

Girls golf team sets high goals for their season

By Shannon Davidson

The Goodland Star-News
Early mornings and strong ambition. That's this year's Goodland High Cowgirls' golf team.

The team voted to have 6 a.m. practices through the heat of the first two weeks. Practice then went to 3:45 p.m. each day.

The team has 12 players, two seniors, five juniors, two sophomores and three freshman.

"It's fun to have such a big team in a sport that the girls can take with them throughout their lives," said Coach Connie Livengood.

There will be an extra junior varsity tournament this year in Ullyses, to make a total of three tournaments for younger girls to compete in.

"It is nice to have the additional tournament to encourage them to keep playing after all their hard work," said Coach Livengood.

The varsity players will compete in eight tournaments, plus regional and — hopefully — state.

September will be busy for the golfers. The Goodland tournament has been moved up a week to Tuesday. The teams will tee-off at 2 p.m. at Sugar Hills Golf Club.

The Cowgirls kicked off the season Thursday at Trego County.

The team will go to Hays on Sept. 16 for a tournament at Thomas More Prep. The team will go to Scott City on Sept. 25, and to Lakin on Oct. 4. The final season tournament of will be at Syracuse on Oct. 9.

The regional golf tournament will be held Oct. 13, and state golf will be Oct. 20.

Coach Livengood said she is going to encourage more competition among the girls to help build up the team's level of play.

"This doesn't allow them the chance to slack or take which team they are on for granted," said Livengood.

The players will compete in challenge matches, and Coach Livengood will use average scores to determine who plays on junior varsity or varsity for each tournament.

"The girls have set some good goals for themselves," she said, "and I'm excited to see those goals get met."

One freshman has just picked up the sport and purchased a set of clubs, the coach said. Her progress is showing with only two practices down, the coach said.

"We should be very competitive this year," she said, "and are expecting great things out of our juniors and all of the girls."



The Cowgirl Golf Team for 2003 Seniors Jessica Osborn and Kayla Rasure; juniors Emily Burkett, Amy Cebula, Bailee Guyer, Kelsey Leiker, Ana McClung; sophomores Julie Leiker and Samantha

Philbrick; freshmen Hannah Burkett, Stephanie Sheldon, Amber Webster and Brooke Whitmore. Coach Connie Livengood. Photos by Shannon Davidson / The Goodland Star-News

'Dandy Dozen plus One' begin extra busy tennis season



The Cowgirls Tennis Team for 2003 Seniors Trista Lalicker, Kristen Lammers, Megan McCall and Jennifer Mentzer; juniors Grace Langness and Shannon Showalter; sophomores May Davis, Kali

Rietcheck, Megan Stefan and Brianna Taylor; freshmen Sandy Johnson, Jessica Lu, Jena McCall and Jillian Parker. Coach Wallace Hansen.

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News

The "Dandy Dozen plus One" plan to tear through tennis courts across western Kansas to earn a place at the state tournament in October.

Coach Wallace Hansen said the Cowgirls tennis team is looking forward to a good season this year, with three seniors and two juniors to lead the 13-girl team. The girls program is in its fourth season, the coach said, and hopefully it's ready to bear fruit.

The first week of the season will be busy, Hansen said, with three invitational tournaments. The first was Thursday at Larned and the team will be in Colby on Saturday. Tuesday they will be in Tribune, and in Norton on Saturday, Sept. 13.

The biggest is Garden City, he said, which usually has 12 teams. The varsity home invitational will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 16, he said, and will have six teams. The junior varsity tournament will be at 3 p.m. the following Tuesday, Sept. 23.

The Cowgirls tennis team comprises three seniors, Trista Lalicker, Megan McCall and Jennifer Mentzer; two juniors, Grace Langness and Shannon Showalter; four sophomores, May Davis, Kali Rietcheck, Brianna Taylor and Megan Stefan; and four freshmen, Sandy Johnson, Jessica Lu, Jena

McCall and Jillian Parker.

"I call them the Dandy Dozen," Hansen said at the beginning. "There's exactly 12."

Another girl joined the team last week so now it is the Dandy Dozen plus One.

Their big goal is to qualify for state, Hansen said. Megan McCall and Mentzer were just shy of qualifying last year, he said, and the doubles team was fifth last year, he said, and the top four went to state.

Parker and Showalter will probably be the singles players on varsity, Hansen said, but there are several in the running for varsity doubles. The coach said he doesn't want to pinpoint a leader for varsity yet, hoping the girls will continue to work hard, trying to earn the spot.

The team has been working on footwork and movement, the coach said, and of course, racket control.

The Dandy Dozen have been working on strategy for both singles and doubles, Hansen said, and on serves. Strategy plays a big role, he said, especially in doubles. Things to think about, he said, are where to play on the court, whether to play the net and the angles.

Team chemistry is also important, he said; doubles players need to communicate well with their partners.

It's a fun group, Hansen said, and they are all good students. It's a pleasure to work with them.

The team had morning practices in the first week to beat the heat, Hansen said, and has not suffered too much in the afternoon, since the sun is at an enough of an angle by 4 p.m. that it's not too bad.

The Cowgirls and Colby are the only two schools in the Northwest Kansas League with tennis teams. Their main competition, he said, will come from Colby, Scott City, Garden City and Tribune. The girls will see those teams at most of their events, he said.

The Cowgirls had a varsity meet Tuesday, at Phillipsburg. A junior varsity meet Thursday, at Scott City and a varsity meet at 8 a.m. Saturday, in Colby.

Varsity meets for the rest of the season are at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, at Norton; the home meet Tuesday, Sept. 16; at 7 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 27, at Garden City; at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 30, at Colby; and at noon Thursday, Oct. 9, at Scott City.

Volleyball a faster game

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in former seasons. The cut backs in coaching and the economy have been the main result of cut backs in the team and less players.

There are five returning letterman, three of whom will be starters along with two first-team all leaguers. McKee said 14 girls have played with club teams.

"We are really excited about this season," said assistant coach Barb Bedore. "We have a good group of seniors. Our first morning practice went really well. The girls have good goals set for themselves."

One of the goals Coach McKee has is that he wants to see the girls make state this season.



Emily Linden, 2, Ashley Cebula, 3, Emily Murray, 10, Nicolette Clancy, 12, Shandel Simon, 13, Alicia Studer, 16, Nicole David, 17, Lindsay Schields, 19, Whitney Archer, 21, Kaylee Billinger, 22,

Amber Cowan, 23, Dani Bedore, 27, and Tanae Garrett, 34. Managers Kristi Boyce and Abby Murray. Coach Jerry McKee and assistant coaches Barb Bedore and Char Avila.

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