

Senior Justeen Koehler (No. 42) scored two of her 11 points over the Lady Indians' Hayley Charles in the second half of the Cowgirls' 44-37 win over Hays High Tuesday at Max Jones Fieldhouse. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

## Cowgirls win, 44-37

**By Greg Stover**  
*The Goodland Star-News*  
In Tuesday's home game against Hays High, the Cowgirls took a 19-16 lead into the locker room at halftime after a see-saw battle, then led throughout the second half to win 44-37 and improve their record to 5-1 for the season.

The two teams played even early on, with the score was tied three times. Junior Kaylee Billinger broke an 8-all tie with a three-point basket, but the Lady Indians scored the next five points to go up 13-11. Senior Melissa Swager scored on a layup just before the buzzer to make it 13-all going into the second period.

The second quarter was a low-scoring affair as the teams combined for just nine points. Karen Bailey put Hays ahead 16-13 with a three-pointer, then after a few

minutes of scoreless play, the Cowgirls scored the next six to take a 19-16 halftime lead.

The scoring picked up in the third period with Goodland holding the edge 14-11 to make it 33-27 going into the final quarter. Three times in the third, the Indians trailed by only two points.

Swager scored the first point of the fourth period, but Hays scored the next six to get within one at 34-33. After a free throw by each teams made it 35-34, Billinger hit her second three-pointer to give the Cowgirls a 4-point lead.

After that, Hays was forced to start fouling to preserve time and create scoring opportunities, but the Cowgirls hit on six of 11 free throws. That, along with some good defense, helped them hang on for the 44-37 win.

Billinger scored 14 points to lead

Goodland, followed by senior Justeen Koehler with 11. Junior Whitney Archer added nine, junior Emily Murray five, Swager three and Clancy two.

Koehler led the team in rebounds with 10. Archer grabbed seven, Murray six and Billinger three.

The Cowgirls begin play in the Northwest Kansas League around 5:30 p.m. (Mountain Time) tonight in Quinter against the Lady Bulldogs, who lost Tuesday to Wheatland High of Grainfield, 59-37, and are now 3-2. Goodland radio station KLOE (730 AM) will broadcast the game live starting about 20 minutes before the tipoff.

Tonight's game will be the last action for the Cowgirls in 2005. The team returns to the hardwood on Tuesday, Jan. 3, with a road game against Staton County High in Johnson City.

## Swimmer recognized

Goodland's Rachael Hagerman, a senior at Michigan State University, was named "Co-Swimmer of the Week" on Tuesday by the Big Ten Conference.

Hagerman earned the honor for her performance in the Lady Spartans' 137-106 win over Ball State University in a dual meet last Saturday in Muncie, Ind. She won the 100-yard freestyle in 52.33 seconds,

and swam a leg in both the winning 200-yard freestyle and medley relays.

Hagerman, in her fourth season with the Spartans, was the team's Freshman of the Year for 2002-2003. That season she achieved a career best in the 100-yard freestyle, a 50.77 at the conference championships which set a school record.

Rachael, a 2002 gradu-

ate of Goodland High, is the daughter of Mark and Sue Hagerman of Goodland. She lettered in both cross country and track for the Cowgirls, and holds the school records in the 100- and 300-meter hurdles.

The next competition for the Lady Spartans will be on New Year's Day in Nassau, Bahamas, when they take on Indiana. The team will remain on the islands until after a meet with the University of Nebraska five days later.

## Game features four area players

Four women who played their high school basketball in northwest Kansas saw hoop action on the same court last Saturday when the Lady Warriors of Sterling College defeated the visiting Lady Coyotes of Kansas Wesleyan University 82-69.

Ten players scored at least two points each for the Warriors in the game, including junior Alicia Collett, a 2003 graduate of Brewster High, who scored a basket and grabbed a pair of rebounds.

Leading the Lady Coyotes with 17 points was junior Jentri Dixon, a 2003 graduate of Greeley County High in Tribune. Dixon played her freshman season at Colby Community College before moving on to Kansas Wesleyan.

Also scoring in double-digits for the Coyotes was freshmen guard Kaylaen Dittmer with 12 points. Dittmer, also a graduate of Greeley County, was an All-Western Kansas Liberty League pick last year as a

senior.

Junior Summar Stephens, a 2003 Colby graduate, came off the bench to score eight points for Kansas Wesleyan. Stephens and Dixon were teammates at Colby Community College during the 2003-2004 season.

Sterling is now 9-4 overall for the season after defeating Concordia University of Texas in Austin Monday 68-63. In that game, Collett scored four points bringing her season total to 71. She also has 37 rebounds.

The Lady Warriors are in a tie for second place in the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference with Bethany College at 3-1. Kansas Wesleyan is 9-4 overall and tied for third in the conference with Southwestern College at 2-2.

Tabor College and Ottawa University are on top of the conference standings at 4-0.

Tabor is ranked No. 9 in this week's National Association of In-

tercollegiate Athletics Division II poll. Ottawa is ranked No. 22. Sterling, ranked No. 25 last week, dropped out of the top 25 but still received some votes.

Both Sterling and Kansas Wesleyan are now on a break from competition until Jan. 5, when the Warriors travel to Leavenworth to face the University of St. Mary and the Coyotes play host to Southwestern College.

## Wrestlers win classic

The Goodland High School wrestling team won the Ray Rhodes Classic in Burlington last Saturday, with four Cowboys earning gold medals and one named the tournament's most outstanding wrestler.

