

Cowboys to battle Red Devils tonight

By Greg Stover
The Goodland Star-News
The Cowboys will hit the trail after getting to stay home the past two weeks, off to Oberlin to face the Red Devils of Decatur Community High School tonight.

"Oberlin is a talented team that has been successful over the past two years under Coach Trevor Williams," said Goodland Coach Tony Diehl. "I think they are like any other team in the Northwest Kansas League: They can beat anybody on any given night."

The Red Devils are 3-2 overall and 1-1 in the league. The Cowboys are 4-1 for the season and 3-1 in the league.

Diehl said Oberlin's Bret Bienke is an explosive athlete who will play as quarterback, running back or wide receiver. He can, at any time, turn a no-gain play into a touchdown.

"I feel like we will again move the ball with our running game and look to pass a bit more than last week," said Diehl. "Defensively, we have made some adjustments in our linebacker schemes, and I look for Coach J.D. Hooper's kids to really get after them."

Senior linebacker Jordan Bedore leads the Cowboys defense with 75 total tackles, including four tackles for loss and two sacks. Junior defensive end Bret Jarmin is next with 34 total tackles, followed by junior linebacker Derrick Raymer with 32. Senior quarterback Jared Doke

has completed 14 of 30 pass attempts for 227 yards and three touchdowns. He has been intercepted once so far this season. Doke also is third among the team's rushers with 232 yards on 45 carries and four touchdowns.

As a running back, Bedore is the Cowboys' leading rusher, gaining 642 yards on 115 carries and scoring six touchdowns. Sophomore Bobby Miller is second with 377 yards on 58 carries and four touchdowns.

Raymer is the team's top receiver with five receptions for 87 yards and two touchdowns. Junior running back Brock Lohr has four receptions for 60 yards and junior running back David Livengood has three catches for 67 yards and two touchdowns.

Diehl said that special teams could be a big factor in tonight's game.

"Against Oakley, one of the biggest factors was our kickoff unit," he said. "Ian Scherling was kicking incredibly deep and high, and we had very good coverage out of the unit. Dan Melia and Dexter Deeds did a particularly good job on coverage."

Diehl lauded the play of the extra point unit, especially the kicker, Scherling; the holder, Doke; and junior lineman Brandon Cowan, the long snapper. They were a perfect 4-for-4 against the Plainsmen in a game where every point mattered, said Diehl.



Cowboy senior running back Malcolm White (center, with ball) avoided a couple of Oakley defenders during last Friday's homecoming game. White finished the game with 33 yards on six carries and scored the game's first touchdown on a four-yard run in the first quarter. He returned five kickoffs for 93 yards. As a defensive lineman, White contributed five tackles. Photo by Liz West/ The Goodland Star-News

Big 12's talent doesn't match reputation

I know this might be heresy in this part of the country, but I have to admit that the Big 12 Conference is not one of my favorites.

Part of the reason is I believe its teams get rated, especially early in the season, based on the conference's reputation rather than actual performance or potential. For example, in the USA Today/ESPN Top 25 Coaches Poll for the week of Sept. 7, six Big 12 teams were in the top 25 and three others received votes. That's nine of 12 teams in the conference.

Two weeks later, five teams from the Big 12 are among the Top 25 with three receiving votes. The one departure is the Colorado Buffaloes, which had been ranked No. 17. After two straight losses, the Buffs didn't get a single vote. Now that they lost to Baylor, I doubt anyone will vote for them anytime soon.

In the poll released Sunday, the county of Big 12 teams is still eight, four in the Top 25 and four receiving votes. I have no problem with the Oklahoma Sooners as No. 1,



greg stover

• greg's gripes

where they've been since the pre-season poll.

The Nebraska Cornhuskers are 5-0 for the season and are No. 7, a bit high in my opinion, based on who they played so far, but I can live with that.

The Longhorns of Texas moved up two spots this week to No. 11 after beating Kansas State. Texas started the season as No. 4 but after its loss to Arkansas Sept. 13, dropped to No. 13 for three weeks. That loss now doesn't seem so bad, since the Razorbacks are now 4-0 and No. 8 in the poll.

The Longhorns are about to re-enter the top 10, but they face the Sooners in the Cotton Bowl on Saturday. Oh well.

The remaining Big 12 team in the Top 25 would be the Kansas State Wildcats, No. 21 after falling seven spots. The Wildcats played an early schedule that was too tame and they paid the price for it. When they took the field against Marshall three weeks ago, they were 4-0, but two of those wins were against Division I-AA schools.

Kansas State now has a two-game losing streak going and my

guess is that it will increase to three. They face Oklahoma State in Still-water on Saturday and the Cowboys, who have been receiving votes all season, are on the verge of breaking back into the Top 25.


That makes the game a contest between a team moving up and one trying to hang on.

In addition to Oklahoma State, Texas Tech, Missouri and Kansas received votes this week. What's that? Kansas. Why not? The Jayhawks are 4-1 and are coming off a win over a Top 25 team.

Which brings me back to the gripe: eight teams out of 12 is overrepresentation. If the Big 12 really has that much talent, fine, but they don't. The coaches who do the voting need to judge more on a team's performance and potential rather than its reputation or that of its conference.

The polls are not the only reason I feel this way about the Big 12. There's also the fact the Big 12 is guaranteed seven bowl games in the postseason. That's just the guarantees; last year eight of them actually got bowl bids.

Which, unfortunately bring up another gripe. There are far too many bowl games, so many that except for the Bowl Championship Series, most of them are meaningless. Which, I believe, is not the purpose for having them.



Go Cowboys & Cowgirls!

Goodland High School

Football	Friday, varsity at Oberlin 6:30 p.m., Monday, junior varsity at home against Oberlin 4:30 p.m., Tuesday "C" team at home against Burlington 4:30.
Golf	Monday regional golf at Colby.
Tennis	Monday regional tennis at Larned.
Volleyball	Saturday, at Hays 8 a.m., Tuesday, at Grinnell 3:30 p.m., Thursday, quad here 4 p.m.
Cross Country	Saturday at Lakin 9 a.m.

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Cowgirl golf team takes fourth at Lakin, play at Syracuse

The Goodland High golf team placed fourth at the Lakin Girls Invitational Tournament Saturday at the Lakin Municipal Golf Course.

Senior Jessica Osborn was the only medalist for Goodland, finishing fifth with a 17-over-par 89 for the 18-hole course.

The Lady Tigers of Ulysses won the tournament with a score of 357 and had four medalists including second, third and fourth place. Holcomb was second with 385 and Lakin third with 403. Goodland's team score was 427.

Syracuse's Maggie Welch was the individual champion, shooting an 83.

The Cowgirls were to play their final tournament of the regular season Thursday at the Tamarisk Golf Course in Syracuse.

"It is not a very forgiving course," Coach Connie Livengood said. "Its fairways are lined with tamarek bushes. If a player hits into the rough, it is usually not playable or is a lost ball. It will take some fine shooting to keep the ball in play."

The regional tournament will be

Monday at the Colby Country Club. Livengood said that the course will be challenging. It is long, she said, with well established trees and fast greens.

"Our girls have a good chance," she said, "if they go out and play

relaxed and with confidence."

The state tournament will be Monday, Oct. 20, at the Salina Municipal Golf Course. The top three teams from the regional qualify, plus the top five individual players not on a qualifying team.

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