

# Cowboys open season Friday against Longhorns

By Greg Stover  
The Goodland Star-News

The Cowboys basketball team begins its roundup of victories for the season Friday in Imperial, Neb. The varsity and junior varsity will open their season against the Longhorns of Chase County High School. The Longhorns spoiled the Cowboys' season opener last year by beating them 76-64 in Max L. Jones Fieldhouse on Dec. 6.

The junior varsity game begins at 5:30 p.m. in the high school gymnasium, followed about two hours later by the varsity game. People traveling to Imperial can take K-27 and U.S. 36 to Bird City, then K-161 and N-61 north to U.S. 6. Then go west about nine miles.

Last year's Goodland team finished its season 14-8 overall and was the Northwest Kansas League champion with a 7-0 league record. The season ended with a 63-60 overtime loss to Larned High School during the semi-finals of the sub-state tournament.

Coach Jon McLean said he expects this year's squad to do just as well or better. He said two of the team's goals this year are to repeat as league champions and to get to the championship game in all of their tournaments.

McLean, a 1991 graduate of Bethany College, is in his fifth sea-

son with the Cowboys. He said he wants to keep the improvement he has established going, from six wins his first season to nine the next, then 10 and 14 last year.

Assistant coach Brad Bergsma, also is in his fifth year, will work with the junior varsity. Versatile long-time Goodland coach Don Smith joins the basketball staff this year to focus on the C team.

The Cowboys have seven players with varsity experience returning this year.

Seniors Jared Doke and Lance Tedford return to the varsity line-up for their final high school seasons. Doke played in all 22 games last season, scoring 65 points and grabbing 52 rebounds.

"Jared is probably the hardest working athlete I have coached," said McLean. "He is a warrior."

Tedford was the team's second leading scorer last season with 240 points in 21 games. He hit on 58 of 134 shots from beyond three-point range.

"Lance is a tremendous shooter," McLean said, "and he is so much more aggressive this year."

Three juniors who played on the varsity last season are back: Derrick Raymer, Drew Wilkens and Wade Taylor. Also back are sophomores Bobby Miller and Jase Herl, who both saw playing time on the varsity



Coach Jon McLean urged his team to stay focused late in the fourth quarter of last year's home game against the Colby Eagles. The Cowboys defeated Colby 57-56 on a basket with three seconds left to give the Eagles their first loss of the season. McLean is now in his fifth season as Goodland's boys basketball coach.

Photo by Skilar Boland/The Goodland Star-News

as freshmen. "Derrick is a very good athlete

who can do a lot of very good things for us on the floor," McLean said.

"Drew has very good athletic ability and has a nice shooting touch.

## Colby men win three in Wyoming, go 11-0 for season

The Colby Community College men's basketball team extended its unbeaten streak to 11 games this weekend by winning all three of its games at the T-Bird Classic in Casper, Wyo.

"Our trip to Casper was very successful from a win-loss standpoint," Head Coach Brian Ostermann said. "Winning three up there is a difficult task. Westchester is a solid team and gave us a great game."

The Trojans defeated Westchester Community College of New York, 73-60, Thursday, maintaining

the lead throughout the game. Sophomore center Justin Williams led Colby with 18 points, he also grabbed seven rebounds and blocked six shots.

Sophomores E.J. Drayton and Branden Miller each scored 13 points, and freshman Ontario McKee added 10. Freshman forward Andrais Thornton led the team in rebounds with nine. The Trojans outrebounded Westchester 31-23 and forced 22 turnovers.

Friday night, Colby defeated the host team, Casper College, 77-64.

Drayton scored a career-high 30 points to lead the Trojans. McKee was next with 15 points. Williams led the team in rebounds with 13 and scored 10 points. Colby outrebounded Casper 56-29.

"Our win over Casper Friday was very good for our team," said Ostermann. "Winning on an opponent's floor in a very difficult environment should build confidence for our team."

Saturday's game saw another career-high scoring performance by a Trojan player. Miller scored 37

points, including 9-of-13 shots from beyond three-point range, to lead Colby to a 111-74 win over Pima Community College of Arizona.

