

Cowgirls play for state volleyball title

Start pool play today in Salina

By Greg Stover
The Goodland Star-News
 The Cowgirls will face stiff competition at the state Class 4A high school volleyball championship starting this afternoon in the Salina Bicentennial Center.

Goodland is the fourth seed among the eight teams in the tournament. The teams will be divided into two pools of four each, with each team playing the other three. The top two teams from each pool advance to the championship round Saturday.

The Cowgirls are 33-2 for the season with a 28-game winning streak. Both their losses were to ranked Colorado schools on Sept. 13.

Goodland is in Pool I, which will play all its matches today on Court A.

The Cowgirls' first match is against the Thunderbirds of Circle High of Towanda today at 4:30 p.m. (Central Time) The Thunderbirds,

34-3 for the season, are the tournament's fifth seed.

Goodland's second match, scheduled for 6:30, is against eighth-seeded Chanute High School. The Comets are 21-13. Immediately following that, the Cowgirls face the No. 1 seed Abilene, 33-1 for the season.

The four teams in Pool II are No. 2 seed Baldwin (37-2), No. 3 Lansing (33-2), No. 6 Clearwater (24-10) and No. 7 Wamego.

Coach Jerry McKee said that the Cowgirls will have to stay focused throughout the tournament to succeed. He said that each of the seven other teams earned the right to be there and all are opponents to take seriously.

This will be the last high school volleyball action for five seniors: Kelsey Herl, Alisha McKee, Janae McKee, Courtney Shields and Tomi Windell.

Other team members going to state are sophomores Jordan Fraz-

ier, Justeen Koehler, Lisha Tedford, Melissa Swager, and freshmen Whitney Archer and Dani Bedore.

Assistant coaches Barb Bedore and Char Avila will accompany the team along with manger senior Kristi Boyce.

An opening ceremony for the Class 4A tournament is scheduled for 2:45 or after the conclusion of Class 3A pool play.

A send-off for the Cowgirls, organized by Goodland's Ambassadors, was set for 7 a.m. this morning in front of Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Fans going to the state tournament can get to the Bicentennial Center by traveling I-70 east until Exit 253. Go south on Ohio Street about three miles then right on The Midway.

KLOE radio, 730AM, will air the Cowgirls' matches beginning at 3:30 p.m. (Mountain Time). Only Goodland's matches will be broadcast.

Cowboy's goal is a state medal

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

Saturday will be the second state cross country appearance for Cowboy Speedy Aguilar, and both he and his coach are optimistic he will come back with a medal and All State honors from the championship race in Wamego.

Last year, Aguilar finished 21st at state, one place out of the medals.

"I am looking forward to the race," Aguilar said at practice Wednesday afternoon. "I have the second race of the day. I'm more experienced this year, and believe I will do better."

"I'd love to have a top-five finish," Coach Don Smith said. "That is what we are shooting for. He is a good kid, and has worked hard. He deserves to finish with a state medal."

Smith said 12 of the runners from last year's race will be there Saturday, and he and Aguilar have been working on a strategy for the race.

"He has had good practices this week," Smith said, "but seems to be a bit congested from a virus."

Aguilar said he was taking medication to help break up the congestion and was feeling better.

"He has run against most of the people who have qualified for the race," Smith said, "and he is working out where he wants to be on each part of the race course."

Aguilar says there are several hills on the Wamego course, and that he has been training hard for them.

His time at Wamego this year was 17:06, one of his fastest of the year. He finished sixth. He beat that time by 30 seconds at the regional meet. At practice Wednesday, he was averaging between 70-74 seconds per lap on the track.

He and the coach will be heading for Wamego on Friday morning at the same time the Cowgirl volleyball team heads for the state tournament in Salina.



Aguilar



Seniors Tomi Windell (left, in air) and Courtney Shields blocked the ball against the Eagles of Hugoton High School last Saturday in the semi-final match at the sub-state tournament in Colby. The Cowgirls defeated Hugoton 25-14, 23-25, 15-12 then went on the defeat Scott City in the final and earn a trip the the state championship tournament.

Photo by Liz West/The Goodland Star-News

Trojan basketball players committ to NCAA Division I teams

Four sophomores among seven returning letter-winners on the Colby Community College men's basketball team have committed to NCAA Division I schools for next year's 2004-2005 season.

Dillion Sneed, a 6-foot, 7-inch power forward, committed to play with the Cornhuskers of the University of Nebraska last month. Sneed, a native of Chicago, averaged two rebounds and almost 3 points per game coming off the bench last season for the Trojans. Head Coach Brian Ostermann, in his fifth year

at Colby, said he is counting on Sneed to be a major contributor this season.

