

# Cowgirls eager to start season today

By Sharon Corcoran

slcorcoran@nwkansas.com

After 2 1/2 weeks of practice, the Goodland High Cowgirls softball team is raring to go.

The girls have nine players returning from last year's team, including six starters, and eight new players. They will open the season on the road, facing Garden City at 3 and 5 p.m. (Mountain Time) today.

"We're at the point where we've had a good 2 1/2 weeks of practice," said Coach Tess Smith, "and we definitely need a game to see where we are, see the outcome and where we need to improve."

Everybody's excited, she said, ready to play. Garden City is good, the coach said, at the top of Class 6A and top of their region, but the girls will play them tough.

The Cowgirls have a good group of returning players, Smith said, and good rookies. Everyone will contribute in some way.

Returning starters are seniors Holly Kibel, second base; Sammie Raymer, catcher; Jessica Swager, first base; and Andrea Wolak, third base; and juniors Chelsie Gausman, left field and catcher, and Erika Gonzales, centerfield.

Other returning players are junior Julica Bonsall, third and second base, and sophomores Lexi David,



pitcher and second base, and Angie Hillmer, right field.

Sharing time on the mound with David will be freshman Ashley Archer, who also plays shortstop. Other newcomers to the team are seniors Maria Ulloa, an exchange student from Chile who will play outfield; Adrian West, first base and outfield; and Heidi Yonkey, outfield; junior Brooke Lenington, outfield; sophomore Natasha Hillman, infield; and freshmen Andrea Roeder, first and third, and Kirsten Toppliff, outfield and short stop.

Senior Margo Detombe, an exchange student from Belgium, is the team's manager, and Joy Braun is Smith's assistant.

It's a promising season, Smith said, adding that she's hopeful the team will be successful and the girls will learn something. The Cowgirls were 13-8 last year, she said, and lost five seniors.

"We had some holes..." she said, "but I think we were able to fill them."

The girls have 20 games scheduled this year in the regular season,

Smith said; after that, it depends on how they do at regionals. They're definitely shooting for state, she said, adding she doesn't want to jinx the team by talking about chances.

Their first home games will be a double-header at 3 and 5 p.m. Monday against Liberal. They will be back on the road at 3 and 5 p.m. (Mountain Time) Thursday at Scott City and at 3 and 5:30 p.m. next Friday at Colby.

The Cowgirls play at 3 and 5 p.m. (Mountain Time) Monday, April 14, at Hays and then will be back home Friday, April 18, facing Colby at 3 and 5 p.m. Goodland faces Scott City at 3 and 5 p.m. Monday, April 21, at home and Ulysses at 3 and 5 p.m. Tuesday, April 22, on the road.

They will be at home Thursday, April 24, facing Holcomb at 3 and 5 p.m. Friday, May 2, the Cowgirls finish the regular season in Hays against Thomas More Prep-Marian High School at 3 and 5 p.m.

Regionals will be May 12 through 15 and state competition May 23 and 24.

Junior Julica Bonsall practiced her swing Wednesday at Centennial Park. She is one of the Goodland High Cowgirls' nine returning players from last year. The girls start their season at 3 p.m. (Mountain Time) today in Garden City, with the second game of a doubleheader to start about 5 p.m. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

# Cowboys split opening double-header Tuesday in Burlington

By Tom Betz

ntbetz@nwkansas.com

The Cowboys baseball team opened the season with a double-header in Burlington on Tuesday, winning the first game 12-10 but losing to the Cougars in the second 13-12.

The first game took over three hours and the second was more than two hours long, finishing under the lights.

In the first game, the Cowboys fell behind 4-2 in the third, but in the fourth the Cowboys took advantage of a couple of walks and a throwing error to manufacture two runs to tie. In the bottom of the fourth, the Cougars got a run to lead 5-4.

The Cowboys exploded in the sixth for eight runs to take a 12-5 lead. The biggest hit of the inning was a three-run double that had the scorekeeper scratching his head trying to figure out if it should be 11 runs for Goodland or 12. After a conference at home plate between the umpires, coaches and team statisticians, it was agreed the score was 12-5.

In the bottom of the seventh, the Cougars were making a run and closed the score to 12-10. With two outs, Cowboys' pitcher, senior Preston Dautel, was relieved by junior Rory Kling, who managed to get the Cougars' sophomore Michael Satterly to strikeout for the win.

The sun was going down, and the wind had picked up in the last part of the first game to get fans bringing out coats and retreating to their warmer vehicles to watch the second game.

The Cowboys fell behind early in the game but made a run in the seventh to close to within one run, losing 13-12.

In the second game, the Cowboys took an early 2-0 lead only to see it disappear as they fell behind 5-2 in the bottom of the first.

The Cowboys came back in the top of the second inning to lead 8-5, but the Cougars tied the game at 8-8 in the bottom of the inning.

Junior Brandon Rome was pitching, and the Cougars took a lead in the bottom of the third on a wild pitch making it 9-8.

Kling came in to relieve Rome in the bottom of the fourth with the bases loaded. Kling walked in two runs to make it 11-8 with the bases still loaded and one out.

Coach Devin Mull switched pitchers again, bringing in freshman Michael Pettibone. Pettibone got a ground ball to shortstop and the Cowboys turned a double play to get out of the inning.

The Cowboys went without scoring in the fifth inning, but the Cougars added two runs to make it 13-8.

In the sixth inning, Pettibone got a walk and was scored on a double by senior Tanner Smith to make it 13-9.

Sophomore Teather Dautel kept the scoring going with a hit to shallow center making it 13-10.

Senior Josh Doke laid down a bunt and beat the throw to first. Smith advanced to third, and Doke advanced to second on an attempted pick-off at first.



Cowboys' sophomore Kevin Amthor nearly got picked off at first, but the throw to the Burlington Cougar's first baseman was off and

Amthor was able to get back safely in the fifth inning of the first game Tuesday.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

through third base for a two-run double he was able to stretch into a

triple on a Cougar throwing error, making it a one-run game 13-12.

Trachsel was thrown out trying to steal home to end the inning.

The Cowboys kept the Cougars from scoring in the bottom of the

sixth.


In the top of the seventh, Coach Mull brought in some of the younger players to give them a chance. Sophomore Kuter Isaac popped out, sophomore Brook Redlin took the Cougar pitcher to a full count 3-2, but struck out leaving the Cowboys down to their last out.

Sophomore Kevin Amthor drove a ball deep to center and it hit at the warning track to give him a double. He advanced to third on a passed ball.

Pettibone took the Cougar pitcher to a full count and walked to give the Cowboys the tying run on third and the go ahead run at first.

Kling, who had gone 3 for 4 in the game, hit a ball to second base for the final out giving the Cougars the 13-12 win.

The Cowboys have a 1-1 record and will face the Colby Eagles at 3 p.m. on Friday for a doubleheader at Memorial Field for their home opener.



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