



Goodland's Jared Doke (left) kept an eye on an Imperial base runner Saturday afternoon while pitching during the first inning of the game between the teams.



Goodland players and coaches watched their teammates play defense during the bottom of the first inning against Imperial Saturday afternoon.

Imperial won the weather-delayed game Sunday morning 10-9.

Photos by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

Imperial wins sixth annual Levi Hayden tourney

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News

Neither a tornado warning nor rain could dampen the spirits of six American Legion baseball teams this weekend as they played in the sixth annual Levi Hayden Memorial Tournament at Goodland's Centennial Park.

Six teams from Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska made up the field, with the team from Imperial, Neb., defeating Overbrook 14-2 in the championship game Sunday night.

Goodland went 1-3 in a tough weekend, defeating Burlington 5-2 in the tournament's opening game, then losing its next three games each by one run.

Neither Goodland nor Burlington scored in the first two innings of the tournament's opener. After holding Burlington scoreless in the top of the third, Jake Alander hit a solo home run over the left field fence to break the tie. Two batters later, Jared Doke hit a triple to left center, then scored on a single by Landon West.

Burlington tied the game with a



Landon West hit a single with the bases loaded to score the game's first in the top of the first inning against Imperial Saturday.

run in the top of the fourth, but a single, a walk and a near perfect bunt by Kelly Lewallen loaded the bases for Goodland with just one out. A single by Alander drove in

Brock Lohr, then a walk to Wyatt Dautel scored Tyler Hilmer and Goodland regained the lead 3-1 after four.

Both teams added a run in the

fifth, when the game was called due to the 1 hour, 30 minute time limit.

In the tournament's second game, Wray, Colo., defeated Norton 8-2, followed by Imperial's 5-4 win over Burlington. Then Wray defeated Overbrook 9-5. Play was suspended due to a tornado warning in the top of the second inning between Goodland and Imperial. Rain from the storm prevented any further play Saturday.

Play resumed Sunday morning, with Imperial winning the game with Goodland 10-9. Next Norton beat Overbrook 10-0, followed by Burlington defeating Norton 4-0.

In the next game, Goodland took a 3-0 lead against Overbrook in the top of the first on a three-run homer by West. Overbrook scored two runs in the bottom of the first, then two more in the second to take a 4-

3 lead. Both scored a run in the third.

Overbrook scored again in the fourth to go up 6-4. Goodland scored once more in the fifth to make the final 6-5.

Imperial next defeated Burlington 4-1, then Overbrook beat Wray 5-4.

Norton defeated Goodland 4-3 for fifth place, followed by Burlington's 12-9 win over Wray for third in a game that lasted more than three hours over the time limit. The tie was broken in the ninth when Burlington outscored Wray 5-2.

Imperial then defeated Overbrook 14-2 in the tournament's finalé for the title. Imperial went 4-0 for the weekend, while Overbrook went 2-3 to finish second. Burlington also went 2-3, Wray went 1-3 and Norton 2-2.

Imperial's Joel Norman won the Inspirational Player Award after



being picked by the coaches, umpires and announcer based on heart, dedication to team and love of the game. He received a trophy donated by the Hayden family.

Also receiving votes were West, Michal Swanson of Imperial and Chris Wilson of Norton.

Part of the money raised by the tournament goes into a scholarship fund established by Levi's parent's Bill and Rhonda Hayden, after their son's death in February 1997. The scholarship is awarded to a Goodland American Legion player who is heading for college.

This year, the scholarship went to Doke, who is on his way to Hutchinson Community College to study fire science. Last year, the scholarship went to West, who will be a sophomore at Cowley County Community College next year in graphic design.

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