

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News Four Cowgirls and four Cowboys returned to the Goodland High cross country team this fall, giving Coach Don Smith reason to believe he will see an improved team this year.

They get their first taste of competition Thursday as they hold the Goodland Invitational meet at Sugar Hills Golf Club. Races begin at 4 p.m. in two divisions. Freshmen and sophomores will run first, followed by the varsity.

"We have invited nine teams," Coach Smith said. "It will be a good meet, and give us an early indication of where we are."

Looking at the girls, Smith said he was glad to see the return the four girls from last year, including Kalie Smith from Sharon Springs. She joined senior Charlie Short, coming up every day after school for practice. This year they are joined by Mara Sloan, a freshman. There is no cross country program in Sharon Springs, so the girls will participate with the Goodland team until the regional competition, when they have to run in their own class.

Short is one of the returning girls Smith is looking to for improvement and leadership. The other returning letter winners are Tiffany Thomas and Chelsea Ontiveroz. sophomores, who should show continued improvement. Thomas has



been running quite a bit over the summer, and was the fastest of the girls at the demonstration run on

Thursday. The coach said he thinks Smith and Thomas are probably the fastest on the team. They seem to have a natural running style, he said, and should do well this year.

is Whitney Dautel, the lone freshman from Goodland.

"I am pleased to have the new freshmen girls," Coach Smith said. "We have a very small team compared to may schools, but we have a dedicated group."

Turning to the Cowboys, Coach Smith said he is pleased to have four returning runners led by Espiririon (Speedy) Aguilar, a senior.

Last year, Aguilar qualified for state and finished 21st in the Class 4A state cross country championship at Wamego, one place below the all-state ranking.

Coach Smith said he was disappointed that none of the boys did much running during the summer, and it will take time to see improvement during the season. Aguilar was the fastest of the runners at the demonstration on Thursday.

Other returning lettermen include Daniel Blake and Craig Mason, both juniors, and Brandon Zelfer, sophomore.

New faces on the Cowboys team are Zach Breininger, sophomore; James Cearley, junior; and freshmen Douglas Eddleman, Kerek Mason and Kyler Knobbe, who is from Sharon Springs.

Looking ahead to the season, Smith said he believes with the returning lettermen, the boys will be competitive.

"We are hurt by the numbers be-The other team member this year cause we have such a small team," he said. "We have to stay healthy and away from injuries."

The coach said it takes seven varsity runners to compete as a team in a meet, and with nine on the boys, there is not much margin. On the girls' side, where there are only seven, he said, they will be short at the end of the season because they will lose the three girls from Sharon Springs in regional competition.



Charlie Short (right) and Chelsea Ontiveroz ran in the Soap Scrimmage demonstration Thursday for the Cowgirls Cross Country team. Short, a senior, is one of three girls and a boy who travel from Sharon Springs every day to practice with the Cowgirls. Ontiveroz, a sophomore, is in her second year of cross country. The team's first meet is at 4 p.m. Thursday when they host the Goodland Invitational at Sugar Hills Golf Club. Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

Cowboys show fans football skills

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News Goodland football fans gathered Thursday for a giant barbecue and their first chance to see the Cowboys play for the 2003 season.

The gold-jerseyed Cowboys took on the black-jersey squad in the annual Soap Scrimmage while the Black and Gold Booster Club served 200 hamburgers at \$2 for the full-meal deal and held the club's annual membership drive. Food and supplies for the barbecue were donated by area businesses.

The team will play their first game at 6:30 p.m. Friday at Cowboy Stadium against the Hoxie Indians.

The team and fans braved the heat and humidity, and the Cowbovs showed their skills between jersev changes. They remained a team united even while competing against each other.

miles at 6 n m and the boys ran at sacrifices.

this time last year.

The team is strong at the skill po- in the homecoming game. sitions, Diehl said, and has some good new players.

The Cowboys also have 15 returning lettermen, including All-State running back Jordan Bedore; a returning team captain, quarterback Jared Doke; and All-Northwest Kansas League running back Bobby Miller.

Goodland has been trying some new things on defense, the coach said, and is working on a more balanced offense.

The coach said he is emphasizing playing well and working together over numbers on the scoreboard.

"The wins and losses," he said. "I don't put as much importance on The cross country girls provided that as playing well, working toa break from football, running two gether, being unselfish and making

the challenge. The team fell to the will play at Holcomb at 6:30 p.m. Indians 26-14 last year in the sea- Friday, Sept. 12; at St. Francis at 6:30 son opener in Hoxie, but Diehl said p.m. Friday, Sept. 19; Atwood 6:30 the boys are further along than at p.m. Friday, Sept. 26 at home; and Oakley at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3,

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Everything For a Picnic but the ants



7 p.m., allowing the football team to hide out in the shade.

The Cowboys will face their first Northwest Kansas League opponent Friday. The Indians are great at skill positions, Cowboy Coach Tony Diehl said, have good speed and a recent winning tradition.

The team has the typical western Kansas grittiness, the coach said, which will make them a tough opponent, but the Cowboys are up for

"I want our players to play without worrying about the scoreboard.'

Last year's Cowboys improved in playing ability over the previous year's team, he said, and it showed on the scoreboard, with Goodland finishing 5-5 compared to the previous year's 0-10.

"We can take another step forward this year," Diehl said. Following Hoxie, the Cowboys

Brewster All-Star Booster Club

September 3 - September 9, 2003 September 5 - Football against Tribune 7:30 p.m.

September 6 - Volleyball at Healy 9 a.m.

September 8 - Junior varsity football at Tribune 6 p.m., 4-H meeting at Hunter Hall 7:30 p.m.

September 9 - Volleyball at Weskan 3 p.m.

