Kiwanis Demo Derby smashing thrill for crowd

_sports

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com The arena was plenty wet Saturday night as the Kiwanis Demo Derby became a muddy, slippery, event to open the Northwest Kansas District Free Fair.

A field of 7 cars and four trucks smashed it out with Dustin Smith (01) winning the car feature event and J.J. Ficken (36) winning the truck heat.

The weather was hot, but the arena had been soaked well before the event, and appeared to be extra slippery in the first car heat as the drivers slid around and tried to get up enough speed to knock the competitors out.

David Rose (17), Ryan Hosz (0) and Smith (01) were the top three in the heat. J.J. Howard (911), Neal Thornburg (26) and Tyler Martin (212) came back in the slop heat and were added to the feature.

Before the car feature three pickups and a suburban dueled it out for top prize. This was the second year for the trucks, and Ficken (36) was the winner when Chris Zimmerman (411) in the suburban lost his engine and broke off his flag. Zimmerman had won the first truck duel the year before.

At one point Zimmerman had Ficken's pickup on the south burm, but when the two vehicles got tangled they were pulled apart and the contest continued.

The other two trucks were driven by Andrew Drennan (3X) and Blake Saint (55). Drennan's truck got pushed over the south burm and Sain't truck died in the middle of the arena

In the feature car event the car of David Rose (17) got shoved into the burm on the northeast and he was out first.



Drivers in the car division of the Kiwanis Demo Derby ganged up in the arena (above) on Saturday night trying to knock each other out of the heat. The car in the middle was Neal Thornburg (26), Ryan Hosz (0) already had front wheel problems, David Rose (17) hit Thornburg and Dustin Smith (01) hit Rose. J.J. Howard (911) was looking for a good angle to get into the pile up. Howard's car (right) was having trouble later in the heat and flames were shooting out of the exhaust. Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

on the burm in front of the chutes, as the winner. but he was able to get free only to have his car die a few minutes later. sive driver for the night. Track of-Thornburg kept his car moving and ficials said there were no rookies in Martin's car almost got stuck was the last one out leaving Smith the event this year.

Hosz was chosen as the aggres-



Jesse Woodard, 1993 Goodland completion of Jonathan Beasley's on now that he has the position, High School graduate has been career. He is currently the offensive Woodard said he has to find a solid named as the head track coach at Manhattan High School. Woodard has been the assistant track coach for eight years, overseeing the sprinters.

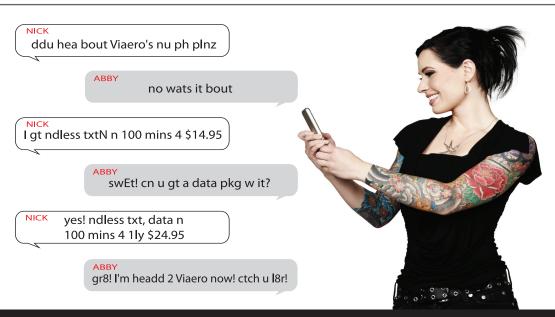
School football team.

"I'm excited," said Woodard. a good fit to take over for retiring It will be a challenge but I have great replace Gary on things."

line coach for the Manhattan High replacement for Schwandt in coaching a strong group of hurdlers.

"I thought Gary did an excellent "I was a little shocked when Gary job and we have great assistants so retired, but he will still be around, I will let them do their things," he Manhattan athletic director Mike and it will be fun because it's not said. "My biggest concern is find-Marsh said he felt like Woodard was like he left me with the cover bare. ing someone to coach hurdles and





coach Gary Schwandt.

"Jesse has been a head assistant coach for the past eight years and his leadership and knowledge about track are very good characteristics of his, and I'm sure his leadership, will carry him through," he said. "I know we all look forward to working with him next year.

Woodard went to Kansas State University at Manhattan after high school graduation and he played most of his time on special teams and had one career catch, the first

assistants and it will be fun."

Woodard said he met with the athletic director following the Pittsburg State football camp at the beginning of June and then began speaking about the job with him just before the track program. the Fourth of July.

offered the job to Woodard, and he out, some of the bigger kids out to learned this week that the offer has been accepted.

Woodard said he consulted with tight end from 1995-97. He spent his family and Schwandt before connection and hopefully we can making a final decision on the job. On the list of things to work

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With Woodard's direct connection to football, he said he has had recent conversation with the Manhattan football coach Joe Schartz

about integrating more players into

"I've talked with Joe about it March said around that time he and we want to get some more kids throw," he said. "The football players have always been some of my best sprinters, so we have a good make it better.'

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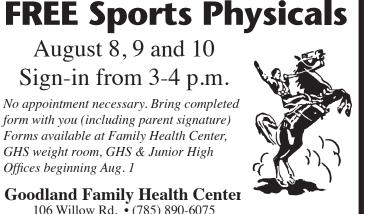


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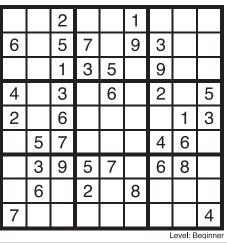
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