



Cowboys battle Indians tonight in Hoxie to open 2004 season

The trail back to the state Class 4A football playoffs begins tonight in Hoxie as the Cowboys visit the Indians, with kickoff at 6 p.m. (Mountain Time) at the high school field.

Jon McLean, thrown into the head coach's spot unexpectedly this week, has 16 players, including 11 seniors, back from a team that went 8-3 and advanced to the second round of the state playoffs. Five of the returning players were Northwest Kansas League all-league selections in 2003.

Freshman Jance McKee tried his hand at quarterback during Friday's scrimmage at Cowboy Stadium.

Photo by Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News



Jon McLean

Junior Mark Starr was a two-time first team pick at both offensive and defensive tackle. On defense, Starr had 24 tackles including a quarterback sack and recovered a fumble.

Senior Derrick Raymer was a two-time second team pick as a wide receiver and as a defensive back. Offensively, Raymer caught nine passes for 168 yards and two touchdowns. He rushed 25 times for 167 yards and two touchdowns.

Defensively, Raymer had 68 tackles, including a sack, and recovered two fumbles. Raymer also was the Cowboys' punter, averaging 38 yards per kick.

Raymer is switching to quarterback this season, but will retain his

punting chores.

Three Goodland players received honorable mention on last year's all-league team: Junior Bobby Miller as a running back, senior Bret Jarmin as a defensive end and senior Jake Johnson at center.

McLean said Johnson, who had knee surgery last spring, will be questionable for tonight's game. He said senior Anthony Benavides, who has been having hamstring problems, also is questionable for tonight.

The Hoxie Indians, a Class 2A team, were 9-3 in 2003, making it to the quarterfinals of the state playoffs. Last year, Goodland defeated Hoxie 35-16 at Cowboy Stadium in the first game of the season.

McLean said the Indians have a deceptive offense with fast team speed, and to counter that the Cowboys will have to maintain defen-

sive discipline, with each player sticking to his defensive responsibilities.

Joining Raymer in the offensive backfield for tonight's game, said McLean, will be seniors Brock Lohr at fullback, Lane Winter at tailback and David Livengood at wingback.

McLean took over as head coach when Tony Diehl was suspended by the Goodland School Board, as both a teacher and coach, at a special meeting last Sunday. The new coach has been an assistant football coach for the past five seasons and will begin his seventh season as head basketball coach this winter.

McLean said he was proud of the players' attitude and efforts in practice this week and is excited to get the season started.

The Cowboys host St. Francis next Friday in their home opener.

Goodland High girls golf team working uphill this season

By Kathryn Gurfinkel

The Goodland Star-News
With six beginning players on the Cowgirls golf team this season, coach Connie Livengood says the girls are going to be fighting an uphill battle.

"This year," she said, "we're going to have to work at climbing up the ladder."

Some members of her team have never golfed at all, so Livengood is working to get them familiar with the practice course. She is teaching the basics of golfing, putting in the short game, chipping, mid-distance hitting and driving.

The team also practices by playing holes on the course, she said, adding, "There's a lot of instruction here."

Even with a mostly inexperienced team, she said, she is getting some scores in the 40s and 50s.

"I'm very excited," she said. "The kids are hitting the ball pretty well."

To win a spot on the varsity, team members go against each other in a competition round.

Livengood said she is expecting Bailee Guyer, a returning senior who is shooting the lowest score, to do well.

"My seniors are all pretty close," she added, saying that seniors Emily Burkett, Amy Cebula, Kelsey Leiker and Ana McClung all should do well this year.

Sami Philbrick, a junior, is shooting the team's third lowest scores and Samantha Raymer, a freshman, is second lowest. Livengood said she also expects Brooke Whitmore, a returning sophomore, to do well.

"It's really going to come down to who scores the best," Livengood said.

With a large, 19-member team, she said she is glad to be receiving help from the new assistant coach,

Jackie Elliott. She said Elliott is an important addition to the team and has experience as the high school boys coach. This is the first year the team is large enough to support an assistant and, she said, she is looking forward to the extra help.

"I'm really excited to have her help me with these kids," the coach said.

The team had their first practice on the morning of Aug. 16. They now meet from 3:45 p.m. to 6 p.m. every day at the Sugar Hills Golf Club in Goodland.

"Some nights we will have some challenging matches," Livengood

said.

The girl's first match up was to be Thursday at WaKeeney. Livengood said the course is tough, with a lot of rough and cactus. Throughout the season, she said, they will play mostly on nine-hole golf courses with the only 18-hole golf at Sugar Hills and at Smoky Hills Golf Club in Hays.

"It's a tough golf course," she said of Smoky Hills, "but it's a fantastic golf course."

The team will have competitions at the nine-hole courses at Lakin, Ulysses and Colby with the state tournament ending the season on

Oct. 18.

After five years coaching high school golf, Livengood said she still enjoys teaching the game and watching her teams' progression.

"I enjoy it," she said. "I enjoy the challenge of teaching kids and watching them improve."





Broncbusters win opener

Sophomore Don Raymer, a wide receiver on Garden City Community College's football team, caught a pass for eight yards to help his team win its season opener 27-17 over Dodge City Community College.


Raymer, in his second season with the Broncbusters, is a 2003 graduate of Goodland High School where he lettered in football and golf. Raymer played in all 10 games for Garden City last year. As a wide receiver, he caught four passes for 58 yards, and on special teams he returned one kickoff for seven yards.

Last season the Broncbusters were 5-5 overall and 4-3 in the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference, and were picked No. 3 in the conference coaches' pre-season poll.

The team travels to Coffeyville on Saturday for their first road game of the season. The Red Ravens, picked No. 2 in the coaches' pre-season poll, scored a touchdown with 14 seconds left in the game to defeat Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College 23-20 in their season opener Aug. 26.

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Go Cowboys & Cowgirls!

Goodland High School
Football Tonight, varsity in Hoxie, 6 p.m.; Friday, Sept 10, in Goodland against St. Francis, 6 p.m.
Tennis Saturday, varsity at Colby, 8 a.m.; Thursday, at Tribune, 2 p.m.
Golf Tuesday, in Goodland at Sugar Hills, 1p.m.
Cross
Country Saturday, Sept. 11, at Wamego, 8 a.m.
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