

# Cowboys win 43-8 in district play

By Sharon Corcoran  
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The Goodland Cowboys football team beat the Ness City-Dighton Titans 43-8 Friday, putting themselves in a position to have a chance at the playoffs this year.

The Cowboys had lost their first district game to Scott City but with Friday's win can make the playoffs by beating Norton by at least 13 points Thursday.

The Titans took the opening kickoff, but the possession was brief, as the Cowboys took the ball on a fumble on the first play. Goodland was in the end zone in less than four minutes and made the extra point.

Goodland added another touchdown and extra point three minutes later, got a safety about halfway through the second quarter and got two more touchdowns and an extra point, taking them into half-time up 29-0.

The Cowboys added another touchdown and extra point less than four minutes into the third quarter and another with two minutes left in the quarter. With Goodland up 43-0, the clock ran continuously the rest of the game. Ness City-Dighton managed to get into the end zone and get a two-point conversion half-way through the fourth quarter.

"I'm very proud of our players," said Coach Kent Teeter. "Their effort was awesome, and we had a lot of players that stepped up when needed and almost everyone got to play."

"It was great being home, and it was an exciting game for us. I'm most proud of how much we have improved in eight games. The biggest positive was getting in a lot of plays. It was fun to see that many play."

"There were too many penalties, but we didn't let them stop us from making first downs. I thought we executed pretty well in all aspects of the game."

Offensively, Goodland had about 500 yards, he said, which was awesome. Defensively the Cowboys held them to just a few first downs in the first half and not very many total yards, he added; special teams had some really good returns and Goodland's coverage was pretty good most of the night.

Sophomore Nathan Deeds recovered the Titans' fumble on the first play. Senior quarterback Travis Angelos ran for 12 yards and a first down on the first play.

Senior Fernando Martinez carried the ball the next play and was hit by a host of Titans, gaining only a yard. Martinez carried for eight yards on the next play, was backed up a yard on third down but at fourth and two on the 10-yard line, he got the first down, setting Goodland up for first and goal at the 8. Martinez ran for two, caught a pass from Angelos for no gain and ran for the touchdown on third down. Senior Simon Grunfeld kicked the extra point.

The Titans went three and out, gaining only three yards, and punted. Martinez ran for seven, then Angelos threw a long pass to sophomore Kelly Pearson, who ran to the Ness City-Dighton nine yard line before being stopped.

Martinez ran for the touchdown on the next play, and Grunfeld kicked the extra point.



Cowboy running back Fernando Martinez (21) reached out over the goal line to the Cowboys third touchdown of the first half against Ness City-Dighton on Friday at Cowboys

Stadium. Goodland won the game 43-8 and will face Norton at 6 p.m. on Thursday.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

On the Ness-City Dighton possession, junior Kevin Amthor broke up a pass, Angelos hit freshman Guy Fullmer, holding him to a three-yard gain. The Titans got the first down on the next play, but then senior Ryan Taylor and Martinez prevented Fullmer from making any gain, Taylor hit C.J. Shaffer, holding him to a yard, and at third an nine, the Titans were unable to get the first down and punted.

After a penalty, Goodland had the ball at their own 8 yard line. Sophomore Brock Wilkens came in as quarterback and handed off to Martinez twice for the first down. Then at first and 10 at the 25, Martinez carried again, but an illegal block backed Goodland up to first and 20. Martinez ran for six, then Wilkens threw a long pass to senior Brandon Rome, who broke a tackle to add to the gain.

With one minute remaining in the first quarter, Goodland was at first and 10 at the Titan's 31 yard line. Martinez carried for no gain, then Wilkens fumbled the snap, and Ness City recovered. The Titans gained two on their first play, then junior Jay Cotter sacked quarterback Joe Flax. At third and 13, Flax passed to senior Jerry Lira. Marti-

nez and Amthor hit Lira, containing the gain to one yard, so the Titans punted.

The Cowboys had the ball with over 10 minutes remaining in the second quarter. After a two-yard gain by Martinez, an incomplete pass and a quarterback keeper, the Cowboys were at fourth and seven. A pass to freshman Riley Oharah got the Cowboys to first and goal at the nine.

A quarterback keeper netted a yard, then on second down, Goodland was offside, backing them up to second and 13. A quarterback keeper got the Cowboys to third and goal at the eight. Martinez ran for four then caught a pass short of the goal line, and Ness City-Dighton got the ball on downs at their own three yard line. Taylor, Deeds and a crowd of Cowboys piled on Fullmer, preventing any gain. On second down, a tackle by Keegan Smith in the end zone gave the Cowboys two points for the safety.

