

Cowboys win first game of the season

The outcome of Friday's football game at Cowboy Stadium may have been the same as last year's season opener, when Goodland defeated the Indians in Hoxie, but this time the score was a lot closer and the game a lot more exciting.

It may have been a little too exciting as the Cowboys, who fell behind 20-13 at halftime, came back and then had to hang tough, holding onto to a 27-26 lead for the final eight minutes. Last year, Goodland never trailed, winning 40-12.

The game came down to which team could execute better on extra points.

Both teams scored four touchdowns, but Hoxie was successful on only one of four two-point conversion attempts while Goodland sophomore Ren Scherling connected on three of four extra-point kicks.

"We're extremely happy to come away with the win," Coach Jon McLean said. "We made a lot of mistakes ... but most of those are correctable and we'll be working on them."

The Cowboys drew first blood at 5:28 into the first quarter on a 1-yard plunge by senior quarterback Wyatt Dautel for a touchdown and a 6-0 lead. The extra-point kick was blocked.

Just 18 seconds later, Hoxie's Marcus McKenna ran around the left side for a 73-yard touchdown to make it 6-all. A run for the two-point conversion failed and the score remained tied.

About four minutes into the second quarter, Hoxie's Toliver Bird ran around the right end, broke two tackles, and sprinted 30 yards into the end zone to give the Indians a 12-6 lead. Hoxie again failed on the two-point conversion.

The Cowboys, starting on their own 37-yard line after the kickoff, drove 63 yards and scored on a 7-yard pass from Dautel to sophomore running back Casey Henderson to tie the game at 12.

Scherling's kick then gave Goodland a 13-12 lead.

Once again, Hoxie was quick to respond.

Four plays later, McKenna ran 46 yards for his second touchdown, putting the Indians back in front 18-13.

Hoxie quarterback Quinn Aumiller scored the two-point conversion on a keeper, making it 20-13.

With under four minutes left in the third quarter, senior fullback Bob Miller muscled in from the 2 to cut the Indians' lead to a point. Scherling's kick tied the game at 20.

About four minutes into the fourth period, Dautel hit his second touchdown pass, this time to junior



Senior Heath Chatfield (left) looked for an opening on the right side while returning a Hoxie punt in the first quarter of Friday's game. Sophomore Casey Henderson (above) ran through a hole created by the offensive line for a gain in the second quarter.

Photos by Tom Betz and Liz West
The Goodland Star-News



Area scoreboard

Area High School Football Sept. 2

Northwest Kansas League
Goodland 27, Hoxie 26
Atwood 34, Colby 20
Oakley 24, Norton 3
Oberlin 21, St. Francis 18
Quinter 26, La Crosse 8

Western Kansas Liberty League

Otis-Bison 44, **Brewster** 20
Tribune 54, Sharon Springs 8
Grinnell-Grainfield 28, Weskan 12
Rexford 52, Healy 22
Almena 74, Winona 28
Hitchcock County (Neb.) 44,
Bird City 8

Tyler Hillmer for 26 yards. With Scherling's kick, the Cowboys had a 27-20 lead.

However, Hoxie was not done. A little over three minutes later, McKenna scored his third touchdown on a 32-yard run to get the Indians within a point. But Hoxie's extra-point conversion woes continued and a run by Bird failed, leaving the score 27-26.

With a one-point lead and just under eight minutes left on the clock, Goodland went back on offense. It didn't last long. Dautel threw his second interception of the night, giving Hoxie a first-and-10 on the Cowboys' 27 with over six

minutes to go.

Then Hoxie's luck went bad. A pair of holding penalties cost the Indians 17 yards and two straight tackles behind the line of scrimmage cost them eight more. On third and 35, Aumiller connected with McKenna for a 12-yard pass, and on fourth and 23 he connected with tight end Lance Weis for 20 yards, coming up three short.

Taking over on downs at their own 20 with just under four minutes left, the Cowboys were able to run nine plays, picking up a pair of first downs, to run out the clock.

Miller led the Cowboys' ground attack, gaining 113 yards on 22 carries and scoring a touchdown. Henderson ran 14 times for 62 yards. Senior Jase Herl picked up 13 yards on three carries.

Dautel competed four of 14 passes for 65 yards and two touchdowns. He was picked off twice. Dautel ran 13 times for 36 yards and scored a touchdown.

Four Cowboys caught one pass each. Besides the touchdown catches by Henderson and Hillmer, Herl caught one for 12 yards and senior Heath Chatfield caught one for 20.

Goodland's defense was led by Henderson, who made 11 tackles, followed by senior nose guard Mark

Starr with nine, including one for a three-yard loss on Hoxie's last possession.

Miller and senior Derek Fenner both had eight tackles, and Herl and Chatfield each had five. Chatfield intercepted a pass on the last play of the first half.

McLean said with nine new starters on offense and nine on defense, not everything is going to work right the first time out. Hoxie was able to exploit that to their advantage, he said, noting that all four Indian touchdowns came on runs of 30 yards or more.

Although the Indians outgained Goodland 251 to 224, the Cowboys

held the edge in first downs, 13-9, and in passing yards, 65-50. Both teams were penalized for 70 yards, with Goodland flagged 11 times and Hoxie seven.

The Cowboys travel to St. Francis on Friday for their first road trip. The Indians lost 21-18 Friday at home to the Red Devils of Decatur Community High. Hoxie's home opener will be Friday against the Colby Eagles.

In other games Friday around the Northwest Kansas League, Oakley defeated Norton 24-3, Quinter beat La Crosse 26-8 and Colby fell to Rawlins County High of Atwood 34-20.

Garden City team wins again

The Bronbuster football team of Garden City Community College won its second straight game Saturday, beating Independence Community College 30-0.

The Bronbusters, now 2-0 overall and in the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference travel, to Cisco, Texas, on Saturday for their only non-conference game of the regular season.

The Blue Dragons of Hutchinson Community College defeated Fort Scott Community College 28-21 for their first win of the season.

The Dragons head to Coffeyville on Saturday.

In other games around the conference, Butler County Community College defeated Dodge City 24-14 and Coffeyville beat Highland 83-19.

On Saturday, Butler County goes on the road to face Highland, Independence is at Dodge City and Northeastern Oklahoma A&M visits Fort Scott.

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School calendar for Sept. 7 - Sept. 13

Wednesday - "Gold Day"; Seminar: Scholars Bowl practice; PDC meeting at Central, 3:45 p.m.

Thursday - "Black Day"; "C" football in Goodland against Ulysses 5 p.m.; seventh and eighth volleyball at Hoxie 3:30 p.m.; eighth football at Hoxie 3:30 p.m.

Friday - "Gold Day"; Football at St. Francis 6 p.m.

Saturday - Varsity cross country at Wamego, 8 a.m.; varsity volleyball at Overland High School in Aurora, 9 p.m.; junior varsity volleyball at Machebeuf Catholic High School, 9 a.m.; seventh "B" football in Colby, 9 a.m.

Monday - Golf at Thomas More Prep-Marian High School in Hays, 8 a.m.; junior varsity football in Goodland against St. Francis, 4:30 p.m.; Board of Education meeting at the Administration Building, 7 p.m.

Tuesday - "Gold Day"; Senior class officer's meeting in the office conference room, 10:30 p.m.; Sophomore class ring order in Mr. Hagerman's room; 11 a.m.; QSP magazine sales meeting, j.; cross country at Oakley, 3 p.m.; volleyball at Wichita County High School, 3 p.m.; West Site Council, 4 p.m.

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