

# Elks K-18 closes season with two wins



Goodland first baseman Casey House (right) stood ready in case pitcher Cameron Morris tried to pick off Oberlin's runner during the third inning of Monday's game at Memorial Field. Morris struck out six and walked four in Goodland's 11-1 win.

Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News

By Greg Stover

*The Goodland Star-News*

Goodland's K-18 baseball team ended its regular season on a high note winning its final two home games of the year on Monday and Wednesday in front of enthusiastic crowds.

On Monday, Goodland beat Oberlin 11-1 in five innings and, two days later, beat Oakley 15-0 in four. Goodland finished the regular season 7-4 and is seeded No. 2 at the regional tournament this weekend in Oakley.

Goodland's first game of the regional tournament begins at 2 p.m. Mountain Time today against Smith Center at the baseball fields near the fairgrounds in Oakley. Play will last all weekend with the championship game being played Sunday afternoon.

In Wednesday's game against Oakley, Goodland dominated from the beginning holding its opponent to a "three-and-out" in the top of the first inning. In the bottom of the first, Goodland sent 10 batters to the plate getting seven hits and scoring six runs. Both Josh Doke and Casey House hit doubles in the inning.

After its first batter flew out to left field in the top of the second, Oakley's second batter got to first base on an error and its third walked putting runners at first and second. However, Goodland's defense settled down striking out the next batter for the second out followed by a "pop fly" to the third baseman to end Oakley's scoring threat.

In the bottom of the second, Goodland was able to send its entire batting order to the plate getting four hits and scoring five runs to take an 11-0 lead. Tanner Smith hit

a home run over the left field fence, which drove in Cameron Morris who got on base with a single. Four batters later House hit a triple to right field, which drove in two runs.

In the top of the third, Oakley got its first two batters on base but Goodland got the next three out keeping the visitors off the scoreboard.

In the bottom of the third, Goodland started off with a pair of singles by Adam Duell and Rory Kling after which Morris walked to load the bases with no outs. However, Oakley's defense stiffened allowing just one run even though Goodland loaded the bases four times.

In the top of the fourth, Oakley suffered its second "three-and-out" of the game. Goodland left fielder Eric Linnell made a running catch for the first out after which Preston Dautel struck out the next two batters to retire the side.

After Goodland scored three more runs in the bottom of the fourth to make the score 15-0 the game was called.

Dautel pitched all four innings getting six strikeouts and giving up just two walks. All nine Goodland batters got at least one hit and scored one run in the game. Highlights included Smith's two-run homer and House's triple, which drove in a pair of runs both in the second inning.

In the first inning of Monday's game against Oberlin, neither team was able to score with both sending just three batters to the plate.

In the top of the second, Morris struck out the first two Oberlin batters however the third hit an infield "chopper" that was mishandled and beat the throw to first. The runner was left stranded as Morris struck

out the next batter.

In the bottom of the inning, Goodland's offense got on track scoring five runs. Morris got things going with a single down the third base line followed by an "in-the-park" home run by Smith. Three batters later Doke hit a double down the right field line scoring Eric Whalen who got on earlier with a single.

Later in the inning, with the bases loaded, Kling hit a grounder that got past Oberlin's third baseman allowing two more runs to score giving Goodland a 5-0 lead after two innings.

Goodland's defense stayed stubborn in the top of the third keeping Oberlin scoreless then picked up another run in the bottom of the inning to make it 6-0 after three.

Goodland gave up a walk to start the top of the fourth after which Whalen, playing center field, caught two high fly balls on back-to-back plays for Oberlin's first two outs. After giving up another walk, Goodland's defense got the third out on a fielder's choice.

In the bottom of the fourth, Goodland added four more runs taking a 10-0 lead into the top of the fifth. There Oberlin broke its scoring drought with a run to narrow Goodland's lead to nine.

Goodland's first three batters in the bottom of the fifth safely got on loading the bases after which Kling was hit by a pitch forcing in a run and ending the game, by rule, 11-1.

The top four seeds from the regionals advance to the state tournament next weekend in Lucas which is about 15 miles north of exit 206 on I-70. Fans can follow K-232 north from the exit then turn west at K-18.

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## Three Cowboys playing football at state junior colleges this season

Three former Goodland Cowboys will be playing junior college football in Kansas this coming season, and all three belong to pre-season top-25 teams.

Sophomore quarterback Jared Doke will begin his second season with the Blue Dragons of Hutchinson Community College on Saturday, Aug. 27, when the team goes on the road to face Dodge City Community College. Doke played in three games last year in a backup role.

The Blue Dragons, who finished 7-4 last season, are ranked No. 16 in the preseason poll by the National Junior College Athletic Association which was released June 30.

Derrick Raymer and David Livengood, both freshman at Garden City Community College, will take the field in their first college game on Aug. 27 when the Broncbusters play host to the Greyhounds of Fort Scott Community College.

Garden City was 6-4 last year and is ranked No. 24 in the preseason poll.

Two other schools from the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference made the poll. The Grizzlies of Butler County Community College, last year's national runner-up, are ranked No. 3 and the Red Ravens of Coffeyville Community College are ranked No. 9.

Butler County finished 11-1 in 2004 losing to Pearl River Commu-

nity College (Miss.) in the national championship game. The Grizzlies return 23 starters from last year's squad including seven starters.

The Red Ravens ended last season 10-2, both losses were to Butler County. Coffeyville was ranked No. 3 in the association's final poll of 2004.

Pearl River is the poll's top team followed by Dixie State College of Utah. Tyler Junior College (Texas) is ranked No. 4.



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