

Cowboy wrestlers win close duel with Hoxie

By Kevin Bottrell
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It all came down to the final match for the Goodland High School wrestling team in their duel with Hoxie on Thursday.

The Cowboys were ahead by only two points going into the final match of the night. Senior Mac Purvis brought the crowd to its feet when he pinned his opponent to seal the 40-32 win.

Things started out well for the Cowboys. Freshman Aaron Avelar (113) and his brother, senior Austin Avelar (120), each won by fall. Hoxie had an open spot at 106, so Goodland's Josh Davis won by forfeit.

The Indians were able to put together a string of wins in the middle weight classes. Goodland had an open spot at 126, giving Hoxie a forfeit. At 132, sophomore Brook Bahe lost a long match in which he nearly took the lead with a reverse. He lost by a 7-3 decision.

Senior Corey Davis (138) and junior Jed Gray (145) each lost by fall. Sophomore John Peden lost by a 10-2 major decision while sophomore Colton Cooper lost a narrow 6-4 decision in overtime.

Seniors Jason Cowan (170) and Laine Herl (195) each won by forfeit. At 182, sophomore Tyler Gastineau lost a 17-6 major decision



Goodland junior Jed Gray tried to flip Hoxie's P.J. Carter at the duel Thursday at the Max Jones Fieldhouse. Wrestling at 145 pounds, Gray lost his match by fall. The Cowboys went on to win the duel 40-32.

Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

that put the Cowboys behind, until senior Riley Oharah at 220 won a 9-1 major decision of his own to put the Cowboys up 34-32 going into Mac Purvis' final match.

At 285, Purvis faced Indians freshman Mark Schippers, who stood several inches taller. Purvis was able to get the upper hand in the second period, flipping Schip-

pers on his back and winning by fall to end the night with a 40-32 Cowboys win.

The junior varsity boys did well in the WaKeeney tournament last

weekend. John Whisnant placed first in the 160-pound weight class with a 9-0 major fall against WaKeeney and a 5-3 decision over teammate Sloan Ruhs, who got second.

Ruhs won by a 5-3 decision over Jonas of Hoisinton but was pinned by Hernandez of Dodge City.

Also at 160, Cody Hooker was pinned by Janousek of Goodland and was pinned by Hahn of Garden City.

At 106, Josh David won by technical fall 18-3 vs. Dinkel of Thomas More Prep-Marian, was pinned by Hoy of Pratt and pinned Rumbaugh of Dodge City. He placed second in his class.

At 138, James Dinkel pinned Marquez of Dodge City, was pinned by Franklin of Pratt and lost a 0-0 decision to Buxton of Hays.

At 152, Jeff House was pinned by Areliano of Garden City, pinned Heiman of Thomas More and lost by a 2-1 decision to Higdon of Thomas More Prep-Marian.

Also at 152, Drew Dautel won by a 2-1 over Gabel of Thomas More, lost by a 5-2 decision to Gabel and lost a 6-2 decision to Sauer of Thomas More.

At 170, Mikail Freeman pinned Daniels of Garden City, pinned Ouinonez of Garden City and lost by a 3-1 decision over Brand of Russell.

The varsity wrestlers were in Oberlin this weekend, while the junior varsity went to Hays for the Junior Prairie Wrestling Classic.

College selects coaches for basketball program's inaugural year

By Tom Betz
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Northwest Tech's newest coaches were introduced Friday at the Goodland Rotary meeting and given a chance to talk about themselves and their plans for the first season to begin in the fall.

The Maverick's men's basketball coach is Jace Herl, 2006 graduate of Goodland High School, and is son of Jay and Jo Herl, and brother to Jade and Kelsey Herl. He is engaged to Sharaya Selsor.

The Maverick's women's basketball coach is April O'Neal, who moved to Goodland last week from Montgomery, Ala.

Both coaches spoke to the Rotary club and talked about their background and what they see as the challenges facing them. Both of the coaches were introduced by Dr. Ed Mills, Northwest Tech president who said it was great to have these people at the college and were selected from more than 400 applicants.

"The College is pleased to have Ms. O'Neal join the faculty and coaching staff," Dr. Ed Mills, college president said. "She brings solid experience in coaching to campus as the first Head Women's Basketball Coach for the Lady Mavericks, but more so, she comes with a fine background and passion for teaching mathematics and computer science. We look forward to her not building a fine team of athletes and mak-



Jace Herl



April O'Neal

ing great contributions in many ways to the quality of our programs.

"The college is excited to have someone with Jace's preparation and excellent qualities to join the college's faculty and coaching staff. He was selected from a large number of applicants, and he'll have the honor of being the founding head coach for the Maverick men's basketball team. We fully anticipate Jace will use his great passion for the sport, coupled with his many talents and skills, to assemble and lead an outstanding college basketball team — one Goodland will be proud to have in the community."

