

Goodland sweeps first games

Goodland's Elks K-18 baseball team swept a young Colby team, which has only two players who are 15, 17-0 and 6-4 in the first games of the season Thursday in Colby.

Inexperience showed as the Eagles committed nine errors, threw five wild pitches and had a passed ball in the first game alone. They managed just three hits off Goodland starter Michael Pettibone. The Eagles settled down in game two and rallied for four runs with two outs in their last at bat, but couldn't quite close the deal.

In game one, there would be no comeback for Colby. Goodland took an early lead and just kept adding to it.

Already ahead 7-0, Goodland put up 10 runs in the fourth inning to get the run-rule in play and end the game. Colby committed five errors and had two wild pitches in the inning. Devon Garrett, who finished 1 for 2, drove in a run to make it to 10-0. That sent Colby's starter, Dalton Snyder, to the showers after 3 1/3 innings, even though he allowed just six hits.

Tyler Bear came on in relief and gave up an RBI single to Ryan Hillmer, a wild pitch that scored a run, a two-RBI single to Cy Paxton and a ground-rule double to Garth Helton. Paxton finished 2 for 2 with four RBIs.

Dallas DeLaRosa, who was 3 for 3 with two RBIs, got Goodland on the board with a single in the first and scored on a wild pitch. He added his second RBI in a five-run third inning that made it 7-0.



Michael Pettibone threw a pitch against Colby on Thursday. The starting pitcher in the first K-18 game, he held the Eagles to just three hits in four innings and Goodland won 17-0. Photo by Joey Falkoff/The Colby Free Press

Pettibone picked up the win after limiting Colby to three hits in four innings.

In the second game, Goodland got two runs on the board right away after Sheldon Nelson scored on a wild pitch and Garrett drove in a run with a double. Garrett, who finished 2 for 2, drove in his second run of the day in the third as Goodland scored three

more to take a 5-0 lead. They tacked on another run in the fifth on a triple by Hillmer.

DeLaRosa earned the victory for Goodland, allowing just two hits and four runs in five innings. He didn't allow Colby its first hit until the fifth. Jordan Rasmussen took the loss after allowing six runs and only four hits in

five innings.

After being shut out for eight consecutive innings to start the day, the Eagles broke through for four runs in the bottom of the fifth, putting a scare into the Goodland Elks, who had a comfortable 6-0 lead entering the final frame.

Down to the final Colby out, Rasmussen started the rally with a walk. Tood Kane reached on an error and later stole second. Snyder drove home Colby's first two runs with a double to the right-center gap.

A passed ball moved Snyder to third and he later scored on an infield single by Bear to make it 6-3. After Jake Thompson reached on a bunt, Bear scored on a double steal from third. With the tying run at the plate, Dalaan Organ struck out and the comeback attempt fell short.

Goodland's home opener was Monday against Oakley, and they will host WaKenney at 6 p.m. on Monday at Memorial Field.

Game 1

	1	2	3	4	
Goodland (1-0)	2	0	5	10	17
Colby (0-1)	0	0	0	0	0

WP Pettibone (1-0) LP Snyder (0-1)
2B: Helton, Hillmer

Game 2

	1	2	3	4	5	
Goodland (2-0)	2	0	3	0	1	6
Colby (0-2)	0	0	0	0	4	4

WP DeLaRosa (1-0) LP Rasmussen (0-1)
2B: Garrett, Snyder. 3B: Hillmer

Levi Hayden tournament this weekend

The 10th annual Levi Hayden Memorial Baseball Tournament will be Saturday and Sunday at Memorial Field in Goodland, with four American Legion teams participating.

The Levi Hayden Memorial Scholarship of \$500 will be given at the first Goodland game. Proceeds from the tournament fund the scholarship, which is given to a Goodland American Legion senior.

Games begin at noon Saturday with Scott City facing Burlington. At 2 p.m., Scott City will face Norton in the second game, and at 4 p.m., Goodland will face Norton in the third game. At 6 p.m., Goodland will face Burlington in the fourth game.

At noon on Sunday, Burlington will face Norton. At 2 p.m., Goodland faces Scott City. At 4 p.m., the teams with the worst record will play for third place, and at 6 p.m., the top two teams will play for the championship.

At the end of the tournament, coaches, umpires, a committee and the announcer will vote on the most inspirational player.

The tournament is in the memory of Hayden, a Goodland High student who loved baseball. He played his final game Feb. 21, 1997, and died as result of an automobile accident that spring.

The Goodland team began play at the Wooden Bat tournament in Plainville on Saturday and Sunday. Members include Kevin Amthor, Preston and Teather Dautel, T.J. Freeman, Vance Johnson, Rory Kling, Brandon Rome, Terry Thomas, Tanner Smith, Fernando Martinez, Dustin Zelfer and Kuter Issac.

