most likely would have gone.

"The season was disappointing, with the turmoil of the coaches and different things," she said. "People just lost interest. There just wasn't the fire. It just wasn't all there this year."

bowls at a glance

By the Associated Press		Sun Bowl
Wednesday Las Vegas Bowl UCLA over New Mexico, 27-13	Hawaii Bowl Tulane over Hawaii, 36-28	At El Paso, Texas Washington (7-5) vs. Purdue (6-6), 12 p.m. (CBS)
Today Motor City Bowl At Detroit Toledo (9-4) vs. Boston College (8-4), 5 p.m. (ESPN)	Insight Bowl At Phoenix Oregon State (8-4) vs. Pittsburgh (8-4), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN)	Liberty Bowl At Memphis, Tenn. Colorado State (10-3) vs. TCU (9-2), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Friday Houston Bowl Southern Mississippi (7-5) vs. Oklahoma State (7-5), 1 p.m. (ESPN)	Independence Bowl At Shreveport, La. Nebraska (7-6) vs. Mississippi (6-6), 4:30 p.m. (ESPN)	Silicon Valley Classic At San Jose, Calif. Fresno State (8-5) vs. Georgia Tech (7-5), 1:30 p.m. (ESPN2)
Holiday Bowl At San Diego Kansas State (10-2) vs. Arizona State (8-5), 8 p.m. (ESPN)	Saturday Alamo Bowl At San Antonio Colorado (9-4) vs. Wisconsin (7-6), 6 p.m. (ESPN)	Peach Bowl At Atlanta Maryland (10-3) vs. Tennessee (8-4), 5:30 p.m. (ESPN)
Continental Tire Bowl At Charlotte, N.C. West Virginia (9-3) vs. Virginia (8-5), 9 a.m. (ESPN2)	Monday Music City Bowl At Nashville, Tenn. Minnesota (7-5) vs. Arkansas (9-4), 12 p.m. (ESPN)	San Francisco Bowl Air Force (8-4) vs. Virginia Tech (9-4), 8:30 p.m. (ESPN2)
Seattle Bowl Wake Forest (6-6) vs. Oregon (7-5), 3:30 p.m. (ESPN)	Tuesday Humanitarian Bowl At Boise, Idaho Iowa State (7-6) vs. Boise State (11-1), 10 a.m. (ESPN)	Wednesday Outback Bowl At Tampa, Fla. Michigan (9-3) vs. Florida (8-4), 9 a.m. (ESPN)
		Cotton Bowl At Dallas LSU (8-4) vs. Texas (10-2), 9 a.m. (FOX)
		Gator Bowl At Jacksonville, Fla. Notre Dame (10-2) vs. North Carolina State (10-3), 10:30 a.m. (NBC)
		Capital One Bowl At Orlando, Fla. Penn State (9-3) vs. Auburn (8-4), 11 a.m. (ABC)
		Rose Bowl At Pasadena, Calif. Washington State (10-2) vs. Oklahoma (11-2), 3 p.m. (ABC)
		Sugar Bowl At New Orleans Georgia (12-1) vs. Florida State (9-4), 6:30 p.m. (ABC)
		Thursday, Jan. 2 Orange Bowl At Miami Southern California (10-2) vs. Iowa (11-1), 6 p.m. (ABC)
		Friday, Jan. 3 Fiesta Bowl At Tempe, Ariz. Miami (12-0) vs. Ohio State (13-0), 6 p.m. (ABC)

K-State Wildcats having three-point success

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — With Gilson DeJesus leading the way, the Kansas State Wildcats are having success from 3-point range.

Having been given a green light by Kansas State coach Jim Wooldridge, DeJesus is taking 3-pointers, and no one has had much luck stopping him. The 6-foot-10 senior from Sao Paulo, Brazil, has made 34 of the 52 3-pointers he has taken this season — nearly 60 percent. Nobody in the nation with that many attempts can match his percentage, according to NCAA statistics.

"I always keep working. Practice. Then, in games, you should be ready," DeJesus said.

"I'm glad my teammates are passing

me the ball."

Kansas State guard Tim Ellis's advice to opponents?

"Don't leave him open."

But DeJesus' teammates are also having some success with 3-pointers. In their last four games, the Wildcats have made 61.5 percent of their threes. Overall, DeJesus leads Kansas State in scoring at 12.6 points a game. He averaged 6.2 last season.

The Wildcats (6-4) have won four games in a row — Kansas State's longest winning streak since Jim Wooldridge became head coach three years ago.

The Wildcats play Monmouth (1-5) on Sunday at Bramlage Coliseum.

bowling results

Thursday Night Mixed League
December 19, 2002
Lucky Horseshoes over The Blind Team 4-0
Not Again split with The Grannies and The Gramps 2-2
Sunamerica over The Loop 4-0
HoJo's over Weis Oil 3-1
Three Men & A Little Lady over Pirate Electric 4-0

Women's high game: Diana Nichols-207

Women's high series: Diana Nichols-513

Men's high game: Brent Wood-225
Men's high series: Brent Wood-631

Team high game: Sunamerica-826
Team high series: Sunamerica-2420

League Standings: No. 1 Sunamerica; **No. 2** The Grannies and The Gramps; **No. 3** Three Men & A Little Lady

Broncos quarterback Griese won't start against Arizona

DENVER (AP) — Brian Griese questioned his future with the Denver Broncos on Wednesday after learning he will not start at quarterback against Arizona even if his sprained left knee is healthy.

Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said Steve Beuerlein will start Sunday as Denver clings to slim play-off hopes. The news left Griese dejected and somber at his weekly news conference.

"I've always had passion for the game," Griese said.

"I wouldn't do this if I didn't have passion for the game. It's just that this isn't fun for me. I don't know who it would be fun for. I don't think that anybody in my situation would have a good time sitting here on Christmas talking about this kind of stuff. But that's my life, and so I'll find a way to go forward."

Shanahan said he made the decision based on Denver's 28-16 loss to Oakland on Sunday, and not on

how Griese fits into Denver's future plans.

The Broncos would've had a chance to win the AFC West had they beaten the Raiders, but fell behind 21-0 after Griese threw two interceptions in the first quarter.

His quarterback rating was 14.2 before Bill Romanowski knocked him out in the second quarter of the game.

Beuerlein threw for 288 yards and a touchdown in his place, leading the Broncos to 16 points before the Raiders pulled away.

"When a guy really steps up and performs like he did, and Brian didn't have one of his better games, I feel that it gives us the best chance to win by giving that person an opportunity to start," Shanahan said. "And we're talking about this game. You don't know anything beyond this game. My job is to give our football team the best chance to win this weekend."