

# Cowboys bring experience to court

Returning starters vie for spots

By Sharon Corcoran  
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The Goodland High Cowboys expect to hit the basketball court with a big team and several experienced players this year.

Competition will be tight for varsity playing time, the coach says, and the freshman team has nearly as many members as the varsity and junior varsity combined.

But being one of the smallest Class 4A schools will put Goodland up against some tough competition on the basketball court, said Coach Brad Bergsma, starting his first year as head coach. Bergsma replaces Jon McLean, who moved to Buhler, a large Class 4A school northeast of Hutchinson.

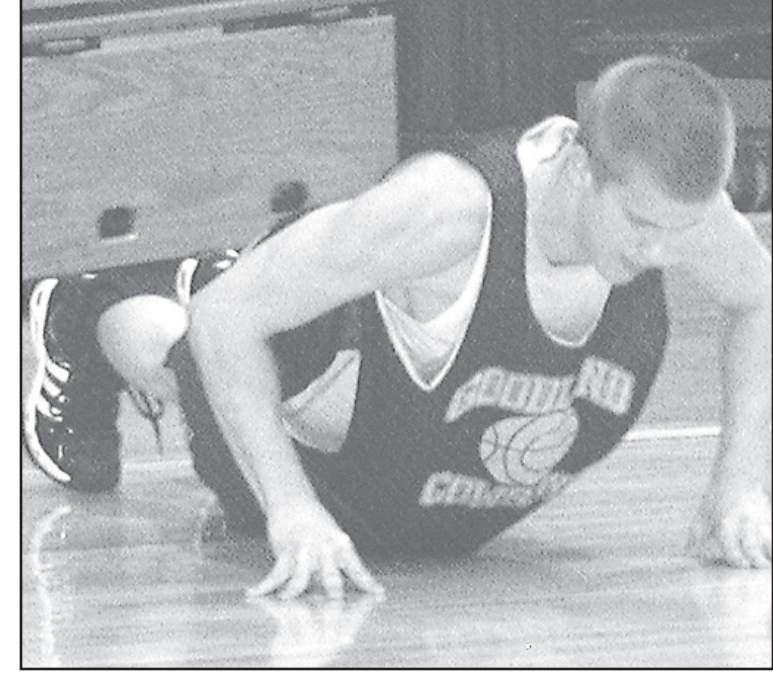
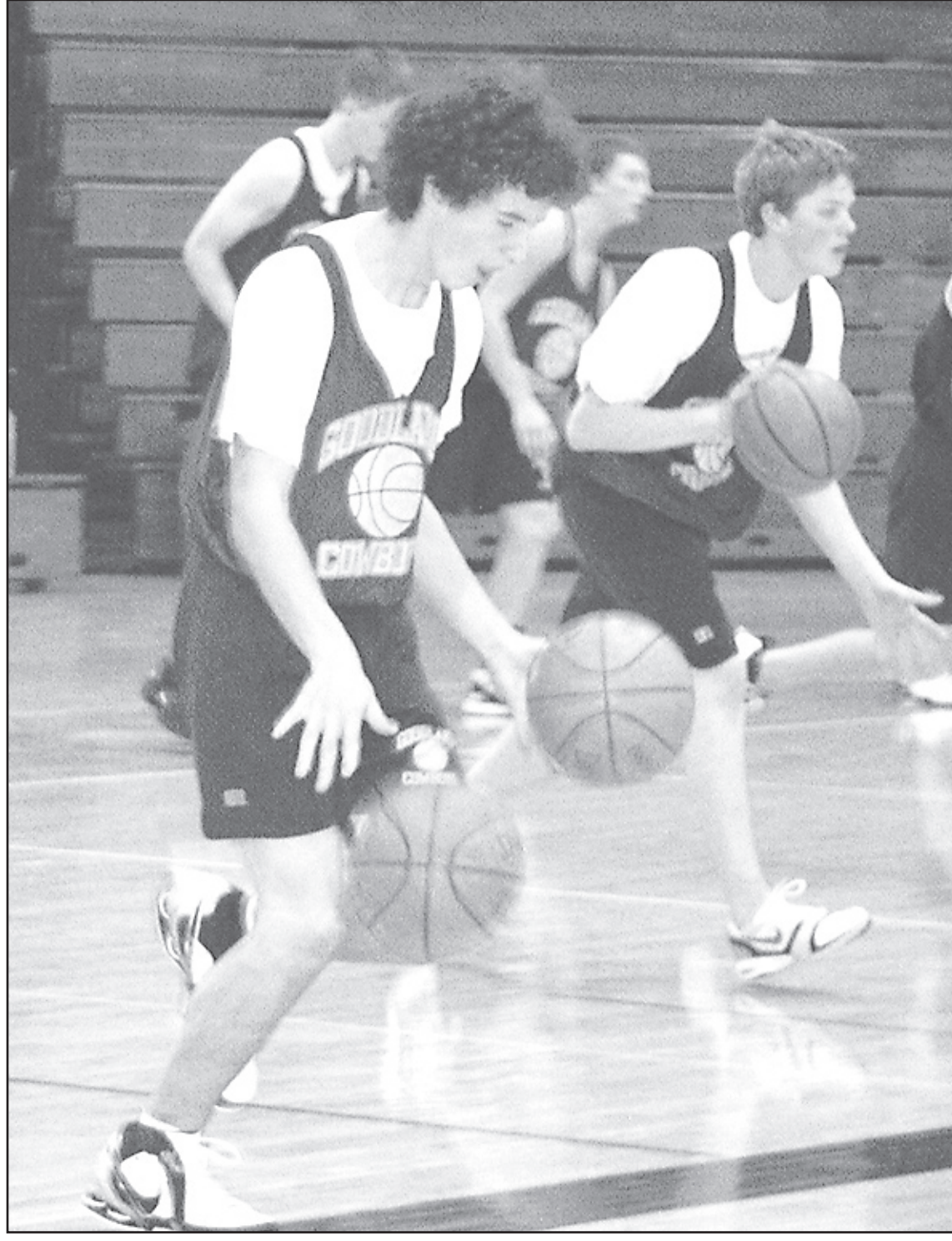
In his eight years as head basketball coach, McLean, with Bergsma as his assistant, improved the record from a first season 6-14 to a 16-7 record that included a 7-0 run to win the Northwest Kansas League title this last year. His team got into the sub-state championship at least twice, losing to the eventual Class 4A state champion.

