

Fans get first look at teams



Sophomore running back Jake Kling (with ball at right) swept around the left end for the Gold Squad during the first period of the annual scrimmage Friday at Cowboy Stadium. The Cowgirls cross country team (above) ran a two-mile exhibition race around the football field between the first and second periods. Both cross country teams open their season at 4 p.m. Thursday with the Goodland Invitational at Sugar Hills Golf Course. The football team opens with a home game at 6 p.m. Friday against the Hoxie Indians.
Photos by Greg Stover/The Goodland Star-News



Tennis wins 12 matches

The Cowgirls tennis team started at No. 1 singles. Kelly Smidt of Goodland High's fall sports season on Thursday, finishing in a tie for second at the Cimarron Invitational.



Parker

"I was very pleased with how the girls played," said Coach Wally Hansen. "They played pretty well for their first time out winning 12 of 15 matches."

Six teams competed in the tournament, with each match consisting of one six-game set.

Junior Jillian Parker won all five of her matches at No. 2 singles to earn the gold medal. Her closest match came against Cimarron's Tasha Exum, 6-3. Parker shut out both her opponents from Hays High and St. John-Hudson, and defeated Nike Eveleigh of Ulysses 6-1.

Goodland did not enter a player

Rietcheck and Stefan came home with the silver medal.

The Goodland pair defeated Greeley County 7-5, and Cimarron and St. John-Hudson 6-4. Rietcheck and Stefan lost to Ulysses and Hays, both matches going 6-4.

Brianna Holzmeister and Julie Mermis of Hays went 5-0 to win the gold medals at No. 1 doubles.

Juniors Sandy Johnson and Jena McCall playing No. 2 doubles for

Goodland also earned silver medals, finishing 4-1 overall. The duo beat teams from Ulysses, Cimarron and Greeley County high schools 6-0, and defeated Hays 6-3. Johnson and McCall's only loss was to Rebecca Davis and Morgan Daily of St. John-Hudson 6-2.

Hansen said at the tournament the Cowgirls got to work out some of their early season jitters and kinks in their game.

The Lady Tigers of St. John-Hudson won the tournament, scoring 30 points.

Both Goodland and Hays had 27. Greeley County scored 25, the host Cimarron 24 and Ulysses 17.

The Cowgirls are back on the courts today for a tournament in Phillipsburg.

Other teams Hansen expects to compete against there are Osborne and Victoria.

Libero adds new deminsion to high school volleyball

The way high school volleyball is played in Kansas will be a little more complex starting this fall with the addition of a position known as the libero, pronounced "lee-bah-ro."

The Kansas State High School Activities Association approved the use of the libero at a board meeting held last April in Topeka, effective with the start of the school year.

The libero is primarily a defensive specialist who is not allowed to serve, block or "attack" the ball if the point of contact is above the net. The libero must wear a distinctly different jersey from her teammates to be readily recognizable by coaches and officials.

In Goodland's case, for example, if the team is wearing black, then the libero will wear her gold jersey.

A team may designate only one libero per game, who must be listed on the lineup sheet before the game. She may not be part of the starting lineup, but may substitute in after the lineup has been checked.

Although a team can have only one libero per game, it does not have to be the same player in subsequent games. A different libero can be designated for game two or three of a match, and the original libero can enter later games as a regular player.

During a game, the libero can replace any back row player except the server. When the libero comes out, she must wait for at least one serve to be played before returning. The player coming in for the libero

must be the same one the libero replaced.

Libero substitutions will not count against the number of regular substitutions a team is allowed per game. The libero must enter and leave a game between the court's base and attack lines. She may not replace a disqualified player.

Using a libero is a coach's option. The coach may use a libero in the first game of a match and not the second, or vice versa. If a team does use a libero, that does not obligate the opposing team to use one as well.

Cowgirls coach Jerry McKee said coaches now have to consider the "pros and cons" on whether to add the libero into their game strategy. He said they will have to decide if they have a player who has the necessary skills to do the job, and whether if their team can be successful without that player's serving, blocking and attacking abilities.

The use of a libero also adds a requirement for another game official. Each team that uses a libero must supply a person to serve as an assistant scorekeeper to track libero substitutions and ensure the rules on its use are enforced. That person will sit at the scorer's table and report violations to the umpire.

If both teams use a libero, then the home team will supply the assistant scorekeeper.

For more information about the libero, go to www.kshsaa.org.

Top-ranked team has yet to play

The Skyhawks of Fort Lewis College woke up Sunday morning to find themselves on top of the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference football standings without even having to take the field.

Of the conference's nine football teams, six opened their season Saturday and two others on Thursday. All eight lost.

Saturday, Fort Hays State University lost its traditional opener to Emporia State 52-13 at Lewis Field Stadium in Hays. Western State College of Colorado lost to Angelo State University (Texas) 26-7, and Mesa State (Colo.) lost to Western Washington University 49-20.

The Colorado School of Mines lost to the visiting Ichabods of Washburn University 28-17. The Orediggers was the only conference team ranked in the American Football Coaches Association NCAA Division II preseason poll at No. 14.

Also on Saturday, the University of Nebraska at Kearney lost to the University of Nebraska at Omaha 41-17 and Chadron State College (Neb.) lost to the University of Minnesota, Duluth 28-17.

Thursday, Adams State College (Colo.) lost to Central Missouri State University 14-6 and New Mexico Highlands University fell to West Texas A&M University 90-21.

Fort Lewis opens its season on the road this Saturday against the Grizzlies of the University of Montana, the defending NCAA Division I-AA national champion. The Grizzlies won the national title five times in the past 10 seasons and are

ranked among the top four in five different Division I-AA preseason polls.

Pittsburg State University, ranked No. 2 in the Division II pre-

season poll, lost to No. 17 Delta State University (Miss.) Saturday 44-31. The Gorillas play host to Fort Hays State on Saturday.

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School calendar for Aug. 31 - Sept. 6

Wednesday - "Black Day"; Northwest Kansas League meetings, 3:30 p.m.; PDC meeting at Central school.

Thursday - "Gold Day"; Spirit Safety meeting in Oakley 8:15 a.m.; golf at Trego Community High School, 2 p.m.; cross country at Sugar Hills for Goodland Invitational, 4 p.m.; "C" football in Goodland against St. Francis 4:30 p.m.; seventh and eighth volleyball in Goodland against Colby 3:30 p.m.; seventh and eighth football in Colby 3:30 p.m.

Friday - "Black Day"; Football in Goodland against Hoxie 6 p.m.; Back to School dance at the High School 9 p.m.

Saturday - Tennis in Colby 8 a.m.

Monday - Labor Day, No school.

Tuesday - "Black Day"; varsity golf, Goodland Invitational 1 p.m.; volleyball in Goodland, 3:30 p.m.; junior varsity football in Hoxie, 4:30 p.m.

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