

Cowboys take two from Bulldogs, go 3-0

By Greg Stover

The Goodland Star-News
Six days after winning their first baseball game, the Goodland Cowboys swept their first doubleheader on Monday, defeating Syracuse 15-7 and 12-9 at Memorial Field.

In the first game, Goodland scored at least one run in each of its six turns at bat, a total of 15 runs on 10 hits including the team's first home run. The Cowboys stole nine bases. The Bulldogs scored a run in the top of the first inning, another in the second and scored five in the fourth.

Goodland's momentum seemed to carry over to the second game, as the Cowboys scored at least once in the first four innings, building up a 12-1 lead. Then the Bulldogs' defense stiffened, holding Goodland scoreless in the fifth and sixth innings while Syracuse scored eight runs in their final three turns at bat.

In the matinee, junior Brandon Zelfer pitched a complete game for his first win. Zelfer gave up six hits on three earned runs, struck out nine and walked two. He is 1-0 for the season with a save.

"Brandon did a great job challenging hitters all game and covering for our defensive mistakes," said coach Steve Jimenez.

Senior Brock Lohr won the nightcap, improving his record to 2-0. He threw for 4 1/3 innings, giving up only one hit but walking four. The Bulldogs were able to score five runs, four of them earned. Lohr struck out eight.

"Brock wasn't as sharp as he was in his first game," Jimenez said, "but he battled all game and allowed us to get a lead."

Sophomore Andrew Pettibone relieved Lohr, pitching the rest of the fifth inning and part of the sixth. He allowed three runs on three hits.

Junior Wyatt Dautel took over for Pettibone, closing out the game and getting the save. Dautel gave up one unearned run on three hits and a walk while striking out one.

The Bulldogs took a temporary lead 1-0 in the first game when Brandon Bloyd scored on a wild pitch. Bloyd led off with a double to right field, then got to third on a fielder's choice.

In the Cowboys first turn at bat, Dautel started things off with a single to right center, then stole second two pitches later. Two pitches after that, senior Jake Alander drove Dautel home with a double to right which tied the score.

Next Zelfer, after taking a ball, hit a homer over the left center field fence, making the score 3-1. Syracuse was able to get three of the next four Goodland batters out to end the inning.



Despite a well-executed double play by the Cowboys in the top of the second, the Bulldogs were able to score another run to make it 3-2. In the bottom of the inning, Goodland quickly picked up two outs, but with three hits and some alert base running, the Cowboys were able to score four runs and increase their lead to 7-2 heading into the third inning.

Syracuse was held to a "three-and-out" series, including two strikeouts, in the top of the third. After two straight walks, Syracuse tried a pitching change, but the Cowboys still managed to score three more without a hit.

With the score 10-2 in the top of the fourth, the Bulldogs sent eight batters to the plate, picking up five runs to close within three at 10-7. In

the bottom of the fourth, a single to right by Miller drove in sophomore Tyler Hillmer, who got on base after being hit by a pitch. Neither team scored in the fifth, and the score remained 11-7 going into the sixth. Zelfer faced just four batters in the top of the sixth, up a single and striking out two. In the bottom of the inning, despite another pitching change, the Cowboys scored four more runs, increasing their lead to 15-7.

In the seventh, Goodland held the Bulldogs to another "three-and-out" to end the game, with Zelfer striking out the first and third batters. "Our offense continued to be our strong point," said Jimenez. "I think the key to the game was our aggressive base running. Any time you steal nine bases in a game, it puts pressure on the opposing team."

"At the plate, Brandon's first inning home run set the tone for the game. Brock, Bobby and Jake also had great at-bats all game." The second game started like the first with the Bulldogs taking a 1-0



lead in the top of the first. After the first two Goodland batters were thrown out, Zelfer hit a stand-up double to left. Next Lohr hit a long ball to center field for a triple, driving Zelfer home. Freshman Josh Doke, running for Lohr, scored on a passed ball, and the Cowboys took a 2-1 lead.

In the top of the second, Syracuse suffered another "three-and-out," all on strike outs by Lohr. Goodland's batters combined for five hits and scoring five runs in the bottom of the frame, giving the Cowboys a 7-1 lead.

Goodland's defense shut out the Bulldogs in the third and fourth while the Cowboys picked up a run in the third and four more in the fourth.

With Goodland leading 12-1 in the top of the fifth, the momentum switched to the Bulldogs. Tracy Braddock of Syracuse hit a triple to left center which drove in two runs. Two batters later, after Lohr gave up his second walk of the inning, Pettibone took the mound in relief with two outs.

Goodland got the third out after catching a runner off base, but Syracuse had already added two more runs to make it 12-5. Goodland was held scoreless in the bottom of the inning.

The Bulldogs' offensive surge kept going in the top of the sixth as they scored a pair of runs on a double by Peter Gould.

That prompted another Goodland pitching change with one out. Dautel got the next two outs, but not before Syracuse scored two more runs to make it 12-9.

Neither team would score again. "Defensively, it was our worst game of the year," said Jimenez, "way too many mistakes. At the plate, Brandon, Brock and Bobby were great again. Preston Dautel stepped in and did a solid job in right field for us."

"Our schedule gets much more difficult, and we'll have to get much better defensively if we want to continue winning."

The Cowboys will be in Hays today for a game against the Panthers of Concordia High.



Go Cowboys & Cowgirls!

Goodland High School	
Baseball	Today, in Hays against Concordia, 3 p.m. Next Friday in Colby, 3 p.m.
Softball	Today, in Colby 3 p.m.
Track	Saturday, in Norton, 2 p.m. Monday, 9-10 meet in Goodland, 3:45 p.m. Friday, April 15, K.T. Woodman in Wichita, 7:15 a.m.
Tennis	Tuesday, in Larned, 12 noon.
Golf	Tuesday, Goodland Invitational at Sugar Hills golf course, 1 p.m. Saturday, April 16, in Oberlin, 8:30 a.m.

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