Cowboys lose opener to Cougars

kbottrell@nwkansas.com The Goodland High School varsity baseball team narrowly lost their opening game against the Burlington Cougars on Friday.

The Cowboys will see action next Friday when they play at 3 p.m. at Scott City.

After a scoreless top of the first for the Cowboys, pitcher Taylen Smith started out strong with three strikeouts in the bottom of the first, leaving two runners on base.

Smith grounded out to start the second inning. Spencer Smith nearly got on base after a strike three ball was dropped. He was thrown out at first. Kyler Amthor struck out

The Cougars went down almost in order in the bottom of the second, leaving another runner on base. The Cowboys left two runners on in the top of the third. After Tyler Jones grounded out and Cy Paxton struck out, Ryan Hillmer hit a single. He stole second and Austin Avelar walked, leaving two on for Ryder Kling, who struck out to end the

The Cougars scored two runs in the bottom of the third. With one out and the bases loaded, Burlington hit a single that got two runners home. The Cougars loaded up the bases again, but a line drive right to Taylen Smith ended the inning without further damage.

The Cowboys went down 1-2-3 in the top of the fourth and fifth innings, but they held the cougars to a two-point lead. Then in the bottom of the fifth with Gunner Helton pitching, an infield chopper and a missed throw to first allowed Burlington to score a run. Helton was able to strike out two in a row to get out of the inning.

The Cowboys got some points on the board in the top of the sixth. Hillmer hit a triple to right field. Avelar walked and got to second on a wild pitch. He kept going to third when the throw to second went past. That allowed Hillmer to score. Avelar got home a few minutes later when Kling belted a single to

Kling stole second and Helton



Taylen Smith slid into second base as the throw went over the head of Burlington's second baseman, allowing Smith to get safely on the base. Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

at third base. Helton moved over got another two strikeouts and Kling to third on a wild pitch, then went caught a fly in foul territory. home when a throw intended to get Smith at second went over the take the lead in the top of the sevsecond baseman's glove. That tied the game at three each.

Smith and Jones walked, loading the Avelar walked, but Kling hit into a bases for Paxton, who struck out to double play and Helton struck out.

walked. Taylen Smith hit it right bottom of the sixth, the Cougars bottom of the seventh to claim the to the pitcher, who threw out Kling couldn't manage any runs. Helton victory.

The Cowboys were looking to enth, but couldn't get anyone across the plate. Hillmer hit a single and Amthor struck out, but Spencer went to second on a wild pitch.

The Cougers got a run in quickly Despite loading the bases in the on a double and a single in the

Registration now open for Sunflower Games

13 to 29 in Topeka.

Information and registration instructions can be found at www. sunflowergames.com. The Sunflower State Games is open to all Kansas residents including military personnel and students.

Athletes will compete in a record 48 different sports including two new events: cheerleading and girls fast-pitch softball. Highlighting the games once again will be the Hy-Vee Athlete Festival open to all athletes and volunteers events.

TOPEKA – Online registra- and will include the annual lighttion is now open for 23rd annual ing of the cauldron, the 5K/10K Sunflower State Games from July Governor's Cup Road Race, free picnic and more.

> "We are extremely excited about what's in store for the 2012 Sunflower State Games. The addition of the new sports will provide more opportunities for Kansas athletes of all ages to compete at a high level and increase their quality of life," said Executive Director Mitch Gross. "We are looking forward to hopefully

another record breaking year." The Sunflower State Games held on Friday, July 13, at Hum- is also seeking volunteers to asmer Sports Park. The festival is sist with a variety of duties at the

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Wallace Curry, M.D. For an appointment please call 785-890-6030

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APRIL 10

APRIL 24

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