Justin Williams, the Trojans 6-foot, 10-inch center, committed to the University of Wyoming. Williams, also a Chicago native, was a Third-Team All-Conference selection who averaged more than 11 points and 10 rebounds per game for the 2002-2003 season. He was the Trojans leading rebounder last year.

Branden Miller, a 6-foot, 1-inch guard and Colby's second leading scorer last year, committed to Mon-

tana State University in Bozeman. Miller, a native of Milwaukee, averaged over 13 points per game and connected on 85 three-point shots last season. Ostermann said Miller is one of the "heart and soul" guys on the team who brings toughness and intensity to the court everyday.

D. J. Drayton, a 6-foot, 9-inch forward, will return home to Charlotte next year to play for the 49ers of the University of North Carolina. Drayton was the Trojans' leading scoring last year, averaging over 17 points per game, and was the West

Division's Freshman of the Year for the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference.

Drayton was selected as a First-Team All-American in Street and Smith's College Basketball National Preview magazine. The Trojans were the magazine's No. 8 pick for junior colleges.

Colby was No. 7 in the National Junior College Athletic Association's Division I men's basketball preseason poll. The Trojans open their season Saturday against Kansas Wesleyan University's junior

varsity at the Stephens Construction Tip-Off Classic in Colby. Game time is 8 p.m.

Ostermann said the Trojans' biggest challenge this weekend will be at 3 p.m. Sunday afternoon when they play the Lancers of Eastern Wyoming College. The Lancers were 18-10 and made the regional finals last season.

The players are anxious to begin playing "real" games, Osterman said. He expects sophomore K.J.

Wilkins, a 6-foot, 2-inch guard and a 2002 graduate of Dighton High School, to start for the Trojans this weekend.

"He plays with such heart and provides great leadership" Ostermann said.

The anticipated starting line-up includes Miller, Drayton, Williams, Wilkins and freshman Antonio McKee. McKee is a 5-foot, 11-inch point guard and a 2003 graduate of Juneau High School in Milwaukee.

sports shorts

Goodland swimmer in collegiate season opener

Rachael Hagerman, a sophomore at Michigan State University, finished fourth in the 50-yard freestyle race last Friday in a dual meet against the University of Iowa.

The Lady Spartans lost to Iowa 174-120. Their next action will be a triangular meet with Florida State University at the University of Michigan next Friday.

Hagerman was supposed to take a medical red shirt this year because of an injury suffered in a traffic accident last summer.

"She has healed relatively quickly," said Matt Gianiodis, interim head coach. "She is competing and training under the supervision of the coaching and medical staff."

Hagerman broke the Michigan State record in the 100-yard freestyle by swimming the distance in 50.77 seconds at the Big Ten Championships last season. She was part of the Spartan's 400-yard freestyle relay team that broke a 17-year-old school record at the same meet.

The daughter of Mark and Sue Hagerman, she is a 2002 graduate of Goodland High School, where she participated four years on the track and field team and two on the cross country team.

Trojan wrestlers picked No. 6 in preseason poll

The Colby Community College wrestling team was selected No. 6 in the National Junior College Athletic Association preseason poll released Monday.

The Trojans finished second at last year's national tournament. Although only two wrestlers return from last year's team, both won their weights at the national tournament.

Sophomore Muzaffar Abdurakhmanov of Uzbekistan won the 157-pound weight class last season but is expected to move up to 165-pounds this year. Sophomore C.B. Dollway of Mount Gilead, Ohio

won at 184-pounds.

Coach Steve Lampe, in his 28th year coaching the Trojans, had been selected for the National Wrestling Hall of Fame's Lifetime Service to Wrestling Award. His team won the national title in 1999.

Colby will open its season against Neosho Community College at Salina South High School at 4 p.m. Saturday. Neosho was ranked No. 8 in the preseason poll.

Tiger volleyball team shares conference lead

The Fort Hays State University volleyball team is in a three-way tie with the University of Nebraska at Kearney and Metropolitan State

College of Denver for best conference record in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference at 14-1.

The Lady Tigers have the best overall record in the conference at 23-3 and are currently ranked No. 21 in the American Volleyball Coaches Association NCAA Division II poll. All three of their losses were to Top 25 teams.

Metro State is ranked No. 2 with a 20-4 overall record and Nebraska-Kearney is No. 10 and is 23-4.

The tie will be broken tonight when the Tigers visit the Lopers at Nebraska-Kearney. Fort Hays State also will be in action Saturday against the Lady Rangers of Regis University.



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