

Scott City wins Levi Hayden, Goodland second



Goodland American Legion baseball players Derek Fenner (from left) and Tyler Hillmer, their coach John Dautel and Hillmer's grandfather Jim Applebee spread dry sand on Memorial Field last Saturday morning to get it ready for the day's action during the Levi Hayden Memorial Tournament. Photo by Donna Fenner

Scott City's American Legion baseball team went 3-0, beating Goodland twice, to win the seventh annual Levi Hayden Memorial Tournament last weekend at Memorial Field.

In the tournament opener on Friday, Burlington defeated Norton 5-0 in a game called in the sixth inning due to rain. Friday's second game, between Goodland and Ellis, was postponed until Saturday morning.

Players, coaches, relatives and other volunteers worked after the rain and early the next morning to get the field playable by mid-morning Saturday. That allowed the tournament to continue.

The day's play began with Goodland beating Ellis 10-0. Next Scott City got past Burlington 6-5, after which Goodland got its second win of the day against Wray, Colo., 5-2.

Burlington earned its second win of the tournament by dominating Ellis 14-2. The rain came back dur-

ing the top of the first inning of the Norton-Wray game and play was suspended until Sunday.

Since less than half an inning had been played, tournament manager Jay Pettibone, the coaches and umpires agreed to just start the game over.

Wray went on to beat Norton 12-4, followed by Goodland's first loss to Scott City 10-1. The next two games were decided by one run, with Burlington defeating Wray 9-8 and Ellis defeating Norton 10-9.

Goodland defeated Burlington 14-8 to advance to the championship against Scott City. Again, Scott City's offense and defense met Goodland's challenge, beating the host team 15-1.

Goodland finished as the tournament's runner-up with a 3-2 record, improving its season record to 8-7. Burlington placed third, also with a 3-2 record. Wray finished fourth and Ellis fifth, both ending up

1-2. Norton went 0-3 for sixth place.

Each year, the Hayden family donates a trophy for the most inspirational player of the tournament. Sunday, the coaches and umpires chose Goodland catcher Derek Fenner for his performance in the tournament, dedication to his team and demonstrated love of the game.

A portion of the tournament's proceeds goes into a scholarship fund established by Levi Hayden's parents to help Goodland American Legion baseball players with college. This year's recipient was Jake Alander, who plans to attend Kansas State University later this summer.

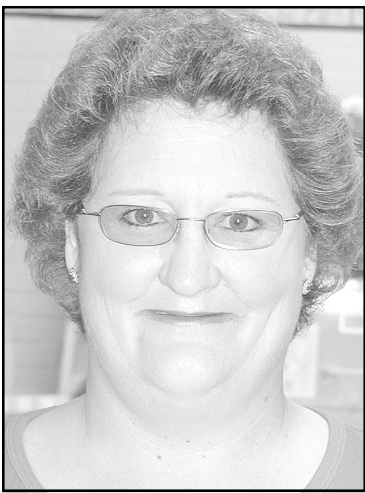
"I want to thank all the players, coaches and family members who helped work on the field," said Pettibone.

Goodland's Legion team will be in action again Saturday and Sunday at a "wood bat" tournament in Ogallala, Neb.



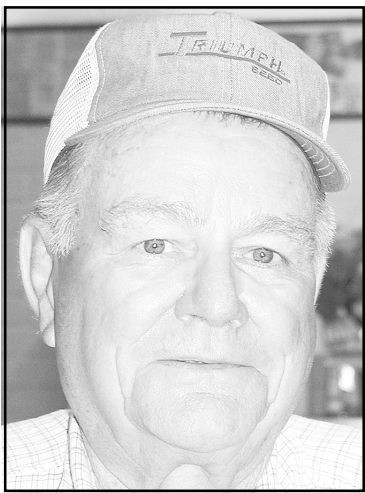
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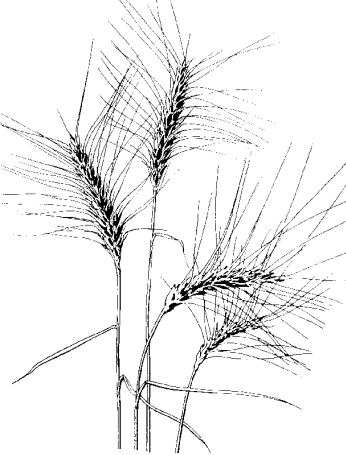
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