

Cowboys win regional, qualify 11 for state

By Greg Stover

The Goodland High School wrestling team won the Class 4A regional tournament at the Colby Community Building this weekend, qualifying 11 Cowboys for the state tournament in Wichita on Friday and Saturday.

Coach Randy Bahe said he was pleased with the way the Cowboys wrestled and the way they came together as a team.

Bahe said there was a wonderful crowd of fans from Goodland at the tournament, and their support really helps the wrestlers come through in tight matches.

Seven Goodland wrestlers earned their way to the championship matches Saturday evening, with four bringing home the gold medal.

Senior Chad Normandin won a 7-3 decision over Colby's Daniel Tibbles at 103 pounds. Normandin took a 4-1 lead in the first period on a pair of takedowns. Starting the second period from the down position, Tibbles scored a reversal, followed by one by Normandin to make it 6-3 going into the third.

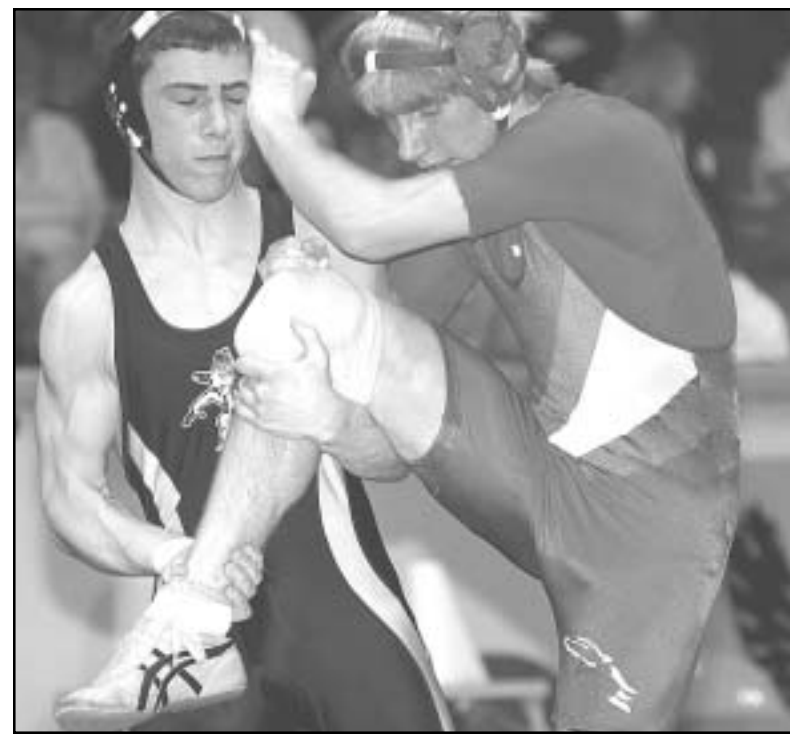
Normandin started the third in the down position. Tibbles kept the advantage for over a minute but could not score any points. With about 57 seconds left in the match, Normandin was able to get to his feet and score an escape. Neither wrestler gained the advantage after that, with Normandin winning 7-3.

Tibbles entered the tournament with a 28-2 record and is ranked No. 1 in Class 4A by the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association. Normandin improved to 8-2 for the season.

Sophomore Brett Bahe, ranked No. 1 at 112 pounds, pinned Brent Fisher of Andale with 24 seconds left in their title match. The two wrestled to a scoreless tie in the first period. Starting the second in the up position, Fisher scored a two-point near fall with 45 seconds left in the period, but about 20 seconds later Bahe escaped, making the score 2-1.

Starting the third in the down position, Fisher soon scored on a reversal for a 3-2 lead. Bahe returned the favor about the one-minute mark and pinned him 35 seconds later.

Bahe improved to 33-1 for the season. Fisher, ranked No. 3, is now



Sophomore Brett Bahe (on top, left photo) won a 4-0 decision over Colby's Brent Luedke in the 112-pound semifinal match. Freshman A.J. Stephens (left above) tried to force David William of Russell to the mat in their 125-pound semifinal match. William won a 11-3 major decision.

Photos by Dennis Saint/The Goodland Star-News

26-6.

Senior Dexter Deeds, ranked No. 2 at 135 pounds, won a 7-2 come from behind decision over A.J. Heckel of Ulysses for the gold despite of a bloody nose and an accidental poke in the eye. Heckel took the early 2-0 lead with a takedown but Deeds escaped to make the score 2-1 at the end of the first period.

Starting the second in the down position, Deeds took a 3-2 lead after earning two points on a reversal, which was the only scoring in the period. The wrestlers started the third in the neutral position, and Deeds scored a takedown with 47 seconds left, then earned two more points with a near fall just before time ran out to make it 7-2.

Deeds, last year's Class 4A state champion at 125 pounds, improved to 32-4 for the season. Heckel, ranked No. 3 at 135, is now 21-7.

