

Off to State!



The Goodland Cowboys wrestling team assembled Thursday morning as fans, friends, and family gave them a send-off at Max Jones Fieldhouse. Goodland High Cheerleaders, including

Jocelyn Lucas, decorated the vehicles the wrestlers took to Wichita. Matches start today and continue Saturday at the Kansas Coliseum. Photos by Darrel Pattillo/The Goodland Star-News

Grapplers know the ropes

By Darrel Pattillo
The Goodland Star-News

Experience. You can't beat it. At least that's what the Goodland High wrestling team hopes, with five of the eight Cowboys going to Wichita this weekend being state veterans.

"And four of those five placed last year," coach Randy Bahe said. "And experience counts, especially this time, because all of the guys are going to be wrestling against guys they've never seen."

Cold, snowy weather didn't stop dozens of well-wishers from gathering at Max Jones Fieldhouse on Thursday morning to see the wrestling team off to Wichita. The lobby filled with people there to wish the wrestlers good luck. Grandmothers gave hugs and kisses, while the men shook hands with the team and moms fussed over their boys. Younger siblings took the opportunity to make themselves seen and heard. The Cowboy Cheerleaders worked their artistry on the two



Suburbans the team travels in. As the group of people gathered near the vehicles, the Goodland Ambassadors handed out their traditional send-off goodies: sacks filled with fruit and nutritional snacks.

Last year in Wichita, Dexter Deeds took fourth at 103 pounds. This year, the sophomore, at 15-9, is the No. 2 seed.

Junior Blayze Bahe took second last year at 112 pounds, and he's moved up to 119 this year. His record is 26-6.

Taylor Brack, a senior, took fourth last year at 152 pounds. This year, he's 28-6 and he's the seventh

seed at 160 pounds.

And junior Jordan Bedore, the defending state champion at 215 pounds, goes into the tournament the No. 1 seed at 215 with a 25-1 record, after pinning his way through the regionals.

"I'm pretty confident this year," Bedore said this morning as the wrestling team was preparing to leave for Wichita, "but not over-confident."

Senior Matthias Goodley, wrestling at 130 pounds, is the fifth returning Cowboy. He's 20-16 this year. Going to state for the first time are Chad Normandin, at 7-9,

at 103 pounds; Dustin Klinge, 26-12, at 140 pounds; and Landon West, 20-19, 189 pounds.

"I'm extremely happy to be going this year," coach Bahe said, "because of the way the kids wrestled during the regional. They are ready to have a great tournament."

The wrestling got underway at 9 a.m. today and continues Saturday at the Kansas Coliseum in Wichita. Need directions? Go to Salina, take I-135 south to Wichita. You can't miss the Coliseum; it's right off of the interstate at Exit 17 just before you get to the city.

Cowboys lose last regular game to Norton boys

By Darrel Pattillo
The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland Cowboys let a 10-point lead slip away in the final minutes of regulation play Tuesday night in Norton, then fell short in overtime, suffering a 73-69 loss to the Blue Jays to finish the regular season.

"We played good for 30 minutes," Coach Jon McLean said, "then let it slip the last two minutes. It's disappointing to lose, but I still thought we played well."

It was a hard-fought game all the way, with the teams tied at 18 after one quarter. The score at the half was 34-31 Goodland. After three quarters, Goodland was up by six points, and the Cowboys led by 10 with two minutes left.

That's when Norton turned up the pressure, and the Cowboys experienced what all teams experience at one time or another: A massive shift in momentum where anything can happen for the team on top. Norton tied the game with a free throw with a few seconds left, then out-scored the Cowboys 10-6 in overtime.

"When you lose momentum," McLean said, "you lose a lot. Norton really got after us on the press. Everything was going right for them, and nothing was going right for us."

The Cowboys (13-7) got production from everyone who played, McLean said.

"All eight players gave us something," he said. "Jared Doke came in off the bench and gave us 10 points and 3 rebounds. (Aaron)

Gittinger gave us eight points and seven assists. Everyone contributed."

Scoring and rebounds for the Cowboys: Doke, 10 points and three rebounds; Gittinger, eight points, seven assists, four rebounds; Jace Herl, five points and five rebounds; Bobby Miller, 12 points and five rebounds; Don Raymer, 17 points and eight rebounds; Kris Rubio, six points and three rebounds; Kevin Schulte, two points and a rebound; and Lance Tedford, nine points and three rebounds.

The Cowboys are the No. 4 seed and will play at home Monday night in the first round of the Class 4A sub-state tournament. They'll take on Hugoton at 5:15 p.m. at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

"We've already beaten Hugoton a couple of times this year," McLean said, but we're not going to take them for granted. This is sub-state basketball now, and anything can happen.

"The team is playing good basketball, and this is the time of year that I want them to be playing good."

If they get past Hugoton, they'll play either Larned (14-5) or Concordia (8-11) Thursday night at the Colby Community Building.

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Cowgirls beat Blue Jays despite rally

The Goodland Cowgirls held off a determined Norton squad to win 58-49 Tuesday night in Norton.

Senior Anny McCoy played just 16 minutes, but led the Cowgirls with 21 points. Jayci Stone scored 18 points, including three baskets from downtown. Jessica Osborn also scored in double figures, with 11 points.

"I'm glad the girls played well," said Cowgirl coach Connie Liven-good. "Now it's time to get ready for sub-state."

The Cowgirls had a 12-point lead at halftime, 36-24, but came out cold and scored only six points in the third quarter. Fortunately, Norton scored just four, before exploding for 21 points in the final stanza. Goodland scored 16 in the fourth to hold the win.

Also scoring for the Cowgirls were Whitney Carmichael, Kendra Billinger, Stephanie Fairbanks and Cortney Schields had two each.

The Cowgirls improved to 15-5 for the year, and secured the No. 4 seed in the sub-state tournament for their game with Pratt. That will be at 6 p.m. Mountain Time Tuesday at Hays High School. The game is at Hays, rather than Goodland, because Pratt, the lower-seeded team, is more than 150 miles distant, and Hays is roughly halfway.

"It's a little frustrating," Liven-

Go Cowboys!

Goodland High Sports This Week:

Cowboys Wrestling State wrestling tournament Friday and Saturday in Wichita. Go Cowboys!
Cowgirls & Cowboys Basketball First round of Class 4A sub-state tournament
Cowboys vs. Hugoton, Monday, 6:15 p.m. at Max Jones Fieldhouse
Cowgirls vs. Pratt, Tuesday, 6 p.m. at Hays High School

Brought to you by:

Go Cowgirls!

good said. "We earned the right to have the game at home, and to not have that home-court advantage is a little disappointing."

Pratt (7-12) is going to be a tough

team for the Cowgirls, Liven-good said.

"They're a great defensive team," she said. "They get around on the floor pretty good. It's going

to be tough."

If the Cowgirls beat Pratt, they'll play either Larned or Hugoton next Friday night at the Colby Community Building.

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