

Cowboys' stand stops Plainsmen, 28-27

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Star-News
The Goodland Cowboys beat the Oakley Plainsmen 28-27 by a matter of feet Friday in a battle that was decided just before the final minute.

Emotions were running high on and off the field as the Cowboys faced off against the Plainsmen in the Cowboys' homecoming match.

Despite the festivities, the Cowboys managed to focus on the game, and they needed to. Oakley, a fellow Northwest Kansas League competitor, put up quite a fight.

Goodland came out strong, putting up a 14-point lead before the middle of the second quarter, but Oakley fought back, making the second half a tug-of-war between the two teams.

If not for stopping the Plainsmen two feet from the goal line on a crucial two-point conversion with only 1:07 left on the clock, the Cowboys would have needed a last-minute score to avoid losing by a point.

"What a game!" Coach Tony Diehl said.

The top three teams in the league, Goodland, Atwood and Oakley, are separated by three points, he said. The Cowboys lost to Atwood by one point last week, Oakley lost to Atwood by one and now to Goodland by one. That left Goodland with a 4-1 record, Oakley 3-2.

Lance Tedford was crowned homecoming king and Tomi Windell queen at half time. First attendants were Malcom White and Lauren Gray, second attendants Ian Scherling and Cortney Shields.

In his post-game talk, Coach Diehl said he was proud of how the team handled themselves.

The Cowboys were emotional, the coach said, dealing with the loss of T.J. Hellerud, a former teammate, last spring in a car accident.

"Football creates memories for us for a lifetime," Diehl said. "I'm proud of these guys for being man enough to show they care about it."

Despite having a 14-0 lead early in the second quarter, the Cowboys had a hard fight ahead of them to

keep on top. And in the end, it came down to a two-point conversion.

"There were so many opportunities to fold," Diehl said, "but we didn't. We stuck with it, made plays when we had to."

The Cowboys made the first mark with a four-yard run by White with 6:27 to go in the first quarter. Scherling kicked the extra point.

An eight-yard pass from Jared Doke to Derrick Raymer and another kick from Scherling put the Cowboys up 14-0 with 8:10 to go in the second quarter.

Oakley's offense jumped in the game with a 48-yard touchdown run from Cody Sattler with 7:24 to go in the first half. Bobby Dennis' rush for the two-point conversion failed.

The Plainsmen added the next score with a 29-yard touchdown pass from Drew Siruta to Matt Smith. Siruta's pass for the two-point conversion failed. Oakley was within two points; score 14-12.

A 27-yard pass from Doke to David Livengood with 3:22 to go in the third and another kick from Scherling put the Cowboys up 21-12. Two minutes later, Oakley decided to make it close again, a 14-yard pass from Siruta to Smith putting the score at 21-18. Siruta's pass for the two-point conversion failed.

Then Sattler kicked an 18-yard field goal to tie the score at 21 with 5:30 to go in the fourth.

With just under two minutes to go, a two-yard run by Jordan Bedore and another Scherling kick gave the Cowboys a more comfortable margin, 28-21.

The Plainsmen were unwilling to give up Oakley made the final touchdown on a 20-yard pass from Siruta to Smith, making the score 28-27 Goodland. The Plainsmen needed a two-point conversion for the lead, but the Cowboy defense held Dennis back.

Bedore recovered Oakley's on-side kick for Goodland, and Doke took to his knee with about a minute to go to let the clock run out before Oakley got a chance to do any more damage.



Senior running back Jordan Bedore (above) gained some yardage during the first quarter of Friday's homecoming game against the Oakley Plainsmen. Sophomore running back Bobby Miller got tackled by an Oakley defender after a sweep to the left during the fourth quarter. The Cowboys won 28-27 by stopping the Plainsmen's two-point conversion attempt with less than two minutes left.

Photos by Liz West/The Goodland Star-News

Goodland controlled the ball, having possession for 28:56 minutes compared to Oakley's 19:04, but otherwise, the teams were evenly matched.

Goodland led in rushing yards, 269 in 54 carries to 219 in 31 carries, but Oakley led in passing, 109 yards to 41. Total offense was close, 328 yards in 45 plays for the Plainsmen and 310 yards in 60 plays for the Cowboys.

There were no fumble returns and only one fumble lost, that one by Oakley, and there were no interceptions. Oakley had three penalties, losing 25 yards, and Goodland lost 50 yards on eight penalties.

Goodland had five kickoff returns for 93 yards, compared to Oakley's four returns for 101. Each team had two punts, Goodland av-

eraging 34.5 yards and Oakley for 29.

Both teams scored three out of three times inside the 20-yard line. Goodland made five of 11 third-down conversions and three of four fourth-down conversions; Oakley made three of nine and zero of one, respectively.

Bedore led the Cowboys in rushing with 34 carries for 148 yards. Bobby Miller earned 68 in nine; White 33 in six; Doke 16 in four; and Brock Lohr four in one.

Doke threw two passes in five attempts for 41 yards. Miller threw one incomplete pass.

Livengood was the Cowboys' leading receiver with one reception for 27 yards. Raymer had one for 14 yards.



area football results

Northwest Kansas League	Western Kansas Liberty League
Goodland 28, Oakley 27 Hays 40, Colby 7 St. Francis 38, Holyoke 0 Oberlin 34, Osborne 24 Hugoton 27, Atwood 20 Hoxie 70, Quinter 24	Brewster 54, Triplains 6 Jennings 52, Cheylin 26 Weskan 40, Grinnell 20 Sharon Springs 42, Golden Plains 28

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School calendar for Oct. 8 - 14, 2003

Wednesday October 8 - "Gold Day", Seminar - DECA, ASVAB Evaluation in high school gym, a.m., Central Site Council meeting 4 p.m.

Thursday October 9 - "Black Day", Seminar - Stuco and GRACE, golf at Syracuse 2 p.m., tennis at Scott City 12 p.m., eighth football at Oberlin 3:30 p.m., seventh and eighth volleyball at Oberlin 3:30 p.m.

Friday October 10 - "Gold Day", Football at Oberlin 6:30 p.m.

Saturday October 11- Cross Country at Lakin 9 a.m., volleyball at Hays 8 a.m.

Monday October 13 - Junior varsity football against Oberlin 4:30 p.m., Regional golf at Colby, Regional tennis at Larned, Board of Education meeting 7 p.m.

Tuesday October 14 - "Gold Day", Seminar - FCCLA, C team football against Burlington 4:40 p.m., volleyball at Grinnell 2:30 p.m., PSAT for Juniors, high school gym 8 a.m.

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