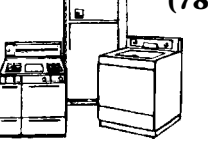


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Congratulations to the 2003-2004 Goodland Elks "Hoop Shoot" Champions



The winners of the 2003-2004 Goodland Elks Hoop Shoot posed with their trophies and medals at the end of Saturday's competition in Max Jones Fieldhouse. Seated from left to right, front row are Bailey Terrell, Alex Long, Travis Williams and Chantel Coates. In the middle row are Jade Herl, Blake Thomas, Ryan Hillmer and Bailey Tillitson. Seated in the back row are Katie Clancy, Greg Farris, Braden McKee and Katharine Roy.

Elks hold annual Hoop Shoot

By Greg Stover
The Goodland Star-News

A lot of free throws were made, and many others missed, at the annual Elks Hoop Shoot Saturday morning at the Max Jones Fieldhouse.

A total of 44 boys and girls from Goodland, Brewster, Colby and Burlington participated in the competition in three age groups: 8-9, 10-11 and 12-13. Each competitor shot 25 free throws with the shooter hitting the most winning first place. Ties are broken by a five-shot tie-breaker.

Alex Long of Burlington won the boys 8-9 category connecting on 16 free throws. Travis Williams of Goodland took second hitting on nine.

Bailey Terrell of Colby won the girls 8-9 competition making 15 of her attempts. Chantel Coates of Goodland was second with eight.

Blake Thomas of Burlington made 16 free throws to win the boys 10-11 category. Ryan Hillmer of Goodland was second hitting on 15 of his attempts.

Jade Herl of Goodland connected on 17 of her free throws to win the girls 10-11 competition. Bailey Tillitson of Burlington took second making 16 of her shots.

Greg Farris of Goodland won the boys 12-13 category hitting 21 of his free throws. Farris was the leading scorer for the Grant Junior High School eighth-grade boys basketball team which finished the season 12-1 and won the Northwest Kansas League Tournament last month. Second place went

The Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks has always considered the youth of our nation its most treasured natural resource. By affording America's children an opportunity to shrapen individual athletic talents through the largest non-commercial youth co-educational sports program in the nation, we are teaching them lessons of self-discipline, respect, dedication, loyalty and individual responsibility. The Contestants are better prepared for the challenges of today's world and tomorrow's productive opportunities.

lion boys and girls participating only 72 will advance to the national contest. The six national champions will receive a trophy and have their names inscribed at the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

The Elks National Hoop Shoot grew from a local event in Corvallis, Ore., in 1946 sponsored by the Elks Lodge there. The event became national in 1971 with boys from 19 states participating. Two years later that number increased to 42 and in 1974 girls were welcomed to the competition. Today all 50 states and the District of Columbia are represented.

Zona Price, secretary of the Goodland Elks, helped organize and officiate Saturday's event. She said the event has been an annual event in Goodland for more than 20 years. Price said the Elks try to keep expenses for the competitors' families down as much as possible. For example the Goodland Lodge will provide "gas money" for the local winners to go to district and the Kansas Elks will help with expenses for those moving on to the state and regional contests.

The Hoop Shoot competition helps highlight the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks' commitment to youth. The Elks consider the Hoop Shoot their largest and most visible of their youth programs through which they hope to provide character-building competition for boys and girls regardless of previous athletic achievement.

to Braden McKee of Brewster.

Katie Clancy of Goodland won the girls 12-13 category in the closest competition of the day defeating Katharine Roy of Burlington 5-4 in the tie-breaker. Both girls hit on 14 of the standard 25 shots.

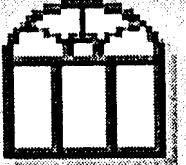
Each of the first place finishers won a trophy with the runners-up getting a medal. The winners in each category will compete Saturday at the district competition in Russell. That event starts at 1 p.m. (Central Time) at the middle school.

Winners will progress from district contest to state, regional and finally national competition which is always held in Springfield, Mass. Of the estimated 3 mil-

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