



Tractors, drivers demonstrate their power at fair grounds

A pair of drivers (above) tried their hand at the tandem pull Sunday afternoon at the Sherman County Fair Grounds. A woman competitor (left) drove a truck down the track during the single competition. Curtis Duncan (above right), Goodland's morning radio personality, was one of the spectators enjoying the competition.

Photos by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News



Confusing Atlantic 10 Football Conference needs overhaul

Although the 2004 college football season doesn't start for another 3 1/2 months, I'm already questioning some of the changes taking place.

There are a lot of things that bother me about college football at the NCAA Division I-A level — I can go on forever about that — but this time what sparked my ire was a change in Division I-AA.

The Atlantic 10 Conference is adding a 12th team, Towson University, for the 2004 season. Most people probably consider this an insignificant change, but to me it is an example of several trends that tarnish the image of college football.

To start with, the Atlantic 10 Conference already has 12 schools that compete together in the majority of intercollegiate sports. Four of them do not play football, which is OK; about a third of Division I schools don't.

That leaves eight conference



greg stover

• greg's gripes

teams for football, almost ideal. In an 11-game season every team can play each other team and still play four non-conference games. This way, a true conference champion will emerge at the end of the season, and the teams still have games that offer players and fans opportunities for new experiences.

However, this is not how it is. Only three of the eight schools play football in the Atlantic 10: The universities of Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Richmond. Two, Duquesne and LaSalle universities, play football in the Metro Atlantic Ath-

letic Conference. The University of Dayton plays in the Pioneer Football League and Fordham University plays in the Patriot League. Temple University's football program is Division I and plays in the Big East Conference.

My question is why? The Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, Pioneer Football League and the Patriot League all play Division I-AA, so why go to a different conference with the same level of competition?

Yes, Temple plays football at the next level, but since football is the only sport that divides Division I schools, why not just transfer to a conference, like the Big East, that plays Division I-A football for the other sports as well?

I understand the need for a foot-

ball-only conference like the Pioneer Football League for those schools who have football programs but are in conferences that do not sponsor football. What I don't understand is why Dayton plays in the Pioneer League.

On the other hand, of the nine schools that play football only in the Atlantic 10, eight come from conferences that do not sponsor football, five from the Colonial Athletic Association and three from the America East Conference. The other is Villanova University, which belongs to the Big East for all other sports.

One solution to all this would be to make seven of the eight schools that play football in the Atlantic 10 stay there and trade Temple to the Big East for Villanova. The eight teams from the Colonial Athletic Association and America East Conference that play football could form

their own football-only conference. I understand that it is officially the Atlantic 10 Football Conference, making it sound like a separate entity, but that is an exercise in semantics which doesn't work.

Maybe all that is too simple, but it would make things easier on fans and administrators.

Another problem I see with the Atlantic 10 adding Towson is that the conference will have 12 teams, which means to get a true champion, all 11 games must be against conference opponents. It would be OK if they did that, but they don't. Each member of the Atlantic 10 will play nine conference games, which means there is a possibility of two teams going undefeated in conference play.

Conferences should be between eight and 10 teams; that way each team can play all the others in the conference and still have two to four

non-conference games, which I believe is an important part of the spirit of college football.

A conference with less than eight teams runs the risk of their champion having a losing overall record. More than that, and all the teams can't play each other.

Of course the Atlantic 10 could divide itself in two and have a conference championship game, but that is a bad idea, always has been and always will be. The trend towards making super conferences with two divisions and having a championship game appears to be more of a desire for the money than determining a true champion.

Keeping what I believe to be the true spirit of college football intact is a lost cause in Division I-A, although I'll still complain about the problems there. But I'm going to try to keep them from spreading.

bowling results

Happy Our
April 29

B & B Electric over Bowladium Lanes 3-1
Rasure Do It Center over KMA 3-1
Urban Designs over Miller's Electric 4-0

High Handicap Game Individual:

Mark Sieck and Doug Minner 229

High Handicap Series Individual:

Jeff Badgett 622

High Handicap Game Team:

Urban Designs 826

High Handicap Series Team:

Urban Designs 2,367

League Standings:

1st. KMA	24 - 16
2nd Bowladium Lanes	23 - 17
3rd Rasure Do It Center	21 - 19
Urban Designs	21 - 19

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FWD/REV	FWD	
% TIMER	100	%
DEPTH	0.25	Inch
HRS/REV	24.0	Hrs
RUS1	OFF	
RUS2	ON	
Program End Gains		
Send Update		
Cancel		

1:21 pm		
Marks 1	Timer: 100	%
Program Running	Depth: 0.25	Inch
Restart ON	Hrs/Rev: 24.0	Hrs
Current: 25	SS: 270.1	
	RS: OFF	
Updated: 1:20 pm		
RUS1-OFF		
RUS2-ON		
FWD		

End Gains Program		
1	0	2
Select	Previous	Next
Delete	Endrun	
Start	20	
30	End	
Cancel	Enter	Send



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Brewster All-Star Booster Club

May 5 - May 11

Thursday - Junior high track meet at Logan 9:30 a.m...

Friday - High school track meet at Hays 3 p.m... (Ransom meet); Northwest Kansas Educational Service Center Anthology Committee.

Saturday - Battle of the Bulldogs, benefit basketball game at the Brewster High School. Meal from 5 to 6:30 p.m., game starts at 7 p.m.

Monday - 4-H meeting at Hunter Hall 7:30 p.m.

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