



Goodland's Doug Eddleman (above right) started to run to first after hitting the ball in his team's second game Saturday as Wray's catcher reacted to the play. Wray won the game but Goodland won the tournament. Jared Doke (left photo) pitched against Wray, striking out three. Photos by Liz West/The Goodland Star-News

# Goodland wins tournament in Imperial

The Goodland American Legion baseball team won its first two games of the season Saturday on its way to winning a tournament in Imperial, Neb.

Goodland defeated BerMis, a consolidated team from Bertrand and Loomis, Neb., in the first game 6-3. The boys lost their second game 7-4 to Wray, Colo., but won the third game against Imperial 10-1 to finish 2-1 for the day. BerMis also finished 2-1 but Goodland won

the head-to-head meeting and by tie-breaker rules won the title.

In Goodland's first game, neither team scored a run in the first inning, but BerMis took a 2-0 lead in the top of the second. Goodland tied the score in the bottom of the inning when Jared Doke hit a double that scored Landon West, then Jon Cook hit a sacrifice fly that scored Doke.

BerMis regained the lead 3-2 in the top of the third. Goodland's Wyatt Dautel led off the bottom of

the inning with a home run to tie the score back up. Goodland scored two more runs in the inning on Doke's second double of the game, which drove in Brandon Zelfer and West.

In the top of the fourth, Goodland pitcher Landon West walked the first batter then struck out the next three to retire the side. Goodland added another run in the bottom of the inning when a single by Dautel scored Kelly Lewallen.

West struck out eight batters in four innings, including six of the last eight he faced. The game was called after four innings on time limit.

In its second game, Goodland faced the team from Wray. The boys took a 1-0 lead with two outs in the top of the first on back-to-back doubles by Zelfer and West. The next score came in the bottom of the second inning, when Wray's lead-off hitter hit a home run to tie the

game.

Wray went up 2-1 in the bottom of third inning. Neither team scored in the fourth. Goodland took a 4-2 lead in the top of the fifth, only to see Wray tie it up again in the bottom of the inning. Wray's defense kept Goodland scoreless in the sixth inning, while its offense scored three runs to win the game 7-4.

In its third and final game of the day, Goodland took on the host team Imperial. The team suffered a

"three-and-out" series in the top of the first inning, but then exploded for six runs in the second. Goodland added a run in the third inning to go up 7-0, then scored three more in the fourth, highlighted by a two-run homer by West that also scored Zelfer. Imperial scored a run in the bottom of the fourth to make the final 10-1. Zelfer was the winning pitcher, striking out seven. Goodland is now 2-7 for the season.

# Lady Outlaws lose in Nebraska but beat Atwood

The Lady Outlaws softball team had a rough time at the Buffalo Bill Tournament in North Platte, Neb., this past weekend, but came back to win a game in Atwood on Tuesday.

Goodland lost all four of its games in the tournament, then after a day off defeated Atwood 16-13. The Outlaws, 4-13 for the season, will play in the Annual Father's Day Invitational in Russell this weekend. A doubleheader Wednesday at Sharon Springs was canceled due to field conditions.

Against Atwood, Goodland scored four runs in the top of the first

inning and took a 4-1 lead into the second. The Outlaws added five more runs, then held Atwood to a "three-and-out" series.

Goodland scored two more runs in the top of the third to take an 11-1 lead. Atwood scored three in the bottom of the third to close to within seven.

Leading 11-4 going into the fourth inning, Goodland scored five more runs to increase its lead to 12. Atwood got a run in the bottom of the inning to make it 16-5. The Atwood defense held the Outlaws scoreless in the top of the fifth.

Atwood's offense came alive in the bottom of the fifth to score eight runs, but Goodland managed to shut it off and save a 16-13 win. Cassie Sandoval, Sammie Raymer and Andrea Wolak each scored three runs of the Lady Outlaws.

On Saturday, Goodland started the tournament with a 12-2 loss to the team from Kearney, Neb., then lost to the North Platte Sensations in their second game 11-3.

The Outlaws' third game of the day, against the Torrington (Wyo.) Twisters, was a defensive struggle. Both teams scored a run in the first,

then held each other to a "three-and-out" in the second.

In the third, the Twisters again held Goodland to a "three-and-out," then scored three runs to go up 4-1. Neither team scored again in the

game, and Torrington came away with the win.

The Lady Outlaws faced the Twisters again on Sunday, but this time Torrington's defense was near perfect, facing just 21 batters in five

innings and shutting out Goodland 9-0.

The next home action for the Outlaws will be a doubleheader Wednesday against Sharon Springs at 5 p.m. at Centennial Park.

# Too many bowls spoil the mix

I simply can't believe it. Another bowl game has been added to the NCAA Division I-A football post-season.

As I was at the office last Sunday waiting for the scores from the Lady Outlaws journey to North Platte, Neb., I picked up the sports section of Saturday's *Hays Daily News* and saw where the Bowl Championship Series was going to add another game.

Great! As bad as the Bowl Championship Series has been, it'll be worse next season. I thought one of the main reasons for creating the series was to eliminate the possibility of a split championship, something it failed to do last season. Now, apparently, the solution is to add another game into the mix.

Bowl games have become a joke. There were 28 of them last season and apparently that's still not enough. For years now, I've complained that more games lessens the bowls' prestige. When they increased the number to 28 a few years ago, there already was a problem finding quality teams.

Now I understand why the majority of Division I-A schools now have 12-game regular seasons. It allows for more teams to make the minimum qualification of six Division I-A wins. However, I for one find it hard to get excited about a bowl game that features two teams that went 6-6 during the regular sea-



greg  
stover

- greg's gripes

son. Having 29 bowl games means 58 Division I-A teams will play in the post-season, nearly half of the total. This is compared to 16 teams that make the national playoffs in both Division I-AA and Division II, both of which have more teams. At the Division III level, 24 teams make the playoffs but there are over 200 teams competing there.

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Bowl games are driven by money, not the quest for a national champion. The more games played, the more schools make money. That means some schools will do almost anything to get a bid to a bowl game even if it means not paying attention to graduation rates or player misconduct.

Maybe that's why I've been concentrating on Division I-AA lately. To me, I-AA still represents the college football spirit while I-A seems to have turned into a commercial venture. Some of the things I dislike in professional sports are creeping into Division I-A football.

To make things worse, I found another I-AA school that is dropping

football this season. In January, Siena College, a member of the Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference, dropped its program, saying it was not part of the college's strategic direction to enhance football. Sounds like money problems to me.

Granted, the program was only 15 years old and the Saints went 0-11 last season. Still, it's sad to hear that nearly 70 players and a handful of coaches who were looking forward to the next season have to change their plans.

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**Girls Rookie** Tuesday, Gambino's vs. Pi Eta Sorority 5:45 p.m.; Dinkel Law vs. KC Video 7 p.m.; Goodland Yost vs Dinkel Law 8:15 p.m.

**Girls Major** Monday, Helena vs. Kiwanis 5:30 p.m.; Heartland Carriers vs. KLOE 7 p.m.; Finley Motors vs. Heartland Carriers 8:30 p.m.

**Boys Rookie** Monday, Bagsall Construction vs. Hank's Cafe 5:45 p.m.; Snappy Snack vs. American Family Insurance Marshall's Team 7 p.m.; Marshall's Team vs. Crazy R's 8:15 p.m.

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