

Cowboys place third at state meet

By Greg Stover
The Goodland Star-News
For the second straight year, the Goodland Cowboys finished third at the state Class 4A wrestling tournament in Wichita.

Goodland qualified 11 wrestlers for tournament Friday and Saturday at the Kansas Coliseum, more than any other Class 4A team. Seven Cowboys placed in the top six. Sophomore Brett Bahe who won the gold medal at 112 pounds, while three placed third, one fifth and two sixth.

Coach Randy Bahe, who was named the Class 4A Coach of the Year, said he was happy that the team was able to "bring home some hardware," but that wasn't their goal. He said the semifinal round Friday night was a "killer," but he felt the Cowboys came back and wrestled well on Saturday.

Seven Goodland wrestlers won their first-round match Friday morning, with six of them winning in the second round and advancing to the semifinals. That is where the Cowboys had a rough time — winning just one match and perhaps losing their chance for a state championship.

The Tigers of Clay Center won the tournament with 145.5 points. Abilene High School repeated as runnerup with 137, while Goodland scored 115. Andale was fifth, Santa Fe Trail sixth and Scott City seventh. The Colby Eagles were eighth, with junior Cole Garcia winning the gold at 140 pounds.

Abilene led after the first round with Clay Center second and Goodland third. The Cowboys moved into second place after the second round. Goodland and Abilene both sent six wrestlers into the semifinals, with Clay Center having five. Both Abilene and Clay Center won four semifinal matches, though.

After that, the Tigers reclaimed second place and later moved ahead of Abilene going into the third-place matches.

Brett Bahe entered the tournament ranked No. 1 at 112 pounds in Class 4A by the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association with a 34-1 record. He won his first match with a fall in the first period, then won in the second round by major decision. In the semifinals, Bahe defeated Chet Mercer of Columbus, ranked No. 3, 6-2.

In the championship, Bahe faced No. 2-ranked Dustin Dooley of Concordia. Bahe scored a takedown about 40 seconds into the first period, then picked up another two points with a near pin for a 4-0 lead going into the second.

Starting from the down position, Bahe got two points on a reversal, the only score in the period. Dooley started the third period in the down position and with about 30 seconds left in the match, scored on a reversal. Bahe earned a point with an escape in the final seconds to win the match 7-2.

Senior Chad Normandin won a 7-1 decision over Eudora's Cale Demel for third place and a bronze medal at 103 pounds. After wrestling to a scoreless tie in the first period, Normandin scored a near pin just before time ran out in the second for a 3-0 lead. Starting the third in the down position, Normandin scored a reversal about a minute into the period. Demel escaped with about 20 seconds left. Normandin scored a takedown in the final seconds, making the final 7-1.

Senior Dexter Deeds pinned Jon Arveson of Chapman High at 54 seconds into the third period of the third-place match at 135 pounds. Deeds led 2-0, on a takedown, after the first period. He increased his lead to 5-0 with a near pin in the second and was leading 7-0, on a reversal, when he got the fall.

Deeds won his first two matches by second-period pins. He then lost to Abilene's Josh Peterson by a 9-7 overtime decision. In the consolation bracket, he won a tough 3-0 decision over A.J. Heckel of Ulysses to set up the match with Arveson. Heckel placed fifth.

Junior Mark Starr won a 5-1 decision over Atticus Disney of Andover Central for third place at 215 pounds. Starr took a 2-0 lead in the first period with a takedown in the final seconds. Neither wrestler scored in the second. Starting the third in the down position, Starr quickly scored with an escape, then got another takedown with about 25 seconds left in the match for a 5-0 lead. Disney escaped in the final seconds to make it 5-1.

Starr won his opening match with a second-period pin, then won his second by decision. In the semifinals, he lost a 13-6 decision to Clay Center's Jacob Marrs. In his fourth round of the consolation bracket,

Cowboy coach honored

Cowboy wrestling coach Randy Bahe was honored by the Kansas Association of Wrestling Officials as the Class 4A Coach of the Year.



Coach Bahe

Bahe received the award at a ceremony just before to the championship round on Saturday at the state tournament, held at the Kansas Coliseum in Wichita.

"It was nice to be recognized," Bahe said. "It was a real surprise, not at all anticipated."

Bahe, a Goodland farmer and part-time coach, said one of the things that made the award special was that Eldon Zimbelman, whom he regards as one of the best wrestling officials ever, presented it to him.

