

Cowgirls drop opening pair to Garden City

By Greg Stover
The Goodland Star-News
The Cowgirls softball team dropped both games of a double-header against the Lady Buffaloes of Garden City High on Friday, losing 7-0 in the first and 11-1 in the second.

In the first game, both teams went scoreless in the first two innings. Garden City got its first run in the top of the third, added two in the fifth and three more in the sixth. The Buffaloes picked up their seventh run in the seventh to make the final 7-0.

Garden City kept its momentum going in the second game, jumping out to a 4-0 lead in the top of the first inning. Goodland scored its only run of the day in the bottom of the first when junior Melissa Swager drove in sophomore Shandel Simon.

The score remained 4-1 until the top of the fifth inning, when Garden City picked up a run to make it 5-1. In the top of the seventh, the Buffaloes exploded for six runs, then kept the Cowgirls to a "three-and-out" series to win the game 11-1.

Garden City's Katie Ford, a sophomore, pitched both games for the Lady Buffaloes, striking out 11 Goodland batters in the first and seven in the second.

Junior Jordan Frazier lost both games, pitching two complete games. Frazier struck out seven, four in the first game and three in the second.

This was the season opener for both teams.

In the top of the first inning, Frazier needed just seven pitches, with the help of the Cowgirl defense, to retire Garden City's first three batters. After the first two Goodland batters struck out, freshman Samantha Raymer got the Cowgirls' first hit of the season with a single down the right field line.

Next, Swager hit a single through the gap between the shortstop and third, sending Raymer to second. However Ford struck out the next batter to end the inning. Both teams went "three-and-out" in the second.

The Buffaloes got on the scoreboard first when Colleen McMillan hit a double to right center, scoring Freedom VanMeter. She got on base



Sophomore shortstop Lindsay Schields (with ball above) tagged out Erin Blackburn (No. 2) of Garden City as she tried to steal second base in the fifth inning of the second game on Friday. Freshman Samantha Raymer (No. 13) beat the tag at first after hitting a single in the fourth inning of the second game.

Photos by Liz West/The Goodland Star-News

on a fielder's choice, later stealing second, then third.

The score remained 1-0 until the top of the fifth, when McMillan hit another double to right center which again scored VanMeter. McMillan scored on an throwing error by Goodland to make it 3-0. In the bottom of the fifth, sophomore Lindsay Schields led off with a single to center field, but the Buffaloes got the next three Cowgirl batters out to end the inning.

Garden City took advantage of some miscues by Goodland's defense to score three runs in the top of the sixth, increasing its lead to 6-0. In the bottom of the inning, Simon led off with a single to left, then went to second on a single to right by Raymer. However Swager popped out to the third baseman, who threw the ball to second in time to catch Simon for a double play. The next batter was thrown out at first.

In the top of the seventh, Garden City picked up one more run to make it 7-0 going into the bottom of

the inning. There Ford struck out three Cowgirls on nine pitches to end the game.

In the second game, Garden City's offense continued to get hits and score runs, as the Buffaloes took a 4-0 lead in the top of the first. After Goodland's first batter was thrown out at first, Simon got on base on Ford's first walk of the day. Raymer hit a single down the right-field line, sending Simon to second.

Swager came up next, and as she took a strike, Raymer got caught stealing second for Goodland's second out. That allowed Simon to score, making it 4-1.

The score stayed 4-1 until the top of the fifth, when Garden City picked up a run, then it stayed 5-1 until the top of the seventh. The Buffaloes sent 10 batters to the plate, getting six hits and scoring six runs. In the bottom of the inning, Goodland was held to a "three-and-out" ending the game.


Coach Andy Scheopner said he was pleased with the overall effort



by the team especially since these was the first varsity games for most of the players. He said the team made too many defensive mistakes and is working on correcting that problem.

Goodland went to Liberal on

Monday for a doubleheader against the Lady Redskins. The Cowgirls' next action in Centennial Park begins at 3 p.m. Thursday against Scott City. On Friday, the girls head to Colby for a doubleheader against the Lady Eagles.



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School calendar for April 6 - April 12

Wednesday - "Black Day"; Northwest Kansas League Art Show in Oberlin; FCCLA Star Events and Leadership Conference; Elementary Bank Day; PDC Meeting 3:45 p.m.

Thursday - "Gold Day"; Seminar - Stucco and GRACE; Northwest Kansas League Art Show in Oberlin; The Goodland Music Booster Club soup supper and basketball game at fieldhouse, 5 to 9 p.m.; softball in Goodland against Scott City, 3 p.m.

Friday - "Black Day"; Northwest Kansas League Art Show in Oberlin; golf in Norton 8 a.m.; softball in Colby 3 p.m.; track in Norton 2 p.m.; baseball in Hays with Concordia, 3 p.m.

Saturday - Regional Music Festival; ACT in cafeteria, 8 a.m.; Goodland Activities Center MAYB basketball tournament at fieldhouse, junior high gym, and the high school gym in the afternoon only.

Sunday - Goodland Activities Center MAYB basketball tournament at fieldhouse, junior high gym, and the high school gym.

Monday - 9-10 track meet in Goodland 3:45 p.m.; Board of Education meeting at the administration building 7 p.m.

Tuesday - "Black Day" Seminar - American Field Service; Goodland Invitational golf at Sugar Hills, 1 p.m.; tennis in Larned, 12 p.m.



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