The Titans kicked, and a 54-yard return by sophomore Chris Bustillos put Goodland at the Titans' 15 yard line. Angelos handed off to Martinez, who ran for seven. Martinez ran for two and then two more, putting Goodland at first and goal at the 4. Martinez was held out of the end zone on the first play

but then ran for the touchdown on the next. On the extra point, the ball was snapped very high, and Grunfeld's kick was low, allowing the Titans to block it, but Goodland was up 22-0.

The Cowboys kicked to the Titans, who promptly fumbled, allowing Goodland to recover at the Ness City-Dighton 34 yard line. Martinez carried for five, Angelos threw a pass to Rome, who ran back to it but dropped it. Angelos threw a pass to Pearson, but the Cowboys were called for an illegal block and backed up to third and 15 at the 37.

Then, in a most unusual call, the referees threw a flag on Goodland's coaches.

"The penalty was thrown on the coaches due to too many in the coaching box," Teeter said. "We are allowed three in the box, and we had four most of the time. We've never had a flag thrown on us during a game for that."

The Cowboys didn't lose any more yards for the coaches' penalty, though, and a pass to Deeds got them out of the loss for the illegal block. Freshman Ryan Hillmer came in as quarterback and handed off to Martinez three plays in a row for the touch-

down. Grunfeld kicked the extra point, and Goodland was up 29-0 with a little over a minute left in the half.

Senior Jace Mosbarger sacked the Titans' quarterback, and the Cowboys held them to three yards gain, then backed them up four. Ness City-Dighton gained only five yards when they needed 22, so they punted, and the Cowboys had the ball as the final seconds ran out on the half.

Goodland took the kick off in the second half. Martinez carried for a loss, then Hillmer passed to Rome, who ran and dragged a tackler to get within a yard of the first down. Hillmer got the first down on a quarterback keeper. A pass to Rome got the Cowboys across the 50 yard line, and a quarterback keeper got another first down.

Hillmer threw a pass to Rome, who leaped after it but couldn't get high enough, but then Martinez ran for the first down. A pass to Oharah got the Cowboys another first down. At first and 10 at the Titans' 22, Hillmer dropped the snap but covered it and at second and 20, threw a pass to Rome, who ran it in for the touchdown. Grunfeld kicked the extra point.

Ness City-Dighton started on their own 29 after the kick and managed to get to midfield, but then Pearson intercepted a pass that bounced off another Cowboy's fingertips, and Goodland took over at their own. Goodland fumbled on the next play, however, and the Titans got the ball back.

The Cowboys put pressure on the Ness City-Dighton quarterback, and his pass was intercepted by Wilkens. At first and 10 at their own 25, Hillmer threw a pass to Pearson, had an incomplete pass and then a pass to Garth Helton, whose acrobatic catch gave Goodland the first down.

A pass to Rome gave Goodland another first down, a quarterback keeper gained another three, which was followed by two incomplete passes and a pass to Wilkens for the first down. A pass to Pearson gained eight yards. At second and 2 and the 19, Hillmer handed off to Bustillos, who ran for a touchdown. After Grunfeld's extra point, the Cowboys were up 43-0.

Ness City-Dighton went nowhere on the next play, and then Goodland was three and out. The Titans took the ball from their own 39 to Goodland's 33 in three plays, and then senior Micah Roehl ran for the Titan's lone touchdown. The two-point conversion was successful, making the score 43-8.

The Cowboys will be on their home field again at 6 p.m. Thursday to face the Norton Blue Jays.

"I'm really glad we have Norton at home," Teeter said. "By winning, we put ourselves in a chance for a playoff spot. Since Norton beat Scott City, if our calculations are correct, we need to beat Norton by 13 points to get into the playoffs."

"Norton plays hard and has a very good team. We will need to stop their running back and make sure we can line up correctly to their offensive sets. Offensively, we need to generate some first downs and put some points on the scoreboard. It should be a great game."

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## School calendar for October 28-November 4

**Wednesday-Black Day**

- 7:50 a.m.-High School Fall Clean Up
- 5:30 p.m.-Parent-Football Team Meal
- 7 p.m.-Adult Co-Ed Volleyball

**Thursday-Gold Day**

- 4 p.m.-8th grade basketball at Burlington
- 4 p.m.-7th grade basketball (here) versus Burlington
- 6 p.m.-Varsity football (here) versus Norton High School

**Friday-Black Day**

Girls State Volleyball

**Saturday-Boys/Girls State Cross Country**

**Girls Varsity State Volleyball**

8 a.m.-Kansas Music Educators Association Junior High Band/Choir at Hays High School

8 a.m.-Kansas Music Educators Association District High School Honor Band/Choir at Fort Hays State University

**Monday-Gold Day**

**Tuesday-Black Day**

- Boys Varsity Football (Bi-district)
- 6 p.m.-Herb Swartzkoff Basketball Clinic



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