

Senior breaks record, qualifies for state

By Sharon Corcoran

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The Goodland High Cowboys finished 13th out of 15 teams at the regional track meet in Colby and had one member break a school record and qualify for state in two events. The Cowgirls competed but didn't earn any points and had no one qualify for state.

Senior T.J. Hawkins broke the high school's record in discus and took first place at regional with a 169-foot, 4.5-inch toss and took fourth in the shot put with 50 feet, five inches.

He beat Jordan Bedore's record of 165 feet, one inch. Hawkins will compete at state in both events.

"He is ranked No. 1 going into state in (Class) 4A and has the fourth furthest disc throw in the state in all classes for the 2008 season," said Coach Jonathan Dansel. "He has worked extremely hard in the weight room and in the ring at practice. I'm really proud of his efforts. He has truly earned the school record and the titles of NWKL and Regional discus champion."

Hawkins is enjoying the No. 1 spot. It's exciting going from last year being so terrible, he said, adding he had throws in the 120s last year.

"Last year, I worked on shot a lot more," he said, "and this year have been working on discus more."

He made it a goal to qualify for state, since he had fallen a bit short last year. Hawkins said his puts were around 52 feet throughout the season, but he threw 46 at regionals and didn't even qualify for the finals. This year his goals were to qualify for state, break the school record in discus and to break Coach Dansel's record of 164 feet for Jetmore High School.



Senior T.J. Hawkins threw the discus 169 feet, 4.5 inches, at the regional track tournament in Colby last Friday, breaking a Goodland High School record and qualifying for state competition this weekend.

Photo by Joey Falkoff/The Colby Free Press

As for how well he expected to do as the season was winding down, Hawkins

said that was anybody's guess. "You always tell yourself you

can do it," he said, "but I was jumping up about 10 feet each

week, so it was a whatever."

Hawkins practiced shot put Monday, discus Tuesday and said he'd be practicing both on Wednesday but once he arrived in Wichita Thursday, he would focus on discus.

"I want to hit 178," he said. "That's a pretty good goal to hit at state."

Last year's state champion hit 206, he said, and held the state record, but he graduated and is throwing for Arizona State University.

"I don't think the winner will throw over 200," Hawkins said.

Hawkins said qualifying for state is a nice way to end his senior season.

"I was really excited for it," he said. "I wish we could have gotten a couple more from Goodland, but I am very pleased with senior season."

Hawkins will major in fire science at Garden City Community College and plans to work for a fire department in Texas, where he has family. He said he will definitely play football at Garden City and now is thinking about throwing on the track team as well.

State track for all classes (1A through 6A) will be Friday and Saturday at Cessna Stadium, 21st and Hillside, Wichita. The Class 4A boys shot put is scheduled for 7 a.m. (Mountain Time) Friday and the Class 4A boys discus at 7 a.m. Saturday.

An events schedule is available at the Kansas State High School Activities Association web site www.kshsaa.org/TRACK/tfstate.html.

The Cowboys earned 15 points, putting them ahead of Haven with 13 and Hugoton with four. Andale won with 92, Cheney was second with 51, Ulysses third with 49.5 and Buhler fourth with 46.

Hesston had 41, Concordia 39.5,

Russell 32, Pratt 26, Lindsborg-Smoky Valley 25, Colby and Abilene each 23 and Kingman 16.

Senior Grant Wilkens leapt 12 feet, six inches for sixth in pole vault, ran the 110-meter hurdles in 15.77 seconds in the preliminaries and in 16.54 in the finals for seventh. He was eighth in the 300-meter hurdles in 43.19 seconds.

Freshman Brock Wilkens, brother of Grant, ran the 110-meter hurdles in 17.99 and the 300-meter hurdles in 47.32. Senior Brett Meissinger threw the javelin 123 feet, seven inches.

Freshman Nathan Deeds had a 16-foot, 2-inch leap in long jump and ran the 200 meter dash in 26.01 seconds.

Senior Casey Henderson ran the 100-meter dash in 11.95 seconds and junior Greg Farris in 12.35. Junior Dallas Price finished the 800-meter run in 2 minutes, 20.43 seconds, and freshman Stephen Buller finished the 1,600-meter run in 5:25.

The boys 4x400 meter relay of Grant Wilkens, Henderson, Farris and junior Fernando Martinez finished in 3:43.

For the girls, sophomore Alexis Bateman leapt 13 feet, eight inches in the long jump and ran the 200-meter dash in 30.63 seconds. Freshman Jennifer Rome ran the 400-meter dash in 1:08 and junior Cassie Cooper in 1:16.

