

# Senior wins state

By Sharon Corcoran  
slcorcoran@nwkansas.com

A Goodland senior finished out his track season with a win at state, taking the gold in discus at the state meet Saturday at Cessna Stadium in Wichita.

T.J. Hawkins threw the discus 158 feet, 9 inches, enough to beat out Jeff Woods of Louisburg High School, who finished second with 158 feet, 2 inches. Hawkins was 15th in shot put at 45 feet, 9.5 inches. The winning put was 53 feet by Jeremy Postin of Andover High School.

"It was a nice little cap off to my senior year," Hawkins said. "I was surprised 158-9 won — I just wanted to make it to the finals so I'd get six throws."

It was his first throw that won, and Hawkins said it was the only shot he got before rain fell, and the discus got slick and hard to hold.

Hawkins set his goal for state to throw 178 feet and said it bothers him some that he didn't get up in that area, but he is happy to have the win.

"I think I'm the fourth one from Goodland to win at state," he said, "and the first to win in discus."

State competition wasn't his first trip to Cessna stadium, but it was his first time to throw discus there. Each year, he said, they hold the K.T. Woodman tournament there. Goodland wasn't able to go this year, he said, because it was snowing here and the team couldn't get out of town. But Hawkins said he went last year but was only able to compete in shot put because it was raining and lightning.

He practiced in the ring before competition this weekend and got a feel for it and said that the large crowd at state didn't bother him.

"There were a lot of people watching," Hawkins said, "but I never pay attention to that. I'm not bothered by pressure; it was like any other tournament."

There was a left to right wind that morning, said Coach Jonathan Dassel, which is unfavorable for a right handed thrower, but everyone had to throw with the same elements.

"I was extremely happy for T.J.," Dassel said, "as he really worked hard to achieve his goal of being the state champion. That was one



Goodland High senior T.J. Hawkins broke a school record and won regional at Colby to qualify for state competition in the discus and won the state meet Saturday in Wichita. Photo by Joey Falkoff/The Colby Free Press

of my goals in high school as a discus and shot thrower — the best I ever got was second place at state. To be able to help a kid achieve the same goal that I once had made his win even sweeter from a coaching standpoint."

In shot put competition Friday morning, Hawkins said if he had gotten his best throw of the season, he might have earned a medal, since he had thrown around 50 and 51 feet throughout the season. Fifty feet, eight inches was good enough for fifth at state and 52 feet, 1.25 inches for fourth.

"T.J. did not make finals in the shot put," Dassel said; "he had an off day on Friday morning but we knew his best event was still to come on Saturday morning."

Hawkins said he doesn't regret focusing more on discus, since it is better to have the win.

Hawkins' win was enough to put

Goodland in fourth place as a team with only three events scored. By meet's end, those 10 points for his first-place finish had Goodland at 23 out of 40 teams. Competitors received 10 points for first, eight for second, six for third, four for fourth, three for fifth, two for sixth and one for seventh.

Hawkins threw the discus 169 feet, 4.5 inches and had a 50-foot, five-inch put at regionals Friday, May 16, in Colby to qualify for state and was the only Goodland High student to do so. Goodland High's track team had some outstanding individual results throughout the season but finished in the middle or bottom of the pack as a team.

"Our numbers weren't good," Dassel said. "There are too many spring sports."

The track team will probably be average until the school drops some programs, he said.

## Wrestling career to continue at Pratt

By Tom Betz  
ntbetz@nwkansas.com

Cowboys senior Bob Doxon, a heavyweight, plans to extend his wrestling career at Pratt Community College.

Pratt Coach Charles Thompson gameto Goodland to have Doxon sign a letter and celebrate with Goodland High wrestling coaches and Doxon's family at Crazy R's.

Doxon is the son of Kurt and Karla Doxon of Brewster.

Thompson said he has known Doxon since he was a freshman, and was pleased he was interested in coming to Pratt.

"Doxon said he was interested in looking at our school in his junior year," Thompson said, "and came down for a visit. He liked what we had to offer and agreed to sign with us."

Thompson said he has been excited to get the chance to start the wrestling program at Pratt, and jumped at the opportunity when he found out the college was looking for a coach.

"It has been a good two years," he said. "The first year, we finished 10th in the country and this year we were 21st."

"We had a good heavyweight who qualified for nationals the

first year and just missed qualifying this year. That position will be wide open for next year.

"I have known Bobby since he was a freshman, and think he is a tough kid and can be a heavyweight for us."

Thompson said Doxon went to the Kansas Wrestling championships on May 10 and won the Greco Roman State Championship at Junction City.

"I am looking forward to get Bobby down here and get him ready for his freshman year of college," said Thompson who works for the college in admissions.

Cowboys wrestling coach Joe Sramek said he was glad Doxon was going to be wrestling in college.



Doxon

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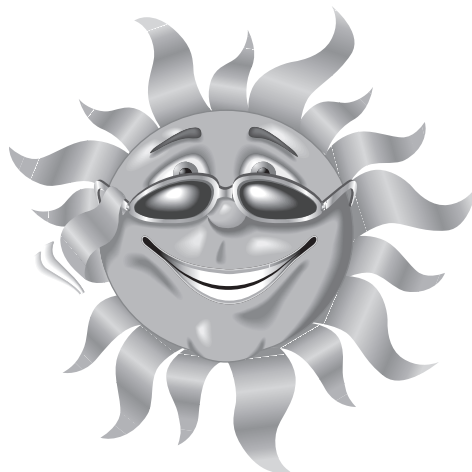
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