

Cowboy football team ready to get soapy start to season

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland Cowboys are practicing in nearly 100-degree heat, taking water breaks every 10-15 minutes, for the first week to get ready for the upcoming season.

The team will take on Northwest Kansas League opponents Hoxie, St. Francis, Atwood, Oakley, Oberlin and Colby, and district opponents Ulysses and Scott City, plus Holcomb, and that should make for an exciting season.

Fans will get their first chance to watch the Cowboys at their annual "Soap Scrimmage" at 5 p.m. Thursday at Cowboy Stadium. The admission price for the scrimmage is one or more bars of soap for the high school athletes to use in the showers for the school year.

The team's opening game will be against a league opponent, Hoxie, at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 5, at Cowboy Stadium in Goodland.

The Northwest Kansas League will be tough this year, Coach Tony Diehl said.

"I think any one of five or six teams could win the league," he said.

And with Ulysses and Scott City, he said, the district is tough, too, but the Cowboys have been busy preparing for the challenge.

"It's been a really good week so far," Diehl said. "Everyone was out that I thought would be."

The team's execution isn't there yet, he said last week, but the boys are further along than at this time last year. The Cowboys made some changes last year, Diehl's first coaching the team.

They ended the season with a 5-5 record and advanced to the playoffs. The coach said the players are used to those changes now and should be able to make more progress this year.

Everyone's familiar with the system and expectations, he said, and the team can take another step forward.

The team will have a different looks on defense this year, Diehl said, and will do some things on offense to be more balanced.

The team needs to work on execution, he said, learning these few new wrinkles, and on working together and, from a psychological standpoint, dealing with expectations.

The Cowboys are strong at the skill positions, the coach said, and some good new players have come out.

The team should have strong leadership, with 15 returning lettermen, including the four team captains, Jordan Bedore, Jared Doke, Brock Lohr and Ian Scherling.

A 6-foot, 4-inch, 251-pound senior, Bedore will play fullback. He rushed for 1,281 yards on 223 carries last year and was a team captain.

He was a first-team running back on the Northwest Kansas League all-league team and also a first team All-State running back.

Doke, a 6-foot, 1-inch, 174-pound senior, will return as quarterback. He rushed for 372 yards on 93 carries last year and was 24 of 69 for 338 yards passing. He also was a captain last year.

Lohr, a 6-foot, 1-inch, 207-pound junior, will play wing back; and Ian Scherling, a 5-foot, 10-inch, 171-pound senior, will return as tight end and quarterback.

Bobby Miller, a 6-foot, 1-inch, 213-pound sophomore will play tailback. He rushed for 925 yards on 129 carries and was All-Northwest Kansas League second team running back last year.

Jake Johnson, a 5-foot, 9-inch, 203-pound junior, will return as center; Mark Starr, a 6-foot, 3-inch, 196-pound sophomore, will return at tackle; and Derrick Raymer, a 6-foot, 1-inch, 184-pound junior, will return as tight end and quarterback.

Drew Wilkens, a 5-foot, 10-inch, 155-pound junior will return as split

end. He had seven catches for 103 yards last year.

Other returning lettermen on offense are Anthony Benavides, a 5-foot, 9-inch, 158-pound junior, at split end and wing back; Brandon Cowan, a 6-foot, 202-pound junior, and Bret Jarmin, a 6-foot, 2-inch, 177-pound junior at offensive lineman; and Dave Livengood, a 5-foot, 11-inch, 169-pound junior at split end and wing back. Dan Melia, a 5-foot, 10-inch, 148-pound senior, and Malcom White, a 5-foot, 8-inch, 140-pound senior, will play tail back.

Other returning players are Kris Krayca, a 6-foot, 3-inch, 245-pound senior, and Brady Nelson, a 6-foot, 1-inch, 157-pound sophomore, at offensive lineman.

Joining them will be newcomers Brock Abbey, a 6-foot, 240-pound senior, at offensive lineman; Jake Alander, a 5-foot, 9-inch, 135-pound junior, at split end; Matt Heiter, a 6-foot, 4-inch, 264-pound senior.

John Mosbarger, a 5-foot, 9-inch, 186-pound freshman; Blake Saint, a 5-foot, 10-inch, 153-pound junior, and Mike Zimmerman, a 5-foot, 10-inch, 183-pound senior, all at offensive lineman.

Returning defensive starters are Bedore, last year's leading tackler, at linebacker; Benavides and Dexter Deeds, a 5-foot, 6-inch, 140-pound junior, at nose guard; White at nose guard.

Doke at defensive end; Lohr, second leading tackler last year, at line backer; Miller at safety; Scherling at cornerback; Starr at defensive tackle; and Wilkens at cornerback.

Other players to watch on defense are Abbey at defensive lineman; Alander at defensive back; Cowan at lineman; Heiter at defensive lineman; Jase Herl, a 5-foot, 11-inch, 165-pound sophomore, at safety.

Jarmin at defensive end; Johnson at defensive lineman; Krayca at defensive lineman; Livengood at defensive end; Melia at cornerback; Mosbarger at defensive lineman; Nelson and Raymer at linebacker; Saint at defensive lineman; Winter at cornerback; and Zimmerman at defensive lineman.



The Cowboys practiced sacking their own quarterback in 98-degree heat Wednesday. Goodland players will compete against each other during the annual Soap Scrimmage on Thursday, and the season will begin at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 5, at home against Hoxie.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Tennis scrimmage planned

The Goodland Cowgirls tennis team has been practicing about a week and will have a sports drink scrimmage at 4 p.m. Thursday at Steever Park.

The admission price for the scrimmage is a bottle or more of any type of sports drink to keep the athletes hydrated during the sports season.

matters of record

District Traffic

The following traffic fines were paid in the district court:

Aug. 20—Dovirs S. Williams, 23, of Columbus, Mo., was fined \$249 for 4,700 over on tandem.

Bonnie M. Searcy, 35, of Wheatridge, Colo., was fined \$360 for driving while suspended.

Brandon D. Bolen, 19, of Sharon Springs was fined \$259 for

exhibition of speed.

Amanda M. Schuster, 19, of Highland Ranch, Colo., was fined \$240 for speeding in a construction zone, 80/60.

Aug. 21—Eric Gasper-Perez Jr., 20, of Camp Pendleton, Calif., was fined \$330 for speeding, 106/70.

Aug. 22—James L. Dunn, 44, of St. Francis was fined \$120 for speeding, 80/65, and \$20 for no child restraint.

Brewster All-Star Booster Club

August 26 - September 3, 2003

August 26 - Dinner 6 p.m.; Freedom and Western Kansas Liberty League meeting at Oakley 7 p.m.

September 1 - No School

September 2 - Varsity and junior varsity volleyball at Grinnell 3:30 p.m.

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