Hunter says he has best dog; wins at national event seem to agree

By Sharon Corcoran

scorcoran@nwks.com

A Goodland man says his hunting dog is the best in the country, and the national titles the English pointer has won with his master and his girlfriend seem to back him, at least for this year.

Rowdy won the open pointing division at the North American Gun Dog Association national championship finals with his master, Larry House, then turned around and won the women's division with Larry's girlfriend, Kim Baxter.



Baxter

"I think he's the best dog in the country," House said, "but at tournaments, on any given day, any dog can win."

House and Rowdy earned 214 points in the open finals while second-place finisher Dale Merritt and Hawk had 192. Baxter and Rowdy scored 200 points, winning a close contest with second-place Rhene Fadling and Gordie at 197.

In the semifinals, House said, he and Rowdy finished third with 170 points on Friday and 195 on Saturday. They bagged their first bird in 3 minutes, 45 seconds, and had two shells and five minutes remaining at the end of the run.

Points are based on how many birds a team bags, how fast you do it and how many shells you have left at the end of the run, House said. For each shell you use, you lose 10 points, each minute is worth two points, each bird 20 points and a full retrieve, where the dog brings the bird to you, is worth 15. If the dog picks up the bird and attempts to bring it to you, he said, that's worth five points.

In the semifinals of amateur pointing, House finished 11th with another dog, Ace and 13th with Jake. They're not as good as Rowdy yet, House said, but they're younger and have a lot of potential. Rowdy is 6, House said, Ace 3 and Jake 2. All three are English pointers.

In the women's semifinals, Baxter took first with Rowdy, scoring 218 on Friday and the same on Saturday, nailing the first bird in 1:26 with four shells and nine minutes remaining. She finished sixth with Ace, scoring 222 Friday and 135 Saturday, the first bird in 9:24 minutes with five shells but no time remaining.

Jason Artzer of Goodland and Molly finished third in the open-flushing finals, scoring 160. The winners, Jared Coburn and Ellie, had 236, and second place Gregg Kay and Duke, had 170. Fourth was Russ Fadling and Gordie with 110 and fifth Howard McDonell and Maddy with 108.

House said he started entering hunting competitions five years ago when he got Rowdy.

"I bought a dog when pheasants weren't as plentiful as they are now," House said, "and I wanted to keep him on birds."



Larry House (left) held the chukar he had shot and his dog Rowdy had brought to him. Rowdy (above) pointed to the chukar in the grass on House's farm and waited for his master to shoot it.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

The events are often called dog trials, but House says that's not accurate. They're hunting tournaments, he said; they test the skills of the hunter as well as the dog, and they have to work as a team.

The dogs point to the birds, House said, the hunter shoots and the dog retrieves. If the hunter misses a lot, he blows the dog's chances.

"Rowdy should have won a lot more," he said, "and would if I could shoot better. He's the one that has made this happen. He's taught me a lot, how to be patient and take a better shot."

Rowdy placed eighth or ninth in the doubles competition at last year's nationals, House said, and two years ago was third in doubles at nationals of the National Upland Classic Series.

Three years ago, he said, Rowdy won the Kansas state championship, held at Rex Murray's Ringneck Country, a controlled shooting area north of Goodland, in the Upland Classic Series.

For their national championships with the North American Gun Dog Association, House and Baxter won shotguns, but with Upland Classic events, he said, winners get prize money.

House said he won about \$3,000 when he got first in the Kansas pheasants championship. It helps

with the expenses of competing, he said, adding that he spent close to \$5,000 last year on entry fees and

much in the summer because it's too hot, but then when it gets closer to hunting season, they start train-

travel expenses.

"If you don't win," he said, "it eats away at your checking account. I save money all summer so I can play all winter."

Baxter said she has been competing for two years and got fifth at nationals her first year, working with Rowdy.

"I always liked hunting," she said, "but usually big game like elk and deer."

She said House got her involved with hunting birds.

"I love it," she said. "I want to keep doing it. I wish we had hunting season longer."

House said he doesn't work with the dogs too hot, but then when it gets closer to hunting season, they start train-

ing. He works with the younger dogs daily because retrieving isn't natural for a pointer like it is for a Labrador — it's learned.

But Rowdy is experienced enough now, he said, that he doesn't need a lot of training. That experience

helps a lot in competition, House said, because dogs have to learn to deal with distractions. They have to be able to ignore other hunters shooting, he said, because there are several fields going at once.

House said Murray was a big help in training Rowdy, and the dog's natural ability has had a huge bearing on his success.

"He gave me a lot of pointers when I had trouble," House said of Murray. "This is the first hunting dog I ever bought — I was lucky to get a good one."

House was born and raised in Sherman County and owns a farm here.

"I'm a full-time FedEx employee and a part-time farmer," he said.

Baxter works at Dollar General, and House's other hunting companion, his son Casey, will be a senior in the fall at St. Francis Community High School, where he plans to play football.

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