"I thought we wrestled very well," said Coach Randy Bahe. "Every kid showed improvement over their performance at the tournament in St. Francis. I was real pleased with their performance."

Sophomore A.J. Stephens brought home the gold at 135 pounds winning all three of his matches, the first two by fall and the title match by an 11-2 major decision. Stephens was voted the outstanding wrestler of the tournament by the coaches.

Also going undefeated and winning the gold were junior Brett Shields at 152 pounds, junior Jon Cook at 160 pounds and senior Chris Baumfalk at 171.

Goodland wrestlers placed in the top three in 10 of 14 weight classes, earning four silver medals and two bronze.

Junior Brett Bahe placed second at 119 pounds, as did junior Josiah Goodley at 189, sophomore T.J. Hawkins at 215 and heavyweight Robert Doxon.



Stephens



Shields



Cook



Baumfalk

Placing third were freshman Kade Sheldon at 103 pounds and sophomore Michael Ledesma at 125.

Goodland scored 207 points to earn the championship plaque. Eagle Crest High of Colorado finished second with 158, followed by the host team Burlington with 125, Akron High with 116 and Ridgeway Academy with 110.

Other Cowboys in the varsity competition were sophomore Allen Normandin, at 112 pounds; freshman Keegan Smith, at 130; junior Brandon Douglas at 140; and sophomore Toby Hurst, at 145.

In the junior varsity bracket Saturday in Burlington, freshman Fernando Martinez placed second at 171 pounds.

Other Goodland wrestlers competing were freshmen Bryan Gray, Brad Geist, T.J. Freeman, Ryan

Taylor and Vance Johnson.

The Cowboys hit the mats again at 1 p.m. today for the start of Goodland's annual Holiday Classic at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Action continues beginning at 8 a.m. Saturday. Twelve other teams are expected to compete in the dual-meet tournament.

The teams will be divided into two pools with Goodland, Hoxie, Garden City, Ulysses, Buhler, Hill City and Skyview High School of Thornton, Colo., in Pool A. Pool B will consist of Norton, Oakley, Scott City, Dodge City and Wichita County High of Leoti.

Skyview will be Goodland's first opponent of the tournament.

Andrew Melia and Ron Schilling of Goodland radio KLOE (730 AM) will broadcast the action live all day Saturday.

## Wrestler stays involved

Goodland native Bryce Abbey may have ended his college wrestling career last season but his love for the sport and his involvement continues.

Abbey is now a graduate student in exercise science at the University of Nebraska at Kearney and a volunteer assistant coach for the Lopers' wrestling team.

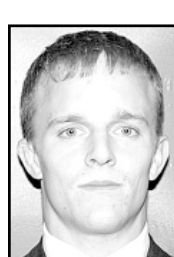
"Bryce has become a tremendous asset to out coaching staff this year," said Coach Mark Bauer. "With his background in exercise science and nutrition, we have asked him to help educate our

team on nutrition and what a solid diet should look like from early season to the end of the season.

"In addition to helping our wrestlers create a diet plan, he regularly comes in and wrestles with some of our new recruits."

Wrestling at 125 pounds, Abbey finished 34-11 his senior year, placing fifth at last year's the NCAA Division II Championships in Omaha. His 134 career wins at Nebraska-Kearney are the most in school history.

"He was the most dedicated athlete that I have ever coached," Bauer said, "especially when it



Abbey

## Seventh-grade boys win

**By Greg Stover**  
*The Goodland Star-News*  
The Grant Junior High seventh-grade boys basketball team won its first game in the Northwest Kansas League playoffs Monday, beating the St. Francis Indians 46-14 at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

The Mustangs' defense was especially stubborn in the first period, shutting out St. Francis for the first five minutes while Grant scored 14 points. Tyler Lauer broke the Indians' scoring drought with a basket with about 20 seconds left in the opening quarter.

The Mustangs continued to dominate in the second period, outscoring Sainty 10-5 for a 24-7

lead at halftime.

The scoring was a bit more even in the third period, but Grant still got the edge 8-5 to make it 32-12 going into the last round.

A few seconds into the fourth quarter, Michael Pettibone stole the ball from the Indians and drove to the basket for a layup which started a 12-point run for the Mustangs to make the score 44-12. Both teams scored two points in the last minute to make the final 46-14.

Eric Linnell led Grant in scoring with 14 points, followed by Brock Wilkens with eight. Hazen Deeds, Devon Garrett, David Murray, Bryan Guyer, Nathan Deeds and Pettibone each scored four.

<b>Area High School Basketball</b> December 13	
<b>Northwest Kansas League Boys</b>	
Hays 76, Goodland 69	
Quinter 71, Grainfield 56	
Oakley 51, Leoti 49	
Hill City 62, Oberlin 32	
<b>Girls</b>	
Goodland 44, Hays 37	
Grainfield 59, Quinter 37	
Oakley 34, Leoti 31	
Oberlin 64, Hill City 36	

<b>Western Kansas Liberty League Boys</b>	
Brewster 49, Winona 20	
Quinter 71, Grainfield 56	
<b>Girls</b>	
Brewster 47, Winona 21	
Grainfield 59, Quinter 37	

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520 E. 16th	301 Center	Commercial
1004 Montana	411 Washington (UC)	1111 Main
1525 Center	2810 Commerce - Lot 22	516 W. Hwy 24
607 W 12th	5450 Cty Rd 9	Lots
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