



Assistant Cowboys wrestling coach Steve Evert (above) kept a close eye on a challenge match between senior T.J. Freeman and freshman Laine Herl in practice Tuesday. Freshman Riley Oharra (right) struggled to get out from under junior Paul Starr in their challenge match, but Starr won. The Cowboys' season begins Thursday.

Photos by Sharon Corcoran
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Cowboys to hit mats Thursday

By Sharon Corcoran

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The Cowboys hit the mats 32 men strong with eight seniors, including four state qualifiers, returning and adding 13 freshmen to the squad.

The Cowboys had seven qualify for Class 4A state competition last season with five of seven placing in the tournament, one winning the state championship at his weight, one second and the team finishing fourth.

The team won't have the state champion at 140 return, as senior A.J. Stephens has graduated as well as Bob Doxon, who was second at heavyweight, and Aaron Deeds, who was fifth at 152, but the Cowboys will have four seniors returning who qualified for state: Kade Sheldon, Keegan Smith, Ryan Taylor and Fernando Martinez.

Smith finished fifth at state at 145 and Martinez sixth at 189. Sheldon was knocked out of the tournament in the first round, losing two match-

es, and Taylor lost his first match, won one then lost. The four return for another chance at state.

"They will be the core of our team," said Coach Joseph Sramek, "our leaders."

The team has eight seniors total, with T.J. Freeman, Vance Johnson, Hector Sarinana and Tanner Oharra also returning. There are 32 out, a good number of kids, Sramek said; there are 13 freshmen, which is why the team's numbers have gone up quite a bit.

In practice, he said, they are working on getting their weight down, and with so many freshmen on the team are working on basic technique. It's a hard-working group of kids, he said.

Goodland opens on the road with a dual in Hoxie at 5:30 p.m. Thursday (Dec. 4) and then follow up with a home junior varsity tournament and a varsity tournament in St. Francis that Saturday.

Fourteen teams will compete at

Goodland's junior varsity tournament, Sramek said, and nine at St. Francis. Besides the host and Goodland, competing at St. Francis will be Colby, Scott City, Wichita County (Leoti), Rawlins County (Atwood and Herndon) and Burlington, Sterling and Wray from Colorado.

"It will be a good tournament to see where we're at," Sramek said.

Goodland will be competing in Class 3A this year, the coach said, which means the team will go to Fort Hays State for the state tournament and will compete with more teams from northwest Kansas.

"Our kids are really excited," he said. "Hays has a good atmosphere for state, and there will be more northwest Kansas schools who take wrestling seriously."

The Cowboys should have quite a few qualify for state this year, he said.

The Cowboys have listed at 103 pounds freshman Austin Avelar.

At 112: freshmen Corey Davis and Ty Thompson.

119: sophomore Seth Miller, junior Tyler MacDonald and freshman Angel Salazar.

125: Sheldon.

130: sophomores Kayler Rietcheck and Chris Bustillos.

135: sophomore Nathan Deeds.

140: Sarinana and freshman Mikail Freeman.

145: freshmen Sloan Ruhs and Garret Geist and junior Lorenzo Delgado.

152: junior Edurardo Martinez, freshman Laine Herl, Smith and T.J. Freeman.

160: freshman Jason Cowan and Johnson.

