



Golf team wins state

By Kevin Bottrell
The Goodland Star-News

The Goodland High School boys golf team won the Class 3A State Tournament on Monday, finishing 20 points lower than second-place Sabetha.

The Cowboys finished with 317 teams points. Sabetha came in second with 337 and Seneca-Nemaha Valley placed third with 347. Coach Terry Daise said the boys were very happy and excited about winning a state title.

The contest was held at Sugar Hills Golf Course, which turned out to be an advantage for the Cowboys.

"It was a big advantage," Daise said. "Knowing the greens, distances to parts of the fairway and having a comfort zone from playing the course so many times."

Daise added that the boys still had to hit well and make putts in order to score well, and the winds that were gusting up to 30 mph were also a factor. Daise said the wind made it tougher on some holes, and overall drove the scores somewhat higher.

"Our score of 317 was excellent in that kind of wind," he said.

Goodland qualified for state as a team, and so had six golfers at the competition. The Cowboys claimed three of the top four individual places.

Gage Ihrig placed first with 75. Joel Linin placed third with 78 and Gannon Ihrig placed fourth with 79. Sabetha's Matt Manning placed second with a 77. Last year, Sabetha beat Goodland for third place by one stroke.

Rounding out the rest of the six Cowboy golfers were Tanner Jones, who came in 19th with

an 85, Cooper Slough, who shot a 103, and Thatcher Jones, who shot a 104

Other teams in town for the competition were Hutchinson Trinity, Phillipsburg, Pittsburg-St. Mary's Colgan, Wichita Independent, Eureka, Thomas More Prep-Marian, Osage City, Erie and Beloit. The top individual players at regionals who were not on a qualifying team also got to go to state. The Cowboys had faced teams from their regionals before, but some were wholly new.

Daise said overall the Cowboys had a great season, but it wasn't always easy. The toughest meet of the year, he said, is always the Hays High Invitational.

"All the schools are 5 and 6A except for us and TMP," he said. "We didn't play very well there this year. I think we were very determined after that to work harder and improve."

The Cowboys faced other challenges during the year. Gage Ihrig had to sit part of the season out with a back injury. Thatcher Jones also struggled with a foot injury throughout the season.

But the Cowboys worked through their challenges, winning six regular meets in addition to regional and state titles.

"This was a great bunch of kids to work with," Daise said. "They were very self motivated and put in a lot of extra work to improve. Their goal all year was to win the state championship."

There's good news for next spring as well. Five of the team's top six players will be returning. Linin, a four-year letterman in golf and qualified three times for state, was the only senior.

Goodland Golfer Tanner Jones teed off on hole No. 1 at Sugar Hills Golf Course during Monday's state competition. He shot an 85.
Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

12-and-under team sweeps Hays tourney

The Goodland Slammers 12 and under fastpitch softball team was undefeated at their first tournament of the year in Hays on May 12.

The team played five, four-inning games against Thomas More Prep-Marian and two Hays teams.

In game one, Goodland defeated Hays-12 by a score of 12-3. The winning pitcher was Kaitlyn Daise. She pitched a full game, allowing three ones on one hit and six walks. She got seven strikeouts.

Morgan Morris hit two doubles, driving in two runs. Margaux Thompson also drove in two runs on three singles. Daise, Tyka Ruhs, Hannah Ferguson and Chelsea Phillips hit one single each.

In game two, the Slammers beat Thomas More 15-8. Ferguson pitched three innings, allowing four runs, but no hits. She struck out five batters. Demi Mitchek came in to pitch for one inning, allowing four runs on three hits.

The girls hit just as well as in game one. Thompson, Daise and Ferguson hit two singles each. Ruhs, Morris and Kayleigh McCombs also got base hits.

They didn't quit quite so well in game three, but still ended up beating Hays-11 by 14-6. Thompson, Ruhs, Phillips, Elka Kernall and Nicole Gerber each hit singles. Mitchek and Daise walked twice, and Mitchek was hit by a pitch.

Gerber, Phillips and Ruhs were the only players to get RBIs.

Thompson pitched a complete game, giving up six runs on five hits and five walks. She struck out four.

The semi-finals round was a rematch with Hays-11, who had a 5-4 lead going into the bottom of the third, but the Slammers scored four runs that inning and five the next to win 13-6. Ferguson pitched 1 1/3 innings, giving up four runs, but no hits. She struck out three and walked five. Daise came in to pitch for the remaining 2 2/3 innings. She gave up just two runs on one hit and threw six strikeouts.

On offense, Ruhs, Daise and Ferguson each hit two singles. Thompson, Braelyn Hoelting, Morris and Kernall also picked up base hits.

The Slammers sealed their sweep of the tournament with a 7-1 win over Hays 12 in the championship round. The girls jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the first inning, and despite the game going to five innings, Hays-12 could only come up with one run.

Daise, in her third appearance of the tournament, pitched a one-hitter, throwing seven strikeouts and three walks. She also hit a double for two RBIs.

Thompson and Kernall hit two singles each. Mitchek and McCombs also had singles.

New Yorker signs to play college ball in Goodland

Franklin Milian, a graduate of Our Savior New American High School in Long Island, N.Y., has signed a letter of intent to join the Northwest Tech men's basketball team.

Milian was the leading scorer at 18 points per game and leading rebounder at 8 per game on his high school team. He then went on to play a year at Canisius College, a Division 1 school in Buffalo, N.Y. There he started seven games for the

Griffins and shot 50 percent from beyond the three point line.

Milian is a native of La Vega, Dominican Republic.

"Franklin brings a toughness to the team that will be unmatched," said Coach Jase Herl. "He is as competitive as it comes, and can cause mismatches all over the floor offensively and defensively. We couldn't be more pleased to add a vital play maker to our team such as Franklin."

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