O'Neal was on the sports staff at Alabama State University and joined Northwest Tech college on Thursday.

She told the Rotary people she will have to get used to the winds of Kansas, and is looking forward to continuing her recruiting

for the women's basketball team.

O'Neal holds a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Alabama State University, a Masters in Higher Education with a Concentration in Mathematics, and is pursuing her Doctorate in public policy and administration. She has an excellent background in computer science.

O'Neal's father is a high school history teacher, and she excelled in Alabama as a high school athlete in volleyball, basketball and softball. After competing in athletics for Bishop State Community College, she was a two-year starter at Alabama State University, receiving the coveted Newcomer of the Year Award.

As a high school mathematics teacher, she received the Class Act Award for excellence in the classroom from her district. In 2009-2011 she was a member of Alabama High School Directors and Coaches Association. She coached basketball, volleyball and softball for three years at Southside High School in Selma, Ala. Last year, her teams went undefeated in the conference and were area champions in both Volleyball and Basketball. In Basketball, her team won the Sub Regional Championship.

O'Neal said her top priority will be getting good athletes and discipline will be her main goal.

"I feel it they are disciplined it will not only help them on the team, but it will carry them in academics and on to the real world,"

she said.

She said she knows some of the girls coming will want to go on to a four-year college.

"My vision is to look at the big picture," she said, "but first to focus on the details."

Her goal in recruiting is to get good players and to have a winning season.

"I know it is hard the first year," she said, "but I believe we can be ready to compete. In focusing on the details I am trying to find people who already have some good basketball background."

Another question was if the Mavericks will be competing in the Jayhawk Conference. O'Neal said she was not sure about which conference the college would be playing in.

The question of what conference the Mavericks would be playing in was addressed by Herl when he spoke to the audience.

He said the college was talking to the Region 9 conference as the Jayhawk Conference had turned the Mavericks down. He said Region 9 includes McCook, and Northwest Tech would be a Division 2 school. He said the college hopes to be able to play some non-conference games against some of the regional Jayhawk colleges if the conference will allow the schools to play.

Herl said he came back in August and when he heard about the college adding basketball he wrote to Dr. Mills and decided

to apply.

He said his coach from Mesa State in Grand Junction, Colo., was one of the people who wrote a letter of support.

Herl graduated from Goodland High School in 2006. He went to Dodge City Community College, earning an Associate Degree in General Studies.

He transferred to Mesa State College, where he was a two year starter on the men's basketball team. Herl broke Mesa school records his senior year; was first team All Conference; first team Academic All Conference; and Conference Defensive Player of the Year.

He graduated with a Bachelors Sports Management, Cum Laude.

Herl said after graduating from Mesa his coach asked him to come back and help coach.

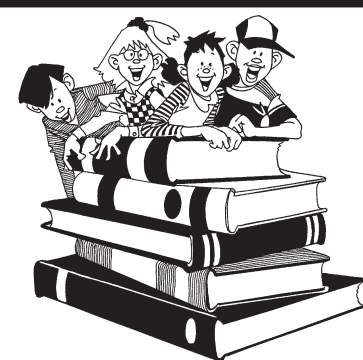
He said he is working on his masters degree from Fort Hays State, and will teach some physical education classes for the college and possibly some sports management classes.

Herl said he has been recruiting since he got the job, and has been talking to friends and people he knows in Albuquerque, N.M., Chicago, California and Australia.

Talking about what he is looking for in a recruit Herl said, "I played hard and played defense and rebounded. I want to find players who want to play hard and play defense and rebound. I want players who are confi-

School calendar for January 18-24

Goodland High School • Grant Junior High School
West Elementary School • Central Elementary School



Wednesday: Gold day

Thursday: Black day

Varsity Basketball at Hillsboro Trojan Classic Tournament
3 p.m.: Junior High Scholar's Bowl at Scott City

Friday: Gold day

Varsity Basketball at Hillsboro Trojan Classic Tournament
2 p.m.: Varsity Wrestling at Hays Senior Prairie Classic Wrestling

Saturday: Varsity Basketball at Hillsboro Trojan Classic Tournament

8:30 a.m.: Varsity Wrestling at Hays Senior Prairie Classic Wrestling
9 a.m.: Junior Varsity Wrestling at Atwood

Monday: Black day

Board of Education meeting
12:30 p.m.: Junior High Scholar's Bowl at Brewster

Tuesday: Gold day

3 p.m.: Boys 8th Grade Basketball at Scott City
3:30 p.m.: Boys 7th Grade Basketball, here, versus Scott City
3:45 p.m.: C team Basketball, here, versus Norton
5:30 p.m.: Girls Varsity Basketball, here, versus Norton
7 p.m.: Boys Varsity Basketball, here, versus Norton



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