

Season stats show positives for Cowboy players

By Kevin Bottrell
kbottrell@nwkans.com

The Goodland High School boys basketball team may have only gotten six wins this year, but Head Coach Donald Raymer said the players got valuable experience. "Some of it was very positive," Raymer said.

The Cowboys ended their season with a 6-15 record. Wins came against Weskan and Norton in December, Oakley in January and Colby, Rawlins County and Hugoton in February.

"We lost some close games," he said. "If we were to score just a few more points, we could win those and look at our successes instead of looking at it as a rebuilding year."

Raymer said the season gave the team some good experience and some players had the opportunity to develop their skills.

The Cowboys had a resurgence in mid-February, winning two back-to-back games. Raymer said he'd been talking to other coaches, and one thing he did was to change the starting lineup. He took the team's second leading scorer, sophomore Gage Ihrig, out of the starting lineup, replacing him with senior Reed Bellamy. Raymer saved Ihrig for later in the game.

"I told Gage, 'Your job is to get the ball and shoot,'" Raymer said.

With Ihrig more rested, he put in a lot of points at key moments for the Cowboys. He scored 23 points in the Cowboys' 50-41 win over Hugoton on Feb. 17. In that game, Ihrig knocked down 6 of 9 three pointers.

"That's very impressive for a sophomore shooter," Raymer said.

The senior class had several stars on the varsity team.

Ryan Hillmer had 317 points this season. His season high came in a 77-57 loss to Winfield on Jan. 20, where he score 27 points, mostly from the free throw line. He made 23 field goal attempts in that game but connected on only five.

Overall he shot 105 out of 305 field goal attempts, made 73 of 114 free throws, got 74 assists and pulled down 108 rebounds. In Monday's game, Hillmer beat coach Donald Raymer's career point total from his days as a Goodland High School player. Hillmer put in 823 career points, the fourth highest of any Cowboy.



Bellamy, who sat out the beginning of the season with a football injury, came back in a big way in late January. He saw his first action against Winfield on Jan. 20, putting in two points, but shooting 1 of 5 from the field. He had a career-high 15 points

in the Cowboys 79-61 win over Rawlins County on Feb. 14. Overall this season he had 56 points, shot 18 of 60 from the field and 20 of 35 from the free throw line. He had seven assists, three blocks and 40 rebounds. Blaine Luther averaged 3.2 points



Sophomore Gage Ihrig (above), seen here playing against Scott City in December, was the Cowboys second leading shooter this year. Senior Blaine Luther (left), seen here going for two points against Colby in February, averaged 3.2 points a game and got 83 rebounds.

Photos by Kevin Bottrell and Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

a game for the Cowboys with 64 points total. He had a double-double, including a season-high 10 points and 11 rebounds, against Rawlins County on Feb. 14.

Overall, Luther shot 24 of 62 from the field, made 13 of 21 free throws, got five assists, two blocks and pulled down 83 rebounds.

Parker Sieck had 40 points this season. He shot 13 of 41 from the field and made 14 of 25 free throws. His best game came against Hugoton on Jan. 13, where he scored seven points, five of those from free throws, blocked two shots and pulled down three rebounds.

Raymer said the team won't be same without the graduating seniors.

"It's always tough to lose guys that you've grown to trust and think of as your sons," he said. "But

it's part of the job. You send your seniors on and you bring in new freshmen."

While it won't be the same without those seniors, Raymer said there is a good core group of players coming back next year.

The junior class had fewer players, but several hard workers.

Gunner Helton saw more playtime at the beginning of the season. He had six points against Norton in December and six against Hugoton in early January. He had 24 points this season, shooting 11 of 26 from the field. He put in 4 of 8 free throws and got 28 rebounds. Raymer said Helton will need to reassert himself next year.

Cy Paxton only had nine points this season, but he put in 100 percent of his four free throw attempts. All four of those came in a game against Rawlins County on Feb. 14. Paxton also got nine steals and 10 rebounds this season. Raymer said Paxton is often outsized on the floor, but no one works harder.

Ruben Lazaro was injured much of his sophomore and junior year. He saw varsity playtime against Holcomb, Hugoton, Rawlins County, Hillsboro, Oakley and Scott City this year. He had three points, shot 1 of 3 from the field and made 1 of 2 free throws. Raymer said he has made significant steps.

