



Spring sports get underway in Goodland

By Darrel Pattillo

The Goodland Star-News
Spikes, spikes, spikes ... and slams!

It's time for spring sports, and that means track spikes, golf spikes, softball spikes, and overhead slams on the tennis courts, as over 200 students from Goodland High School and Grant Junior High take advantage of this week's warm weather to get started with the spring sports season.

The seventh and eight grade track programs are popular at Grant.

"We usually get around 100 kids to go out for track," says Principal Jim Mull. "They love to get outside and compete."

Mustang track coaches this year are Greg Craig, Mary Kratky, and Dave Hardy.

High School Track

At Goodland High, the track squad has 43 kids out, 27 boys and 15 girls. Co-head coach Dennis Stone said that five of the seven boys who medaled last year at state will be back this year. Two of the girls who won medals will be back as well.

The numbers are down a little this year, Stone said.

"Our sophomore and freshman classes are a little smaller than normal," he said.

Track season opens on April 5 in Ogallala, Neb.

Girls' Softball

The Cowgirls are returning all but



Above, track coach Dennis Stone worked with the track team while below Cowboy junior David Griffith worked with an instruction club as golf coach J.D. Hooper looked on.

one player from last year's team, with seven seniors playing.

"It's looking pretty good," said coach Terry Daise. "We going to be pretty experienced."

The Cowgirl softball team beat Colby in the regional tournament last year, then lost to Hugoton, ending their season with a 10-10 record.

"I think we'll be able to improve on that a little this year," Daise said, "even though our schedule is a little tougher this year, with Hays and Garden City."

Tami Bean and Ryan Scheopner

are the assistant coaches.

The Cowgirls travel to Syracuse to open the softball season on March 25.

Boys' Golf

The boys' golf team came in fourth at the league tournament and eighth at regionals last year.

J.D. Hooper is back as coach. A former head golf coach, Hooper has been the assistant coach for several years, and assumes head coaching duties this year as Steve Raymer takes over as activities director.

"We've got 21 kids out this year,"

Hooper said. "We've got a lot of kids coming back, like Ian Scherling, and Dexter Deeds, and Derrick Raymer. We've got quite a bit of experience, and the kids are ready to go."

Boys' Tennis

The boys' tennis team ended its season last year in the opening round of the regional tournament, and has 14 players out this spring.

The tennis squad is just now starting practices, said coach Jerry McKee, because the first matches aren't until April and he wants the players to be fresh.

"I don't want them tired of tennis already by the time matches start," he said.

The junior varsity plays first, on April 7 in Garden City. The varsity will open in Larned on April 15.

Kids Wrestling Club gears up for events at sub-district meet

The Goodland Wrestling Club wrestled in tournaments in Atwood, Oberlin, and Scott City the last few weeks, in preparation for sub-districts Saturday.

In Atwood on Feb. 22, James Dinkel and Ian Bosnell both took first in the 6 and under bracket, Dinkel at 49 pounds and Bosnell at 73 pounds. Eight and under participants were Jed Gray at 55 pounds, Mikail Freeman at 64 pounds, and Courtney Daxon and Nathaniel Smith at 76 pounds.

Tim Roeder was first in 10 and under 82 pounds; at 12 and under, Bryan Gray came in second at 80 pounds, and at heavyweight, Bob Daxon took first.

The club split up last Saturday, sending one squad to Oberlin and another to Scott City.

At Oberlin, eight wrestlers competed, with Josh David wrestling at 43 pounds and John Peden taking first at 61 pounds. Both wrestled age 6 and under.

At 8 and under, Tyler Fisher took second at 95 pounds.

In the 10 and under division, Jaron Ragels wrestled at 61 pounds. Erik Roeder took first at 82 pounds.

At 16 and under, Blake Saint took second at 145 pounds, Josh Perez wrestled at 150, and Brandon Cowan was first at 175 pounds.

Thirty wrestlers traveled to Scott City, and in the 6 and under group, Kelbey Smith was third at 37 pounds and Gabriel Ladesma was second at 64 pounds.

At 8 and under, Austin Avelar was

second at 52 pounds. Also wrestling at 52 pounds were Brook Bahe and Jed Gray, who took second in a 'B' match. Nathaniel Smith wrestled at 76 pounds, Taylen Smith nabbed fourth at 88 pounds, and Layne Herl was first at 95 pounds.

Wrestling in the 10 and under age bracket, Seth Miller was third at 64 pounds, Tim Roeder was second at 82 pounds, Chance Davis was second at 85 pounds, Nathan Deeds took second at 90 pounds, and Paul Starr was first at 95 pounds.

Ten wrestlers competed at 12 and under: Bryan Grey was first at 76 pounds, Preston Dautel was third at 88 pounds, Michael Ladesma was first at 92 pounds, Andrew Miller was second at 92, Ben Davis was third at 96 pounds, Keegan Smith was fourth at 96, A.J. Stephens took first at 105 pounds, Forrrest Trachsel was second at 105, T.J. Hawkins was first 130 pounds, and Nick Smith took second at 150 pounds..

In the 14 and under, Grant Wilkens grabbed a third place at 80 pounds, Jordan Albers took first at 85 pounds, Aaron Deeds was third at 100 pounds, Justin Holloway was second at 115 pounds, Michael Garrison was third at 125 pounds, Brandon Hatfield was second at 140 pounds, and Mark Starr was first at 175 pounds.

The kids will wrestle in Colby on Saturday at the sub-district tournament, starting at 8 a.m. (Mountain Time) at the Colby Community Building.

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Spring soccer, T-ball and more keep activities center hopping

Hundreds of kids are dusting off their soccer cleats as the Goodland Activities Center gears up for the spring season.

Administrator Donna Terry said that over 240 kids are signed up and teams are being assembled now.

"We use a blind draft to make up the teams," she said. "The coaches don't know which kids are going to be on their team."

Twenty-four teams are being chosen in the draft, and the kids will start practicing next week.

"Our first games are scheduled

for March 31," Terry said.

The league will play its games at North School, which has room for two soccer fields.

In other programs, Terry said, Tae Kwan Do classes are available, with new classes beginning every month.

"We used to have an eight-week cycle," Terry said, "but we changed it so more people could participate."

Two T-ball leagues are preparing for sign-ups, which begin April 1. One will be a little less structured than the other.

"Games start in June," Terry said,

"so it's not really that far in advance."

"One is for kids that are ready to start learning the rules and stuff."

Aerobics classes are available at the center, and a dance class is underway, but enrollment is closed.

"We have a recital coming up on May 31," Terry said.

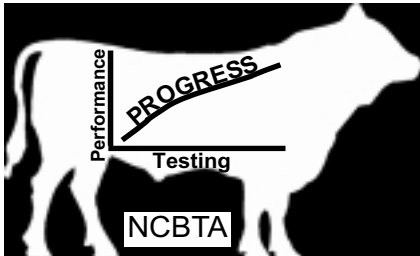
volleyball

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