

Cowboys end season with 28-14 loss

By Sharon Corcoran

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The Goodland Cowboys football team got the first touchdown and led 7-2 and then later led 14-8 but ended up losing 28-14 in a close and exciting district game against the Norton Blue Jays Thursday to close out the season.

Goodland was down 2-0 after a call of intentional grounding while the quarterback was in the end zone resulted in a safety but got the first touchdown of the game and the extra point to go up 7-2.

As the first half was winding down, the Blue Jays got a touchdown. The Cowboys blocked the extra point, though, so Norton only had a one-point lead going into half-time 8-7.

The Cowboys recovered a Blue Jay fumble three minutes into the third quarter and ran it for a touchdown. With the extra point, Goodland led 14-8. Not to be outdone, Norton ran the kick back for a touchdown and went for the two-point conversion, taking the lead 16-14.

Norton scored another touchdown in the third quarter, but the Cowboys blocked the two-point conversion attempt, so their lead was 22-14. Norton scored another touchdown, but Goodland again blocked the two-point attempt, so the final score was 28-14.

Thursday was a very exciting game for the most part, said Coach Kent Teeter — it was a really fun game to coach.

"We are very disappointed in the loss," he said, "especially when we were so close to winning the game. I'm most proud of them for their effort, courage and putting themselves in position to possibly win the game."

"Every team that we played this year with the exception of Ness City made the playoffs. We played a really tough schedule."

The Cowboys received the opening kickoff, and senior quarterback Travis Angelos threw two incomplete passes, then ran for the first down. A pass to senior Brandon Rome gained four yards, but a handoff to senior Fernando Martinez resulted in the loss of a yard. Another pass to Rome got Goodland another first down, though, and then Martinez ran for 25 yards and another first down.

A penalty cost the Cowboys five yards, and on the next play, Angelos ran with the ball while under pressure and fumbled — Norton recovered. Quarterback Connor Pfannenstiel handed off to running back Terrell Lane, who ran for 12 yards and a first down. The Cowboys held the Blue Jays to five yards on the next three plays, and at fourth and five, Norton lined up, but as the



Cowboy sophomore Kelly Pearson (center) ran a kick-off back in the first half of the game against the Norton Bluejays on Thursday at Cowboys Stadium. The Cowboys lost 28-14.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

crowd hollered at the Cowboys to watch the fake, the Blue Jays took a time out. They punted, and Goodland had the ball at their own 14.

After gaining 8 yards on a running play by Martinez, Goodland was flagged for illegal formation and backed up to the 16. Angelos threw the ball from the end zone under pressure and was flagged for intentional grounding, resulting in a safety and two points for Norton.

Goodland kicked from the 20, and Norton had the ball back on the Goodland 45 yard line. They were three and out and punted. The ball went into the end zone, giving Goodland a touchback, so the Cowboys would have the ball at the 20 yard line. But in a call no one understood, the referees called Goodland for a personal foul, half the distance to the goal, but backed the Cowboys up to the 1 yard line.

Sophomore quarterback Brock Wilkens handed off to Martinez, resulting in a 4-yard gain but then ran himself, losing a yard. Wilkens handed off to Martinez again for very little gain, and at fourth and 6, Goodland punted.

Norton took over at their own 31, and Lane carried. A flag against Norton backed them up 10 yards from the spot of the foul, so they were at first and 20 at the 43. They gained four yards on a quarterback keeper and 10 on a carry by Lane. Senior running back Matt Stanley got the Blue Jays to fourth and 1, but a flag at the snap for illegal procedure backed Norton up to fourth and 6 at the 28. After an incomplete pass,

Goodland took over on downs to start the second quarter.

Angelos handed off to Martinez, who ran for the first down, then threw an incomplete pass, then Martinez pushed forward for a yard, but an incomplete pass put Goodland at fourth and 9, and Rome punted.

Lane ran for a first down, then ran for three yards. An incomplete pass and then a flag for holding on the next play put Norton at third and 15. A sack by junior Jay Cotter backed the Blue Jays up to fourth and 25.

Norton punted, and Rome received and signaled a fair catch but was rushed by two Blue Jays. Norton was flagged for interference, and Goodland was at first and 10 at Norton's 38.

Angelos threw a pass to Rome, who leapt with outstretched arms to bring it down along the sideline, putting Goodland at first and goal at the 9. A penalty backed the Cowboys up to first and goal at the 14, but a pass to Wilkens got Goodland the touchdown, and senior Simon Grunfeld kicked the extra point, giving Goodland the 7-2 lead.

After the kick, Norton took over at their own 41. After they gained nearly 30 yards, a flag backed Norton up to third and 12 at the 35. Pfannenstiel gained a yard on a quarterback keeper, and then the Blue Jays decided to go for it at fourth and 11. After an incomplete pass, the Cowboys got the ball on downs. Angelos threw an incomplete pass but then handed off to Martinez on the next two plays for the first down. A pass to Pearson moved Goodland

from the 50 to Norton's 35, then Martinez carried for two, but two incomplete passes and a penalty for holding put Goodland at third and 18 at Norton's 44.

A Blue Jay penalty for roughing the passer gave Goodland 15 yards and an automatic first down. Angelos threw an incomplete pass, then handed off to Martinez twice. After the measurement, Goodland had the first down at the 17, but on the next play, Norton intercepted. Lane carried for 8, then a pass to Lane gave Norton their first touchdown. The extra point was blocked, making the score 8-7 with 19 seconds in the half.

In the second half, Norton took the opening kick, and started at their own 23. The Cowboys held Lane to almost no gain, but then Pfannenstiel ran for the first down. Carries by Lane and Pfannenstiel got the Blue Jays another first down, and carries by Stanley, Pfannenstiel and then Pfannenstiel again put Norton at first and 10 at Goodland's 39.