Miller's nine three-pointers set a school record said Ostermann.

Drayton scored 20 points in the game and Williams added 16. Both players grabbed 10 rebounds to lead the Trojans, and as a team outrebounded Pima 50-24.

The next action for the Trojans, ranked No. 5 nationally by the National Junior College Athletic Association, will be Saturday and Sunday at the 2003 Jayhawk Shootout hosted by Coffeyville Community College. The tournament involves 20 men's teams playing two games each in a three-day period.

Colby will face Fort Scott Community College at 9 p.m. (Central Time) Saturday in Nellis Hall west gym. The Trojans will play Allen County Community College at 1 p.m. Sunday in the same gym.

Both games can be heard live on either KQLS (100.3 FM) or KXXX (790 AM).

## Timing of Cornhuskers head coach firing raises questions

Frank Solich is out as the head coach of the Cornhusker football program, Nebraska athletic director Steve Pederson announced Sunday.

First-year defensive coordinator Bo Pelini will be the interim head coach and will lead Nebraska in this year's bowl game, probably either the Alamo Bowl on Dec. 29 in San Antonio, or the Independence Bowl on Dec. 31 in Shreveport, La.

Apparently, Solich's firing wasn't much of a surprise to most Husker fans as it was to me. I wouldn't have thought much about



greg stover

• greg's gripes

then do it and get started on next season.

In Sunday's press release, Pederson said the decision was not about wins and losses, but about the future of the program.

"I refuse to let this program gravitate to a level of mediocrity," Pederson said, emphasizing that he made the decision based on the "long-term best interest of Nebraska football."

I'll be one of the first to agree it's

his decision to make. My gripe is, what does he want? Nebraska averaged nine wins against three losses under Solich, no losing seasons and only one that I would call mediocre.

On the surface, the improvement from last season seems like the direction Pederson says he is looking for. However, it seems he sees something in the future that requires a change now.

I'm not a big fan of Frank Solich, or of the Cornhuskers for that matter, but I do feel his removal at this time is wrong. I accept that Ne-

braska had the right to do it, for whatever reason it wants, but I think the decision is sending a bad message out to potential replacements: "Be perfect or else."

My gut feeling is that Nebraska is not going to find the type of head coach it is looking for. Anyone with the talent and skills needed to give Pederson what he wants is going to be too smart to take the job.

What will happen is they will settle for someone who thinks he has what it takes and will prove a disappointment to everyone.

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**School calendar for Dec. 3 - Dec. 9**

**Wednesday** - "Gold Day", Seminar - School Newspaper meeting, city county recreation at fieldhouse and junior high gym, Elementary Bank day, PDC meeting 3:45 p.m.  
**Thursday** - "Black Day", Seminar - Stuco and Grace, Scholars Bowl at Atwood 3 p.m., NEA-G 6 a.m. in the ITV room, city county recreation in high school gym 7:30 p.m., seventh and eighth grade basketball at home against Oberlin 3:30 p.m.  
**Friday** - "Gold Day", Pep Rally at 11:05 a.m., junior varsity and varsity wrestling at Hoxie 5:30 p.m., junior varsity and varsity basketball at Imperial 5:30 p.m., DECA Dance at high school gym 9 p.m. to midnight.  
**Saturday** - Junior varsity wrestling tournament in Goodland at 8 a.m., DECA Dance in high school gym 9 p.m. to midnight, varsity wrestling at St. Francis 8:30 a.m.  
**Monday** - Scholars Bowl at Colby 3 p.m., junior high band and vocal concert in the high school auditorium 7 p.m., second grade music program rehearsal at high school auditorium 1 to 2:30 p.m., seventh grade basketball at Burlington 4 p.m., eighth grade basketball in Goodland at 4 p.m.  
**Tuesday** - "Gold Day", Seminar - American Field Service, second grade music program in the high school auditorium 7 p.m., rehearsal 1 to 2:30 p.m., C team, junior varsity and varsity basketball in Goodland against Burlington 3:45 p.m.

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