

Orange and Black Classic Continues

The 18th Annual Orange and Black Classic continues in Colby today and Saturday. Games are played at Colby High School and at the Colby Community Building.

The Cowgirls defeated Ulysses on Thursday, and advance to play Brewster in the semi-finals today at 2:30 p.m. (Mountain Time) at the Community Building. The Cowboys lost to Scott City, and they play Liberal in the consolation bracket today at 4:15 p.m. at the high school.

Thursday's scores

Girls: Brewster 54, Beloit 40; Goodland 47, Ulysses 27; Scott City 51, McCook 41; Colby 74,

Liberal 49

Boys: Scott City 61, Goodland 53; Colby 67, Ulysses 50; Beloit 58, Liberal 56; Hays 72, McCook 64

Today's schedule

Community Building (Girls) game 5: Colby vs. Scott City, 6 p.m.; game 6: Goodland vs. Brewster, 2:30 p.m. **(Boys)** game 5: Colby vs. Hays, 7:45 p.m.; game 6: Beloit vs. Scott City, 4:15 p.m.

Colby High School

(Girls) game 7: Liberal vs. McCook, 6 p.m.; game 8: Ulysses vs. Beloit, 2:30 p.m. **(Boys)** game 7: Ulysses vs. McCook, 7:45 p.m.; game 8: Liberal vs. Goodland, 4:15 p.m.

Saturday schedule

Community Building

(Girls) game 9: winner of game 5 vs. winner of game 6, 5 p.m.; game 10: winner of game 7 vs. winner of game 8, 1 p.m. **(Boys)** game 9 - championship: winner of game 5 vs. winner of game 6, 7 p.m.; game 11 - third place: loser of game 5 vs. loser of game 6, 3 p.m.; game 12: loser of game 7 vs. loser of game 8, 11 a.m.

Colby High School

(Girls) game 11 - third place: loser of game 5 vs. loser of game 6, 3 p.m., game 12: loser of game 7 vs. loser of game 8, 11 a.m. **(Boys)** game 10: winner of game 7 vs. winner of game 8, 1 p.m.

Hall agrees on a five-year deal with Chiefs

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Kansas City wide receiver Dante Hall, who was named to the Pro Bowl this year as a kick returner, has signed a five-year contract with the Chiefs, the team announced Thursday. The terms of the deal were not released.

"We are very glad to be able to consummate this agreement with Dante," said Chiefs President Carl Peterson. "He is very deserving of this extension and his Pro Bowl invitation speaks very highly to that

fact. Dante has done everything we have asked of him, including going to NFL Europe to learn how to be a wide receiver and an outstanding returner.

"Obviously, knowing we will have Dante for five years makes our special teams better and adds a valuable and talented wide receiver to our team."

The 5-foot-8, 187-pound Hall established team single-season records this year with 57 kickoff returns for 1,354 yards, an average

of 23.8 yards, with one touchdown. The three-year veteran also returned 29 punts for 390 yards, a 13.4 average, with two touchdowns.

On Dec. 1, Hall returned a career-best six punts for 128 yards against Arizona, including a team-record 90-yard touchdown return. The next week against St. Louis, he returned an 88-yard kickoff for a score and an 86-yard punt for a touchdown — becoming the first player in team history to return two kicks for scores in the same game.

Gannon ready to face old coach

SAN DIEGO (AP) — When Jon Gruden left the Oakland Raiders for Tampa Bay last February, Rich Gannon got a call from Buccaneers quarterback Brad Johnson, asking for tips on his new coach.

"I think I did a pretty good job breaking that down for him," Gannon said with a rare grin.

If Gannon had known Johnson would be his counterpart in the Super Bowl on Sunday at 4:25 p.m., he might not have been so forthcoming.

Nobody knows Gruden's version of the West Coast offense better than Gannon, and no quarterback has been more successful in the scheme that's run by a third of the NFL's teams. Gannon threw for 4,689 yards this season — the first 4,000-yard season in Raiders' history and the highest total by any West Coast quarterback.

He passed and rushed the Raiders into the Super Bowl with a poise built on preparation and a will stoked by desperation.

Nearly nine years after he was out of football with an injured shoulder and few prospects, Gannon is the league's most valuable player, and he's ready for his first Super Bowl.

"He's been through some dark times," said Raiders offensive coordinator Marc Trestman, who has worked with Gannon on two other teams. "That's why he doesn't take any moment for granted now. He knows how precious an NFL career is. It's like being young: You've got to use every moment you get."

The Raiders' late-blooming star literally can't sit still under the pressures of celebrity, however. At a Super Bowl interview session on Thursday, he answered questions with his playbook balanced on his fidgeting knee.

Gannon prefers to spend early mornings working out and late nights watching film by himself, which endeared him to the workaholic Gruden. Coach Bill Callahan thinks Gannon knows more of Oakland's offense by heart than any NFL quarterback knows any offense.

"This guy here is the complete package," Buccaneers defensive tackle Warren Sapp said. "He's been seasoned. He was a great athlete when he first walked into this league. Now he's become a great student of the game and knows everything about it."

"When you face a guy like this, there is no way to rattle him off his game. You just have to go play him, and sometimes the best isn't good enough."

After three teams, including the Kansas City Chiefs, essentially gave up on him, Al Davis and Gruden grabbed Gannon in 1999 and gave him the controls to a complicated offense dependent on the quarterback's savvy. That trust has been rewarded: With a changing cast of coaches and receivers during his four seasons in Oakland, Gannon has passed for 15,787 yards and 105 touchdowns.

"When I came to Oakland, I felt like I was finally going to get the chance I'd always thought I had earned," Gannon said. "I wanted to be part of a team that trusted me to get it done. This team and Al Davis and Jon Gruden gave that trust, and we've become a good club. That's all I wanted."

Gannon determined not to allow his superstar status to set him apart from his teammates. His age (37) and his Spartan approach to preparation make him different enough already.

"His work ethic is unmatched by anybody, he doesn't get tired over the mental aspects of this job. You see that dedication in coaching staffs, but it's so rare in a player."

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