Junior Taylor McLemore ran the 100-meter dash in 13.64 seconds. Freshman Jade Herl ran the 100-meter hurdles in 19.95 seconds and the 300-meter hurdles in 56.06 seconds.

In the 4x800 relay, Bateman, McLemore, Herl and Rome were eighth in 11:57. In the 4x400, the girls finished in 4:53.

Goodland drivers win at New Mexico tractor pull

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Two Goodland drivers won their events, two finished second and another third at the Southwest Nationals Truck and Tractor Pull on Saturday, May 10, in Farmington, N.M.

Kevin Bauman of Goodland won in Pro-Stock 4x4 Pickups, Stan Meissinger in Econo-Modified Big-Block Tractors, Jerry Bauman (father of Kevin) finished second in Econo-Modified Small-Block Tractors, Daniel Davis III took second in Two-Wheel-Drive and Doug Meissinger (brother of Stan) was third in Super Stock Tractors.

The event, held at McGee Park Coliseum, kicked off the 37th season of the Colorado Truck and Tractor Pullers Association. Organizers said it was one of the largest indoor events in the association's history.

Stan Meissinger, the 2007 points champion in the Econo-Modified Big-Block Tractor class, continued a history-making run, said Glenn Lussetto, an association board member, adding to an undefeated 2007 pulling season. Meissinger

was the first puller in the history of the association to complete an undefeated season, Lussetto said.

Kevin Bauman scored his first win with his 3rd Degree pro-stock 4x4 pickup, Lussetto said.

The contest featured the association's hottest classes, he said, ranging from the entertaining Econo-Modified tractors to high-performance two-wheel-drive vehicles, with competitors from Colorado, Nebraska, Kansas, New Mexico and Arizona.

In Pro-Stock 4x4 Pickups, Kevin Bauman, on 3rd Degree, tied with Sean Blackburn of Sidney, Neb., in the Sled Dawg, each with a full pull.

Most tractor pulls are on a 300-foot track, said Stan Meissinger, and a full pull is to the end of the track. In the tie-breaker, Bauman again had a full pull, while Blackburn pulled 244.69 feet. Ken Wilson of Manzanola, Colo., in Incognito, was third with 248.35.

Stan Meissinger won in Econo-Modified Big-Block Tractors with a full pull on Plum Nasty.

Jerry Bauman was second in

Econo-Modified Small-Block Tractors, driving Farminator 245.07 feet.

Davis was second in Two-Wheel-Drive, driving Lack of Common Sense 208.87 feet.

In Super Stock Tractors, Doug Meissinger took third, driving Kryptonite 175.11 feet.

The top six places get from \$50 to \$400 prize money, Stan Meissinger said, and accumulate points, depending on the class. Higher prize money goes to classes where the vehicles are more expensive to build.

Winning helps compensate for the fuel and expenses, he said, but pullers do it for fun.

"We're really competitive," Meissinger said. "On the track, we're really serious, but when we're done pulling, we're still friends and go have supper together and have fun."

The association's next event will be the Scottsbluff County Ag Society Truck and Tractor Pull Saturday, June 21, in Mitchell, Neb. They will

compete Thursday, July 24, at the El Paso County Fair in Calhan, Colo.; Friday, July 25, at the Arapahoe County Fair in Aurora, Colo.; and Saturday, July 26, at the Logan County Fair in Oakley.

They close out July at the Cheyenne County Fair in Cheyenne Wells, Colo., Thursday, July 31; then compete at the Morgan County Fair in Brush, Colo., Saturday, Aug. 2; come to the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair in Goodland Fri-

day, Aug. 8, and then will be at the Kit Carson County Fair in Burlington Saturday, Aug. 9.

They will be at the Arkansas Valley Fair in Rocky Ford, Colo., Thursday, Aug. 14, the Colorado State Fair in Pueblo Monday, Sept. 1, and will close the season with a benefit pull Saturday, Sept. 27, at the Flatlander Fall Festival in Goodland. It's planned for the same site as last year, Stan Meissinger said, Bill Stoick's land behind Wendy's

restaurant.

Donations will be accepted for the David Clark Memorial. David, who had multiple sclerosis and died, was the son of Craig Clark, who lives north of St. Francis and has been a member of the association for 30 years.

The association has been promoting truck and tractor pulls in the five-state region since 1972, Glenn Lussetto said. It's web site is www.cttpapull.com.

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