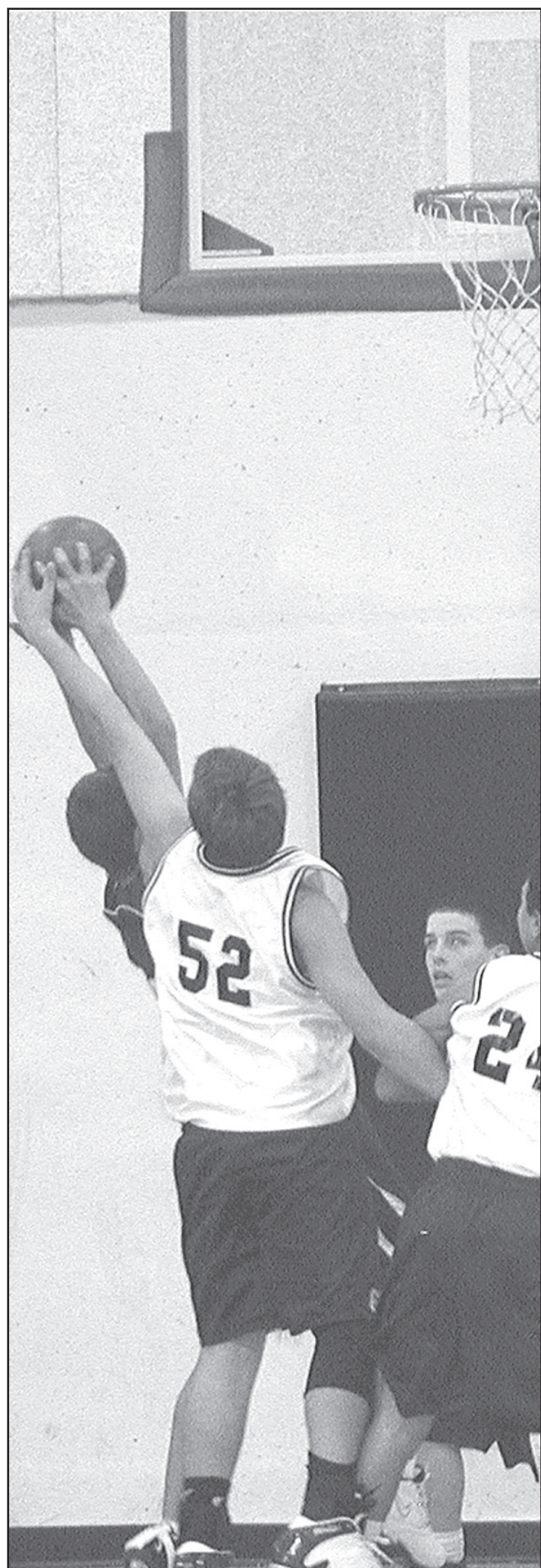
171: Taylor, junior Paul Starr and freshman Riley Oharra.

189: freshmen Mac Purvis and Tyler Fisher, junior Harrison Ford and Martinez.

215: Tanner Oharra and freshman Brendan Fulcher.

285: junior Jay Cotter.

Oh, no you don't!



Taylen Smith (No. 52) managed to get a hand on the ball to block an Oakley player's shot as Ian Bonsall (No. 24) kept his man busy in the seventh grade Grant Junior High Mustangs' 45-14 win Monday at home. The Mustangs also won the fifth quarter 8-0. The eighth grade Mustangs lost to Oakley in a close game 34-32 and won the fifth quarter 4-2. The Mustangs' next action will be at 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, as the seventh graders play Scott City at home and the eighth graders play in Scott City.

Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

Goodland has full wrestling schedule

The Cowboys wrestling team opens the season with a varsity and junior varsity dual at 5:30 p.m. at Hoxie Thursday (Dec. 4).

The rest of the schedule follows:
Saturday, Dec. 6: St. Francis Invitational varsity tournament and Goodland junior varsity tournament at 8:30 and 9 a.m., respectively.

Thursday, Dec. 11: varsity and junior varsity dual 5:30 p.m. at home vs. Atwood.

Friday and Saturday, Dec. 12 and 13: Colby Invitational varsity tournament 7 a.m.

Saturday, Dec. 20: Holiday Classic varsity tournament 8 a.m. at home.

Thursday, Jan. 8: varsity and junior varsity dual 5:30 p.m. at Colby.

Saturday, Jan. 10: Southwest Classic/Liberal varsity tournament

10 a.m. at Liberal and the WaKeeney junior varsity tournament 8 a.m.

Saturday, Jan. 17: Decatur County invitational tournament 9 a.m. at Oberlin and Hays Junior Classic junior varsity tournament 8:30 a.m.

Friday and Saturday, Jan. 23 and 24: Hays Senior Prairie Classic varsity tournament 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, Jan. 24: Rawlins County Invitational junior varsity tournament 8 a.m. at Atwood.

Thursday, Jan. 29: varsity and junior varsity dual at 7 p.m. at Burlington.

Friday, Jan. 30: varsity and

junior varsity dual at 5:30 p.m. at Oberlin.

Saturday, Jan. 31: Northwest Kansas League varsity tournament 8:30 a.m. at Oakley and the Stratton, Colo., Invitational junior varsity tournament 9 a.m.

Friday, Feb. 6: varsity and junior varsity dual 5:30 p.m. at St. Francis.

Friday, Feb. 13: varsity and junior varsity dual vs. Oakley 5:30 p.m. at home.

Saturday, Feb. 14: Colby Novice junior varsity tournament 8 a.m.

Friday and Saturday, Feb. 20 and 21: regional tournament.

Friday and Saturday, Feb. 27 and 28: state tournament.

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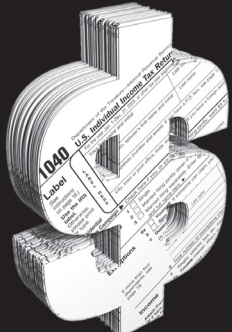
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