There are 14 freshmen this year, Bergsma said, nearly half the 30 players on the team. The varsity has three returning starters, 6 foot, 1 inch senior Tanner Smith, 6 foot, 1 inch junior Travis Angelos and 5 foot, 10 inch junior Greg Farris.

"They all led the team in scoring at one point last season," Bergsma said. "I'm excited."

There will be pretty good competition for the varsity spots, the coach said, with 6 foot, 1 inch senior Forrest Trachsel, 5 foot, 10 inch senior Preston Dautel, 5 foot, 11 inch senior Grant Wilkens, 6 foot senior Josh Doke and 6 foot junior Brandon Rome all vying for time on the court.

Bergsma said he expects a good season from Dautel and a lot of help from Wilkens.



Kuter Isaac (left in left photo) and Landon Brenner dribbled with both hands at basketball practice Thursday. Greg Farris (above) did pushups. Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

"Doke played quite a few varsity minutes last year," Bergsma said. "He's a prototypical banger inside, a post player, and he worked out with weights this summer." Rome will compete for a lot of the varsity minutes, too, the coach said. With three starters and five or six

returning lettermen from last year's varsity, he said, the team should have a lot of competition for starting spots and floor time. And the Cowboys should be in good shape as they start the season, he said. They've been in the weight room, Bergsma said, and have been good about practicing in the morn-

ing. They've been doing conditioning at 5:30 a.m. all week, he said, and will have in 23 practices before their first game. They're doing two practices a day for the first 10 days, the coach said, partly because there are so many freshmen. "I felt like we had to," he said,

"so the younger kids could learn the lingo, the lexicon we use. I didn't want to hurt them by passing them over on offensive and defensive sets. We will have them at the level we need to be to compete."

The team's biggest challenge, Bergsma said, is size. Goodland is the low man on the totem pole in Class 4A, he said, and will be facing teams from schools with more than twice its enrollment. And they will face some big players.

One of the teams coming to the Topside Tip-off will be bringing players well over 6 foot, he said, and Class 6A Dodge City — with 1,228 students — is six times the size of Goodland High. Ottawa always comes to the Tip-off, he said, and though they dropped from Class 5A last year to 4A this year, they are still more than twice the size of Goodland with 513 students.