Senior Brandon Cowan won the gold medal at 189 pounds with a 9-6 come from behind decision over No. 2-ranked Ryan Seger of Ulysses. Cowan fell behind 2-1 in the first period. Starting the second in the up position, he took a 4-2 lead

on a near fall halfway through the period, but about 20 seconds later Seger scored on a reversal to tie the score at 4 going into the third.

Starting from the down position, Cowan scored on an escape, but Seger took back the lead 6-5 on a takedown. Then with 50 seconds left in the match, Cowan scored on a reversal to regain the lead 7-6, followed by another two points for a near fall to make the final 9-6.

Cowan improved to 10-3 for the season. Seger is now 26-3.

Sophomore Jon Cook faced a tough challenge in the title match at 160 pounds when he took on No. 1-ranked Curtis Chenoweth of Clearwater, who was undefeated in 33 matches. A lot of scoring took place in the first two periods, as they wrestled to a 5-all tie. Chenoweth held a 10-9 lead after two.

The scoring pace fell off in the third, where Chenoweth, starting in the up position, earned two points for a near fall, giving him the 12-9 decision.

Cook, ranked No. 5 by the association, is now 30-8 while Chenoweth improved to 34-0.

Junior Mark Starr, ranked No. 2 at 215 pounds, faced No. 3 Lucas Fox of Scott City in the championship match. Fox went ahead 2-0 on a takedown about halfway through the first period and was later awarded three points for a near fall for a 5-0 lead going into the second.

Starr hurt his right knee early in the period, and although he tried to go on, had to default with 11 seconds left in the second, still trailing 5-0. On Sunday, Coach Bahe said Starr was still feeling some tenderness in his knee but should be fine for the state tournament. Starr will go there with a 27-6 record, Fox at 32-6.

After a first-round bye, freshman heavyweight Bobby Doxon defeated first Dakota Thome of Larned, then Sean Moore of Haven, earning a shot at the title against No. 2-ranked Guy Miller of Scott City.

Miller, who entered the match with a 33-2 record, won on a fall with 28 seconds left in the first period after leading 4-0. Doxon will head to Wichita with an 11-19 record.

In the championship semifinals at 125 pounds, freshman A.J. Stephens lost an 11-3 major deci-

sion to the eventual champion, David William of Russell. In the consolation bracket Stephens, won an 18-2 technical fall over Justin Sauer of Scott City with 42 seconds left in the match.

With the win, Stephens advanced to the third-place match, where he pinned Colby's Travis Powell late in the second period. Stephens is now 25-12 overall.

In the championship semifinals at 140 pounds, sophomore Brett Schields lost an 11-6 decision to the eventual champion, Cole Garcia of Colby. Garcia, ranked No. 2 in the state, is now 32-1 for the season.

In the consolation bracket, he first defeated Ryan Driscoll of Russell by an 8-5 decision, then defeated Dustin Warta of Scott City 13-8 for third place. Schields will take a 21-11 record to Wichita.

The other two Cowboys qualifying for the state tournament were sophomore Kerek Mason at 119 pounds and sophomore Josiah Goodley at 171 pounds. Both finished fourth in their weights, finishing 2-2 at the tournament.

Other Goodland wrestlers com-

peting at the regional meet were freshman Aaron Deeds, who finished 0-2 at 130 pounds; senior Blake Saint, who went 2-2 at 145 pounds; and junior Brandon Hatfield, who went 2-2 at 152 pounds.

Goodland, ranked No. 6 as a team by the association, earned 209.5 points. No. 5 Andale totaled 158 with No. 7 Colby third just a half-point behind. No. 10 Scott City was fourth with 131.5 points.

The top four wrestlers in each weight from the four regional tournaments advance to the state tournament Friday and Saturday at the Kansas Coliseum in north Wichita. Wrestling starts at 8 a.m. (Mountain time) on both days.

Wilmer Bahe and Ron Schilling of Goodland radio KLOE 730 AM will broadcast Goodland matches as they occur.

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School calendar for Feb. 23 - March 1

Wednesday - "Gold Day"; District Spelling Bee in the auditorium, 1 p.m.; track meeting in the cafeteria, 11 a.m.; early lunch for ITBS students; city/county recreation at fieldhouse and junior high gym, 7:30 p.m.; PDC screening 3:45 p.m.

Thursday - "Black Day"; Seminar - DECA and FCS; seventh grade league basketball in Atwood, 2 p.m.; eighth grade basketball in Goodland 2 p.m.; KMEA State Conference.

Friday - "Gold Day"; State wrestling in Wichita; KMEA State Conference.

Saturday - State wrestling in Wichita; KMEA State Conference.

Monday - First day of spring sports practice; Sub-state boys basketball game; Board of Education meeting at the administration building 7 p.m.

Tuesday - "Gold Day"; Seminar - Stuco and State Department Meeting; Sub-state girls basketball game.

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