

K-18 baseball team ends season with first-round loss in Quinter

The Goodland K-18 baseball ended its season 4-7 last Wednesday, losing to Norton 13-2 in the first round of the regional tournament in Quinter.

"We were really young this year, and played like it," said Coach Bill Knox. "The older boys on the team played well, but there was only three of them."

In Wednesday's game, Norton took a 1-0 lead in the top of the first inning, then exploded for eight more runs in the top of the second. Norton kept Goodland scoreless through the third and fourth innings, while adding a run to its own total in both to make the score 11-0 going into the fifth.

Both teams scored two runs in the fifth to make the final 13-2, ending Goodland's season.

On July 15, Goodland defeated Oakley 17-11 at Centennial Park. In that game, both teams scored two runs in the first, but Goodland scored five in the second after holding Oakley to a "three-and-out" series.

Oakley came back to score five runs in the top of the third, tying the score at seven, but Goodland scored two more in the bottom of the inning to retake the lead. Goodland outscored Oakley 5-3 in the fourth to make it 14-10.

Goodland held Oakley scoreless in the top of the fifth, then increased

its lead to 16-10 with a pair of runs in the bottom of the inning. Both teams scored a run in the sixth to make the final 17-11 and give Goodland its third win of the season.

On July 19 in Colby, Goodland fell behind early and ended up being dominated throughout the game. After holding Goodland scoreless in the top of the first, Colby scored eight runs during its first turn at bat to take an early lead. In the second, Colby continued to keep Goodland off the scoreboard while adding while adding seven runs to its total.

Goodland scored a pair of runs in the top of the third and Colby did the

same in the bottom of the fourth to make the final 17-2.

Goodland picked up its fourth win of the season when it was awarded a forfeit by the league when Atwood failed to reschedule a "rain-out."

"They're all better ball players now than they were in April," Knox said. "Everybody improved."

Andrew Pettibone was one of the Goodland K-18 baseball team's pitchers this season on a team which finished its season 4-7.

Photo by Greg Stover
The Goodland Star-News



Some Big 12 football giants open season with soft schedule

The college football season starts next month, but for the first time since I can remember none of the games in August includes a team from the Big 12 Conference.

The first Big 12 game will be Sept. 2, when Texas A & M heads to Salt Lake City to take on Utah. The other 11 teams will open their seasons two days later.

I've always felt the Big 12 got too much press and, although I now live in the middle of Big 12 country, I still feel that way. However, I will admit the Big 12 is one of the elite conferences in the nation and deserves an automatic spot in the Bowl Championship Series, no matter how flawed that system is.

One of my peeves with the Big 12, especially among the top teams, is the light schedule most of them



greg
stover

- greg's gripes

play to start the season. Sometimes it seems they are all manipulating their schedules so all 12 teams are 3-0 before going into conference play.

And that is my gripe this time, teams who schedule opponents they think they can clobber to get a running start in the polls. I understand that some games are scheduled so the designated victim can share in the revenue of a game involving one of the "big boys," but the Big 12

goes too far with this.

So, who's brave and who's a wimp when comes to season openers? Starting with the first game, the Aggies of Texas A & M finished 4-8 in 2003, something many find hard to believe. The Utes of Utah went 10-2 last year and are the defending Mountain West Conference champions.

With 17 starters returning, the Utes are favored to repeat as champions, so I say Texas A & M is being brave, too brave if they want to start the season with a win.

The Wildcats of Kansas State went 11-4 last year, losing to Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl. To start their drive back to the top of the col-

lege game, the Wildcats will take on the Hilltoppers of Western Kentucky, who were 9-4 last season. Let's see, Western Kentucky played in what bowl game last year?

Oh, that's right. The Hilltoppers are a NCAA Division I-AA team, and that division doesn't waste time with bowl games.

Western Kentucky made the quarterfinals of the national playoffs in 2003 and is expected to do well again. This is still a wimpy but dangerous choice for Kansas State. It's not going to impress anyone if the Wildcats win, but could destroy their season early if they lose.

The Kansas Jayhawks finished 6-7 last season, losing badly to North Carolina State in the Tangerine Bowl. Kansas will host the Golden Hurricanes of the University of

Tulsa to start their season. In 2003, Tulsa finished 8-5, losing to Georgia Tech in the Humanitarian Bowl.

I'll say the Jayhawks are brave this season. Record wise, the teams are evenly matched which makes for a toss-up. However, since Kansas is still having trouble playing Big 12 teams, a non-conference loss would hurt the Jayhawks chance for another bowl game this season.

Nebraska went 10-3 last season, including a win over Michigan State in the Alamo Bowl. The Cornhuskers are trying to regain the dominance the "Big Red" once had, but their opening game won't help. Nebraska will host the Leathernecks of Western Illinois, who not only are in the same conference as Western Kentucky but also finished 9-4 and got to the national quarter-

finals.

So Nebraska, like Kansas State, made a wimpy but dangerous choice to open the season.

So what's the score so far? Two brave and two wimps. To skip the details, the Big 12 ended up with 6-6 in brave versus wimpy season openers, much better than I first thought, but not impressive for one of the elite conferences.

Sure playing a wimpy early schedule can get a team to 3-0, but that team may not be ready for their first real challenge.

If a team wants to be among the best, it has to play the tough ones early. Two preseason top-10 teams opening against each other would help the victor maintain a dominant position throughout the rest of the season.

This year's duck stamps released

The federal Migratory Waterfowl Hunting and Conservation Stamp for 2004-2005, commonly called the duck stamp, has been released by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The stamps cost \$15 each and are available through the U.S. Postal Service and most retailers who sell hunting licenses. Nearly all the revenue raised from the stamps is used for wildlife habitat conservation. The agency says more than \$670 million has been raised since the program began.

All hunters over 16 must have a signed duck stamp in their possession while hunting migratory waterfowl, but the stamp also gives the user free admission to national wildlife refuges that charge a fee.

Goodland Postmaster Steve Schultz said he will be ordering duck stamps and they should be available over the counter in three to four weeks.



The winning design for this year's junior duck stamp by Adam Nisbett.

This year's junior duck stamp costs \$5 and was designed by Adam Nisbett, 17, of St. James, Mo. Each year, the Federal Junior Duck Stamp Program has a contest

through which students in kindergarten through 12th grade submit designs for the next year's stamp. Nisbett's design was one of about 26,500 submissions for this year.

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The Office will be opening on Monday the 26th, and Sheryl will be holding an **open house on Thursday, July 29th**. She hopes all her old friends will stop by And wish her luck.

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Deadline is Saturday for flag football league

The deadline for registration for the Goodland Activities Center's coed flag football league for boys and girls in first through sixth grades is 5 p.m. Saturday.

Late registrations will not be accepted. The cost is \$25 for center members and \$35 for non-members. Practices start Aug. 16 and the season begins Aug. 23. Game nights are Monday, Tuesday and Thursday.

The league is looking for volunteers to coach. To volunteer or for information, call the Goodland Activities Center at 890-7242.



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