

Diehl decides not to coach in Shrine Bowl next week

By Greg Stover
The Goodland Star-News

In what he described as a last-minute decision, Cowboys football coach Tony Diehl has turned down the chance to be a coach at the 31st annual Kansas Shrine Bowl East-West all-star game next week.

Driven by family needs and a medical condition, Diehl also gave up a chance to coach his star player from the 2003 season one more time.

Diehl said he called bowl Executive Director Dave Mize in Wamego on Wednesday night with his decision. Diehl had been named for the honor in January.

Diehl said the main reason behind his decision was the time he would have spend away from his family, which now includes son Dietrich, born Feb. 5. He said he has never spent more than two or three days away from his wife Tiffany or his son, and coaching the West team would require about 11 days.

Diehl said between summer football camps, officiating at baseball games and monitoring the Cowboy's summer weight-training program he has not been able to spend

as much time with his family as he would like. He said with only two weeks between the Shrine Game and the start of high school football practice on Aug. 16, he needed more time to be with his family before taking on another full season of coaching football on top of his duties as a teacher.

"It was a difficult decision to make, which is one reason why I ended up making it at the last minute," Diehl said. "I was looking forward to coaching Jordan (Bedore) one last time."

A contributing factor in his decision, Diehl said, was his doctor's recommendation that he not coach the Shrine Bowl. Diehl said for the past 18 months he has had costochondritis, which he described as an inflammation of the tissue between the ribs which causes swelling of the chest wall, resulting in spasms of pain.

Diehl said his doctor told him overwork aggravates the condition.

"This gives me more time to relax and be better prepared before the start of the season," said Diehl, "with its frequent 20-hour days."

Diehl said he appreciated the

honor of being selected to coach in the Shrine Bowl and is grateful for all the support he received.

"The members of the Shrine were super and extremely generous with their support," said Diehl. "I know this decision has caused some disappointment, but my family comes first."

The 2004 Shrine Bowl will be played July 31 in Welch Stadium on the campus of Emporia State University between teams of Kansas high school players. The gates open at 5 p.m. (Central Time) with kickoff scheduled for 7.

Mize said Jeff Fuss, the coach at Pratt High School, agreed to fill in for Diehl. The Greenbacks, like Goodland, made it to the second round of the state Class 4A playoffs last season.

"We were, of course, very sorry to lose Coach Diehl," Mize said, "but look forward to working with Coach Fuss."

Fuss will be one of five coaches working under Gene Flax of Thomas More Prep-Marian for the West team. C.J. Hamilton of Silver Lake High School is the head coach of the East team.

Summer sports schedules

Men's Softball Tournament second round will be on Tuesday, and championship game Thursday.

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Despite pending pigskin fever, football not only game around

With the start of football season next month, some women are gearing themselves up to become "football widows."

Some wives are long-time veterans of this condition, while others will experience their rookie season. Professional, college, high school, junior high or pee-wee, football will dominate some men's thoughts nearly every non-working minute of the day for four or five months, and I'm sure for a few they won't limit themselves to that.

For a few really unfortunate wives, their husbands will be total football fanatics who will attend every high school game, watch three college games on Saturday and at least two pro games Sunday. Monday night football will be mandatory, as will the Thursday-night college game on ESPN.

My sympathies go out to those unfortunate wives whose husbands, in addition to watching all the games, will spend hours online trying to buy a pair of unwashed socks worn by Bubba Smith in Super Bowl III.

Football is overemphasized, as far as I'm concerned, and nothing is going to change that, there are other sports starting next month that deserve their time in the spotlight. I'm determined to do what I can to see that they get it.

The Cowboys open their football



greg stover

• greg's gripes

season Sept. 3 in Hoxie, but Goodland athletes will be in action before that. The Cowgirls varsity tennis team will have played three meets, all on the road, before the opening kickoff. The Cowgirls golf team will open its season at WaKeeney on Sept. 2.

Goodland will even have its first home athletic contest before the opening kickoff when it hosts the Goodland Invitational cross country meet on Thursday, Sept. 2, at the Sugar Hills Golf Club.

Former Cowboys and Cowgirls will be competing at colleges throughout the country in sports other than football, and their families will be just as proud of them.

Football may be overemphasized, but it will dominate the media. The other sports will not be forgotten as far I can help it. I'll be guilty from time to time of concentrating on football, but the others will get their spotlight even if I have to shine it on them myself.

My favorite sport to watch in person is volleyball — I prefer my foot-

ball on television — so I'll be at every home match for the Cowgirls this season, which opens with a quad meet on Sept. 7 at Max Jones Fieldhouse. I'll even try to get to some away matches and attend

some games at Colby Community College.

We have at least three former Cowgirls who will be playing at the collegiate level this season:

• Ashley Hallagin, a senior at Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas, will start her second season with the Cardinals on Sept. 3 at a tournament in Greenville, N.C., hosted by East Carolina University.

• California State University, Fresno, or more commonly Fresno State, where Alisha McKee will be a freshman next month, opens its season at a tournament in Springfield, Mo., hosted by Southwest Missouri State University.

• Tomi Windell, who will be a freshman at Independence Community College, will begin play at the next level when the Lady Buccaneers open their season Aug. 27 at Longview Community College in Lee's Summit, Mo.

Enjoy football, yes, but don't forget the other sports or the athletes who compete in them.

No fumbles allowed



Coach Jon McLean (right) watched as future Goodland Cowboys went through a hand-off drill during last week's football camp. About 75 boys from Sherman County attended the camp, held next to the high school track.
Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

city/county recreation softball

July 14 COED Halde Redi-Mix 19 Poling Chiropractic 12	1st National Bank 18 WalBangers 3 Frontier Equity 10 WalBangers 4 Bowladium Lanes 10 Rasure for Senate 14
July 15 COED Hitchcock 2 Halde Redi-Mix 13 Poling Chiropractic 19 Rasure for Senate 0 Poling Chiropractic 20 McB's 0 Frontier Equity 0 Halde Redi-Mix 18	July 20 Men's League DJ's Mobile Wash 10 B&K Pumping 16 Goodland Sinclair won Just Ponds forfeit Goodland Sinclair 0 NSI/Budweiser 17 Goodland Sinclair 8 DJ's Mobilie Wash 11 Wayne's Carpet 1 Lonny's Quality Auto Body 11 DJ's Mobile Wash 16 Wayne's Carpet 5
July 19 COED Bowladium Lanes 12 1st National Bank 21	

B&K Pumping 4 Lonny's Quality Auto Body 12	July 21 COED Wal-Bangers 16 Bowladium Lanes 12 Bowladium Lanes 3 McB's 9 McB's 3 Hitchcock 16 Wal-Bangers 4 Halde Redi Mix 17
McB's 5 Frontier Equity 10 First National Bank 1 Halde Redi Mix 4 Rasure for Senate 3 Poling Chiropractic 13 Frontier Equity 0 First National Bank 10 Wal-Bangers 0 Rasure for Senate 6 Poling Chiropractic 14 Hitchcock 9	

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