

Controlling the ball



The Cowgirls tennis team practiced ball control as part of its warmup for Monday afternoon's practice. From left to right are senior Kali Rietcheck, junior Jena McCall, junior Sandy Johnson, freshman Shonna Webster and freshman Kathy Wood. The team opens its season Thursday in Cimarron.

Photo by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News



Goodland Cowgirls

2005 Girls Varsity Tennis

Aug. 25	At Cimarron	7:30 a.m.
Aug. 30	At Phillipsburg	2 p.m.
Sept. 3	At Colby	8 a.m.
Sept. 13	Goodland Invitational	2 p.m.
Sept. 24	At Garden City	8 a.m.
Sept. 27	At Colby	2 p.m.
Oct. 6	At Scott City	12 p.m.
Oct. 10	Regional Tennis	TBA

Note: All times shown are Mountain Time

18 players out for Cowgirl golf

Cowgirls golf coach Connie Livengood had 18 players, including seven freshman, show up for the team's first practice on Monday afternoon at Sugar Hills Golf Club.

Livengood, starting her fifth season as the girls coach, said she was pleased with the turnout. She said the experience level among the players range from seniors Julie Leiker and Sami Philbrick, who are both returning for their fourth seasons, to no experience at all for some of the freshman.

Other players returning from last year's squad are juniors Kerri Bellamy, Amber Webster and Brooke Whitmore. Returning sophomores include Holly Kibel, Sammie Raymer, Renea Reasoner, Eryn Topliff and Heidi Yonkey.

Beginning their first season with the Cowgirls are freshmen Natasha Cecil, Samantha Erickson, Chelsie Gausman, Linsey Owens, Danielle Pettibone, Courtney Sheldon and Michelle Smith. This is also sopho-

more Tenee Ridder's first season with the team.

Several of the players, including some of the freshman, hit the links this summer with the Northwest Kansas Junior Golf Association. Yonkey and Webster finished one-two in the 14-15 year old girls bracket at the association's championship tournament last month in WaKeeney. In the 12-13 girls competition Gausman place second and Sheldon third.

Topliff won the 14-15 girls bracket at the Sugar Hills Junior Club Championship held June 30.

Helping Livengood again this year is Jackie Elliott.

The Cowgirls' first competition is a tournament on Thursday, Sept. 1, at the Big Creek Golf Club in WaKeeney with Trego Community High as the host. On Tuesday, Sept. 6, Sugar Hills will be the site of the Goodland Girls Invitational, the Cowgirls' only home event this season.

Fort Hays volleyball team ranked 10th

The Fort Hays State University's volleyball team is No. 10 in the American Volleyball Coaches Association NCAA Division II pre-season poll.

The Lady Tigers finished 31-5 overall last season and 17-2 in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference. Four of their losses were to a conference rival, the Lopers of the University of Nebraska at Kearney, the No. 1 team in the pre-season poll.

The Lopers defeated Fort Hays State in both regular-season matches, in the championship match of the conference post-season tournament, and in the finals of the southwest regional tournament.

Nebraska-Kearney and Fort Hays State finished one-two in the conference coaches' pre-season poll. Both teams belong to the conference's East Division. Metropolitan State College of Denver, which also is in the East Division, finished third in the voting. Mesa State College came in fourth and is the top ranked team in the West Division.

Both Metropolitan State and Mesa State received votes in the national pre-season poll.

The Tigers will open their season on Friday, Aug. 26, against Cameron University at the Lady Buff Classic at West Texas A&M University in Canyon.

On the sidelines guiding Fort Hays State this season is first-year coach Steve Smith, who spent the previous nine seasons as an assistant coach at Western Oregon Uni-

versity. Smith was hired on July 7, replacing Jesse Mahoney, now an assistant coach at Colorado State University.

Returning to help lead the team on the court will be senior Kelly Skidmore and junior Ashley Holt. Skidmore, from Aurora, Colo., was the conference's defensive player of the year in 2003 and 2004. Holt, from Conway Springs, was an All-American honorable mention last season. Both were first-team all-

conference picks.

Skidmore was named the conference's defensive pre-season player of the year, and both she and Holt made the pre-season all-conference team.

The Lady Blues of Washburn University of Topeka also made the pre-season top 25 at No. 18.

Washburn is a member of the Mid-America Athletics Association, to which Fort Hays State will transfer to next fall.

Go Cowboys and Cowgirls!



Goodland High School

Tennis Thursday, varsity at Cimarron, 7:30 a.m.

Soap scrimmage for football and cross country will be Friday, Aug. 26, 5:30 p.m. at Cowboy Stadium.

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