

Cowgirls fall in first round



Track team members Dax Ruhs and Cortney Cowan spoke at a send-off ceremony last week about the events they would be competing in at the state tournament.
Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

Goodland athletes place eighth, 11th at state tournament

The Goodland High School track and field team sent two students to the Class 3A State Tournament on Friday in Wichita. Dax Ruhs got eighth in the javelin with a throw of 159 feet, 2 inches. Cortney Cowan placed 11th in the discus with 99 feet, 3 inches. Both events were held late in the day Friday on the Wichita State University campus.

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The Cowgirls one-upped their performance from last year by making it to the Class 3A State Tournament, but fell in the first round Friday evening to a tough team from Rock Creek High School.

The Cowgirls lost in regionals last year. This year they won both the regional and league titles.

At the state tournament, Rock Creek went all the way to the championship game on Saturday, but lost to Hillsboro 3-2 in a 13-inning game.

In Friday's game, the Cowgirls started freshman pitcher Stephani DeLaRosa, who had been a star player for the team all year. She opened the game with a strikeout. One runner got on board on an error, but a double play by Brianna White ended the top half of the first.

In the bottom half of the inning, White struck out. Lindsay Bauman also got out, and while Hope Cochran got a hit, she was left on base when Berkley White struck out.

The Lady Mustangs went down 1-2-3 in the top of the second, but the Cowgirls were unable to score any points of their own in the inning, despite getting two batters on. Gabby Rangel and Megan Siruta got out, then Maddie Mayer and Tasha Gaydusek hit back-to-back singles to put two runners on for DeLaRosa, who struck out.

With two outs, Rock Creek got one runner to second on an error in the top of the third, but she was left on base when DeLaRosa threw her second strikeout of the game.

The Cowgirls got another scoring opportunity in the bottom of the third, but were unable to capitalize. After Brianna White got out, Bauman hit a double. Cochran grounded out, but Bauman was able to advance to third. Berkley White struck out to end the inning.

The Lady Mustangs ended the scoring drought in the top of the fourth. With two on and no outs, one runner slid under a throw to home to score. Several successful bunts and an error allowed three more runs to score, making it 4-0 in favor of Rock Creek. The Cowgirls were retired in



The Goodland High School softball team smiled for the cameras at a send-off ceremony last week put on by the Goodland Ambassadors, the Booster Club and the student council.
Photo by Kevin Bottrell/The Goodland Star-News

order in the bottom of the fourth.

DeLaRosa threw back-to-back strikeouts in the top of the fifth, but then walked two batters. A base hit and an error scored two, and a third runner came home on another base hit, extending the Rock Creek lead to 7-0.

In the bottom of the fifth, Gaydusek got a base hit and advanced on an error. DeLaRosa walked to put two on for Brianna White, who got out. Bauman then hit into a fielder's choice that saw Gaydusek thrown out at the plate. DeLaRosa got over to third and Bauman to first.

Cochran nearly hit a three run home run, but it was later ruled a ground-rule double, but it still resulted in two runs for the Cowgirls, making the score 7-2. Berkley White got out to end the inning.

Rock Creek answered with a grand slam in the top of the sixth to make it 11-2. In the bottom of the sixth, Rangel, Siruta and Mayer quickly got out to end the inning.

With two outs in the top of the seventh, DeLaRosa threw what would turn out to be her last strikeout of the season to end the inning. The Cowgirls would have to score

nine runs to have a hope of extending the game to an eighth inning. Gaydusek was up first and struck out. DeLaRosa was thrown out at first. Back at the top of the order, Brianna White got her first base hit of the ballgame. Bauman flew out to end the ballgame.

Rock Creek got 11 runs on seven hit and no errors. The Cowgirls matched their hits with seven, but only scored two runs and had four errors.

The Cowgirls finished the season at 20-4.



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