Bahe just finished his fourth season as the coach of the Cowboys, serving the previous seven years as an assistant under Eddie Clark and later Chris Guillot.

In another ceremony Saturday, former Goodland wrestling coach Wallace "Rocky" Welton was inducted into the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association Hall of Fame. He was Coach Bahe's high school coach.

Normandin won his opening match by decision, then his second by major decision. In the semifinals, he lost a 7-2 decision to Matt Rein of Abilene. In the fourth round of the consolation bracket, he won a 7-0 decision over Daniel Tibbles of Colby to move into the third-place match. Tibbles went on to place fifth.

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Goodland begins state basketball playoffs this week

The Cowgirls begin their drive to the state basketball tournament at 5 p.m. tonight against the Lady Broncos of Russell at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

The Cowgirls ended their regular season last Tuesday with a 65-55 double-overtime road win over the

Lady Broncs of Lakin. Goodland finished 15-5 overall and 6-1 in the Northwest Kansas League.

Russell finished its regular season 3-17 overall and 0-12 in the North Central Activities Association. Last Tuesday, the Broncs lost to Ellsworth 66-38.

The winner of tonight's game will face the winner of the Pratt/Ulysses game on Friday. The location will be determined after the games.

The Lady Eagles of Colby, 17-3 for the season, plays Scott City tonight.

The Cowboys were to play the Greenbacks of Pratt at 5 p.m. Monday at the fieldhouse. The winner of that game will face the winner of tonight's Larned/Hugoton game on Thursday.

The Cowboys finished the regular season 15-5 overall and a perfect

7-0 in the Northwest Kansas League. Pratt, a member of the Mid-State League, entered Monday's game 4-15.

The Larned Indians ended their regular season 11-8 while the Eagles of Hugoton finished theirs 6-13.

Ulysses in their fifth-place match at 189 pounds. Seger led 6-0 after the first period, increasing it to 10-1 in the second. Neither wrestler scored in the third period, earning Seger fifth place and Cowan sixth.

Cowan won his opening match by decision before losing to Josh Marrs of Clay Center in the second round by technical fall. In the consolation bracket, Cowan won in the second and third rounds, both by pins in the third period, before losing in the fourth to Abe Kersting of Douglass.

Freshman heavyweight Bobby Daxon went 2-2 for the tournament, losing to Abilene's Cody Palmer in the opening round. In the consolation bracket, he won his first two matches before losing to Darrell Kimzey of Prairie View by a first-period fall. Kimzey went on to place third in the tournament.

Sophomore Kerek Mason lost a 15-3 major decision to Kevin Callahan of Baldwin in the first round at 119 pounds. Mason advanced to the second round of the consolation bracket on a default, but was pinned in the first period by Hunter Olsen of Colby.

Sophomore Josiah Goodley lost his opening match at 171 pounds with a second-period pin by Ross Starcher of Tonganoxie, who went on to earn the silver medal. Goodley then defeated Steven Landrith of Coffeyville before losing to Bobby Spexarth of Andale in the second round of the consolation bracket.

Sophomore Brett Schields lost a 5-3 decision at 140 pounds to Dakota Hall of Fort Scott in the opening round, then lost a 6-2 decision to Ross King of Columbus in the first round of the consolation bracket.

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School calendar for March 2 - March 8

Wednesday - "Black Day"; Seminar - Sophomores Performance part math test and State department test; Elementary Bank Day; PDC meeting 3:45 p.m.; city/county recreation at fieldhouse and junior high gym, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday - "Gold Day"; Seminar - FCCLA; Sub-state boys basketball in Larned; Elks Hoop Shoot in high school gym, 7 to 9 p.m.; Spring pictures at North school 8 a.m.

Friday - "Black Day"; Seminar - Drivers Education meeting in cafeteria; Sub-state girls basketball in Larned

Saturday - Sub-state Championship basketball in Larned; Kansas State DECA in Overland Park, Kan.

Saturday - Kansas State DECA in Overland Park, Kan.; Kansas Kids seeding meeting at the fieldhouse

Monday - Kansas State DECA in Overland Park, Kan.; project graduation 2005 meeting in cafeteria, 7 p.m.

Tuesday - "Black Day"; Seminar - Girl's Athletic Association and G-Club; Kansas State DECA in Overland Park, Kan.; track rules meeting in Oakley, 6:30 p.m.; Junior High Scholars' Bowl at Oberlin, 3 p.m.; West Site Council meeting 4 p.m.

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