

Cowboy wrestlers win last home dual of season

By Greg Stover

The Goodland High School wrestling team ended its home season Friday in dramatic fashion, overcoming a four-point deficit in the last match to whip St. Francis in a dual meet 33-31.

The Cowboys took a 6-0 lead after St. Francis forfeited the 103-pound match to start the meet and built a 27-15 lead after 10 matches. However, the Indians won the next three by a fall, a major decision and a forfeit to move ahead 31-27 with one match left to wrestle.

Fortunately for the Cowboys, the final match was in the heavyweight class, where senior Jordan Bedore is the top-ranked wrestler in Class 4A. Undeclared this season, Bedore pinned his opponent in 13 seconds to give Goodland its eighth dual win for the season.

In a strategic move, Indians' coach Larry Gabel decided to forfeit the first match to the Cowboys

and move 103-pound wrestler Trevor Richard up to 112 pounds to face junior Chad Normandin. The move paid off, as Richard pinned Normandin 27 seconds into the third period to tie the team score at 6.

Normandin was leading 14-5 but made made a crucial mistake, said Cowboy coach Randy Bahe, which cost him the match.

Goodland regained a six-point lead, 12-6, when St. Francis forfeited the 119-pound match.

The next match featured junior Dexter Deeds of the Cowboys against the Indians' Dylan Lloyd at 125 pounds for the longest match of the meet. With the score tied at 4 after two periods, neither wrestler scored in the third, forcing a one-minute overtime. Again neither athlete scored, forcing a subsequent 30-second overtime period.

Having the choice, Deeds took the up position and was able to maintain the advantage throughout

Senior parents honored

The Goodland High School wrestling team honored the parents of its seniors Friday before the start of the varsity competition against St. Francis at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

The parents were recognized for their patience, encouragement and support of Cowboy wrestling, said Dale Schields. Without them, the team would not have reached the level of success it has this season.

Parents honored were Randy and Kathy Bahe, parents of Bla-

zye Bahe; Dustin and Barb Bedore, parents of Jordan Bedore; Eric and Marianne Gray, parents wrestling cheerleader Lauren Gray; Doug and April Hall, parents of team manager Michael Hall; Jack and Linda Lucas, parents of Jocelyn Lucas, also a wrestling cheerleader; Ed and Becky Schulte, parents of Corey Schulte; Randy and Deb Whitmore, parents of Brock Whitmore; and Kevin and Mary Zimmerman, parents of Mike Zimmerman.

the period which, by rule, earned him the win and the Cowboys three more points.

"It was a tough key match for us," Bahe said. "Dexter had a serious illness in the beginning of the season

which affected his stamina, but he reached down deep to get us the win and I'm really proud of him."

At 130 pounds, Jordan Gienger of St. Francis defeated sophomore Brandon Zelfer 11-4 to narrow

Goodland's lead to 15-9. Cowboy sophomore Brandon Hatfield responded by defeating the Indians' Joe Miller 10-8 in a tough, close match. The two wrestled to a 2-all tie after two periods, but starting from the bottom position in the third, Hatfield scored a reversal, then maintained the advantage for the rest of the match.

In their 140-pound match, junior Blake Saint pinned Gabe Gienger with 50 seconds left in the first period to give the Cowboys their biggest lead of the meet 24-9. St. Francis won the next two matches as Trey Hilt defeated senior Corey Schulte 12-8 at 145 pounds and Gabe Smull beat senior Mike Zimmerman 7-1 at 152.

Cowboy freshman Jon Cook won his 12th match of the season at 160 pounds, defeating Troy Zweygardt 12-7. Both Goodland's Josiah Goodley and Josh Walters of St. Francis moved up a weight class to 171 pounds, with Walters pinning

Goodley with 55 seconds left in the third period.

The Indians' Derek Ross won a major decision over junior Brandon Cowen at 189 pounds, 17-6, to close St. Francis to within two points 27-25.

Goodland forfeited at 215 pounds, leaving the heavyweight match to decide the meet.

"I was very happy with the way we wrestled," said Bahe. "I knew it was going to be a tough dual with some key matchups, St. Francis did some scrambling with their lineup that almost worked for them."

In junior varsity action Friday, sophomore Justin Holloway defeated Darren Laffond by major decision 14-4. Senior Brock Whitmore lost to Matt Brown 9-2 and junior Ray Bringham was pinned by the Indians' Russell Rogers.

Goodland is now 8-2 in dual meets. The Cowboys' last dual of the season is Saturday in Oakley starting at 6:30 p.m. (Central Time).

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