The good news is that facing such tough competition will make the Cowboys tougher and hone their skills, he said.

"We have a good chance at sub-state this year," Bergsma said, "based on the level of competition."

Bergsma has helped coached the boys team nine years, but this is his first year as head coach. His assistants are Connie Livengood, who coached the Cowgirls for four years as an assistant and three as the head coach, and former Cowboy Donald Raymer. Halli Stone is the trainer.

Also playing for the Cowboys will be 5 foot, 9 inch junior Adam Duell; 5 foot, 7 inch sophomore Teather Dautel; 5 foot, 8 inch junior Joel Weis; 6 foot, 1 inch sophomore Kuter Isaac; 5 foot, 11 inch sophomore Landon Brenner; 5 foot, 10 inch sophomore Kevin Amthor; 6 foot, 4 inch junior Nelson Bergemann; and 5 foot, 11 inch senior Chris Irvin.

On the freshman squad are 5 foot, 6 inch Hazen Deeds; 5 foot, 6 inch Levi Lawrence; 5 foot, 7 inch Michael Pettibone; 5 foot, 11 inch Garth Helton; 5 foot, 7 inch Dillon Trachsel; 6 foot Brock Wilkens; 5 foot, 9 inch Victor Diaz; 5 foot, 10 inch Eric Linnell; 6 foot, 1 inch Tyler Jones; 5 foot, 9 inch Devon Garrett; 6 foot, Robert Cowan; 6 foot, 1 inch David Murray; and 6 foot, 1 inch Bryan Guyer.

## matters of record

**Sherman County Sheriff**  
The following crimes have been reported to the Sherman County Sheriff's Department:  
**Nov. 12** — 3250 Road 77, Edson, Donald Wales, 59, reported criminal damage to property of a lock.  
**Nov. 2** — 402 E. 17th St., Goodland, Gambinos reported a worthless check dated August 4, 2007.  
**Nov. 2** — 1618 Main St., Goodland, Crazy R's reported a worthless

check dated June 15, 2007.  
**Nov. 2** — 2402 Commerce, Goodland, Dairy Queen reported a worthless check dated June 7, 2007.  
**Oct. 28** — Kanorado, Letha Wentz, 38, reported domestic battery.  
**Oct. 25** — Kanorado, Darral Craft, 52, reported criminal deprivation of property of six vehicle keys.  
**Oct. 25** — Kansas/Colorado state

line, UPS Ground Frieght reported criminal damage to property of a windshield.  
**Oct. 24** — Brewster, Sherrelle Miller reported burglary and theft of a Winchester rifle valued at \$1,000.  
**Oct. 23** — 1619 Main St., Goodland, Shores Bumper to Bumper reported a worthless check dated July 30, 2007.  
**Oct. 23** — 118 E. 17th St., Good-

land, Hank's Cafe reported a worthless check dated Aug. 8, 2007.  
**Oct. 21** — Goodland, Lois Cossman, 73, reported criminal damage to property of a mailbox and metal

post.  
**Oct. 19** — Goodland, Carol Gottshall, 75, reported criminal damage to property of a mailbox.  
**Sept. 30** — 7800 Road 9, Good-

land, Kenneth Wikenning, 73, reported criminal damage to property and burglary.

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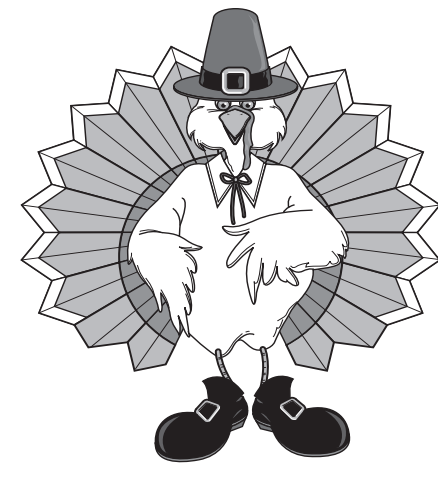
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## School calendar for November 7 to November 13

**Wednesday:** No school, half day teacher professional day and half day Thanksgiving Vacation.  
**Thursday and Friday:** No school for Thanksgiving Vacation.  
**Monday:** No school teacher professional day.  
**Tuesday:** Black Day. 3 p.m., high school scholars bowl at Tribune. 3:30 p.m., Seventh grade basketball vs Scott City and Eighth grade basketball at Scott City.



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