Raymer said Cooper Slough, who got several minutes of playtime and scored two points, is a tough, physical player, but needs to work on developing fundamentals.

The sophomore class was a strong one for the Cowboys this year.

Gage Ihrig scored 208 points

this season. Overall, he made 42 of 100 three point attempts and 46 of 59 free throws – the best percentage of the team. He shot 60 of 151 from the field, got 19 assists and 54 rebounds.

Gage's brother Gannon wasn't too far behind with 136 points this season. He shot 49 of 131 from the field, knocked down 26 of 40 free throws and got 30 rebounds.

Gannon put in 19 points in the Cowboys' narrow 59-53 loss to Riley County on Jan. 21. He made 7 of 12 field goals that night.

Taylen Smith was another of the Cowboys' top scorers with 198 points. His field goal percentage was one of the best on the team at 41 percent. He matched Gannon Ihrig's season-high point total with 19 in a game against Norton on Jan. 24.

Smith was also the team's leading rebounder, pulling down 69 offensive rebounds and 130 on defense for a total of 199.

Raymer said that no matter how well these players performed this season, next season wouldn't just be handed to them, they would need to work hard in the off season.

"They have a very strong work ethic, though," he said.

Raymer said he's also looking for sophomores Zach Miller, Connor Simpson and Jarod Lake to step up next year.

Raymer plans to spend the summer working with his players on fundamentals like passing, dribbling and shooting, as well as their zone defense.

"We'll be looking forward to next year," he said. "And I wish all the spring sports good luck."

Cash 4 Junkers

Will pay top dollar for your unwanted, totaled or junked vehicles. Cars, vans, pickups or trucks. Also interested in farm machinery and other metals, batteries, radiators, copper aluminum & brass.

Call 785-332-7046, Jett Fromholtz
St. Francis, Ks.

Crossword Puzzle

Prehistoric Puzzling

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14												
17												
20												
23												
26												
32												
39												
43												
47												
51												
55												
63												
66												
69												

American Profile Hometown Content 3/4/2012

ACROSS

1. Cries one's eyes out
6. "___ boy!"
10. Spill the beans
14. Disney's Little Mermaid
15. Buddy
16. Ancient stringed instrument
17. Where the buffalo roam
18. Colonist loyal to Britain
19. Yard sale caveat
20. Number of red cells, white cells and platelets
22. Pinocchio's protuberance
23. Long-snouted fish
24. Short sock
26. Went for apples
30. ___ boom
32. Lab gel
33. Sicilian erupter
35. ___ in (introduce gradually)
39. "So what ___ is new?"
40. Canines and incisors
42. MBA's subj.
43. Recovery clinic, for short
45. Relaxation
46. Neighbor of Sudan
47. Pie-eyed
49. Magic Johnson's old team
51. Freight train unit
54. Football filler
55. "Your turn," in communications
56. Razzberry
63. Hash house handout
64. Polly, to Tom Sawyer

65. Twain's collaborator on "Ah Sin"
66. Fedora feature
67. Evening, in ads
68. Fill with joy
69. Wild guess
70. Baseball's Slaughter
71. Administered medicine to

9. "The Joy Luck Club" author
10. Total freedom of action
11. Popular disinfectant
12. Respond to reveille
13. Trouble persistently
21. Midshipman's counterpart
25. ___ and tuck
26. Buddy, Max or Bugs
27. Look at flirtatiously
28. Big party
29. Bit of a cutlet's coating, often
30. Move stealthily
31. Nose bag morsels
34. High schooler, usually
36. Need liniment
37. Fly like an eagle
38. Objectives
41. Spiral
44. Bikini top
48. Elegant in manner
50. Like a frightened cat's back
51. B-52's payload
52. In broad daylight
53. City near Dayton
54. Starts the pot
57. Make a shambles of
58. Not tricked by
59. Angelic topper
60. Historical periods
61. Suffix with major or novel
62. Saxophonist's need

The crossword puzzle brought to you by:

what can a cookie do?

MMMMMM...
the possibilities!

Girl Scout cookies are here!

Pay for a subscription and receive Girl Scout cookies!

\$81.00

1 year subscription,
2 boxes of cookies.

\$46.00

6 month subscription,
1 box of cookies.

The Goodland Star-News

1205 Main, Goodland, Kan. 67735
(785) 899-2338

The Goodland Star-News

1205 Main, Goodland • 785-899-2338