Mosbarger recovered a fumble on the next play, though, and ran for a Cowboys' touchdown. Grunfeld kicked the extra point, and Goodland was up 14-8.

Norton returned the kick for a touchdown and made the two-point conversion, taking 16-14 lead.

After the kick and a penalty, Goodland had the ball at their own 9. Martinez gained two but then was backed up on the next play, and Angelos threw an incomplete pass. A Blue Jay penalty gave Goodland 15 yards and an automatic first down,

though, at their own 24.

Angelos threw a pass to Rome, then handed off to Martinez for the first down. Another pass to Rome gave Goodland five yards, then sophomore Chris Bustillos ran for the first down. Bustillos ran on the next play, gaining a lot but then being dragged back by a flock of Blue Jays, ending up with only a 7-yard gain.

Angelos was sacked, backing Goodland up to third and 11 at the 44. A pass to Pearson gained 6 yards, but at fourth and five, an incomplete pass gave Norton the ball on downs.

Pfannenstiel ran for 6 yards, then 4 more for the first down. Stanley then Pfannenstiel ran for another first down at Goodland's 33. Lane carried for eight, then a pass to junior Ashton Draper resulted in a Norton touchdown. Junior Kevin Amthor blocked the 2-point attempt, so Norton was up 22-14.

Bustillos returned the kick, breaking two tackles to give Goodland the ball at their own 25. Martinez ran for four yards, Angelos threw an incomplete pass, then Martinez carried again for the first down.

Angelos threw an incomplete pass, then handed off to Martinez twice. At fourth and 5, Angelos threw a pass to Pearson, making the first down and crossing mid field. A pass to Wilkens took the Cowboys from Norton's 44 to the 20. Martinez ran for three, then Angelos threw an incomplete pass, and on third down, a Cowboys penalty backed Goodland up to third and 13 at the 23. A pass to Rome gained five yards, but an incomplete pass under heavy coverage gave Norton the ball on downs.

The Blue Jays were called for holding, backing them up to first and 14 at their own 10. Lane ran for 15 yards before being brought down by senior Kade Sheldon, then ran for another 6 before senior Vance Johnson stopped him. At second and 4, it was Lane again, and the Cowboys piled up on him, putting Norton at third and 1.

Norton barely got the first down on the next play, then Pfannenstiel ran for four, the Cowboys piled up on Lane, allowing only a yard, but Pfannenstiel ran for the first down. On the next play, Lane ran for a touchdown. The 2-point attempt was good, but a holding call forced Norton to try again, and freshman Riley Oharah broke it up, leaving Norton ahead by 28-14.

Bustillos returned the kick, and Goodland had the ball at their own 26. Angelos threw a pass to Rome for the first down. A pass to Wilkens and then a handoff to Martinez got the Cowboys another first down.

A pass to Rome got Goodland another first down, putting them at

the Norton 37. Angelos threw an incomplete pass on the next play, but Norton was flagged for pass interference, and Goodland was at first and 10 at the Norton 23. Martinez ran for three, Angelos threw an incomplete pass, and Goodland was called for holding, putting them at second and 17 at the 31.

Martinez ran for two and an incomplete pass put Goodland at fourth and 15 with just over two minutes to go. An incomplete pass gave Norton the ball on downs. Emotions were running high, and Goodland was called offsides, putting Norton at first and 5 at their own 33. Pfannenstiel ran for three, then threw an incomplete pass and handed off to junior Zane Perez for the first down.

Goodland was called offsides again, and at first and 5 with about a minute to go, Pfannenstiel backed up to take a knee, and Sheldon tackled him and was called for a personal foul. Pfannenstiel took a knee a couple of times to run out the clock, and Goodland's football season ended.

"Some of the calls that were made in the game were very confusing," Teeter said. "I was told that several times the officials discussed the calls and they changed their minds after throwing the flag. The consistency, especially the first half, wasn't like it needed to be."

The biggest disappointment for the season was not having Andrew Taylor, Teeter said, who hurt himself the third practice of the year. — he would have really helped the team.

"Without a doubt our team really improved throughout the season," Teeter said. "I'm proud of all of them for accepting all the new coaches, the new program and their willingness to work hard."

"On our bulletin board, we have a quote that we want Goodland football to be known for their effort, execution and enthusiasm. I think it was accomplished. Our seniors did a good job of leading this team."

"As a staff, we are pleased with the steps we made this season. We have a really good foundation for our program. I'm at a loss for a lot of words. It was really emotional (Thursday) night after the game. We were sad for the loss but a lot more sad because the season is over. A lot of good relationships were made this year."

"Our seniors can be proud of being the first class to start this program, and our underclassmen need to continue to make themselves better athletes."

"Personally, our family is really happy with the schools, staff, administration, community and especially the students. We have really enjoyed Goodland."

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School calendar for November 5-November 11

Wednesday-Gold Day
Elementary Bank Day
Professional Development Committee Meeting
7 p.m.-Adult Co-Ed Volleyball
Thursday-Black Day
Math Relays at Fort Hays State University
PLAN test
7 p.m.-US Army Fieldband and Chorus at Max Jones Fieldhouse
Friday-Gold Day
Saturday-Boys Varsity Regional Football
Monday-Black Day

Fall Buffer Week
Family, Career and Community Leaders of America Wiffleball Tournament
Board of Education Meeting
3 p.m.-Junior High Scholars Bowl at Colby
Tuesday-Gold Day
Fall Buffer Week
Family, Career and Community Leaders of America Wiffleball Tournament
West School Pictures Retakes
3 p.m.-High School Scholars' Bowl at Oberlin
3:30 p.m.-7th/8th grade basketball at Hoxie

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