

Cowgirl to play ball

Goodland's Justeen Koehler is taking her basketball talents to the college level next season as a freshman player for Northeastern Junior College in Sterling, Colo.

Koehler joins a team that went 18-15 last season, making it to the Region IX semifinals of the National Junior College Athletic Association playoffs.

Koehler graduated from Goodland High last month where, as a senior, she lettered in volleyball and softball as well as basketball. She made the All-Northwest Kansas League team in both volleyball and basketball. She also made the all-league basketball team as a junior.

Koehler played in 23 of 24 games



Koehler

for the Cowgirls last season, averaging over 14 points and eight rebounds per game to lead the team in both categories. She led the team in shooting percentage from the field, connecting on 55.6 percent of her shots. She made 52 of her 94 attempts from the free throw line.

At Northeastern, Koehler will play for Coach Wendy Hirschfeld, who will be in her fifth season guiding the Plainswomen.

"I think we had a very good recruiting year," said Coach Hirschfeld. "Last year was one of the slowest teams we have had since I've been here, so we were looking for more speed and athleticism."

The new players, she said, bring a lot of versatility to the team. Four of them, including Koehler, are left-handed shooters.

"We'll find out how having four lefties will benefit us," Hirschfeld said. "Most teams are used to playing defense against right-handed shooters and overplay the right side."

Six of last season's Plainswomen are moving on to play for four-year schools next year, with one heading to Western Kentucky University, an NCAA Division I team.

The other five are all going to Division II schools, with three of them deciding to stick together and play for the Lady Mountaineers at Western State College in Gunnison, Colo.



A batter for the Rough Riders jumped out of the way of a ball in a game Tuesday night against Sharon Springs. The team plays its next game tonight against Grainfield at the Centennial Ball Complex.
Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

Rough Riders plan busy travel schedule

The baseball team has a busy travel schedule this month, but today the squad faces Grainfield in home games at 5:30 p.m. at the Centennial Ball Complex.

The Rough Riders are ages 10-12, and Coach Steve Jimenez said he mixes the teams up some, but most of the A team are 12 years old, and the B team includes the 10 and 11 year old players.

He said this is the second season for the team, which plays against other teams in northwest Kansas, including Colby, Norton, Plainville, Hoxie, Sharon Springs, WaKeeney, Quinter and Phillipsburg.

The team traveled to Colby on

Friday for a "tri-night" with Norton and Colby.

Through Thursday, the A team was 1-0 with a 10-3 victory over Hoxie on June 2. The B Team is 3-0 with an 11-2 win over Hoxie and a doubleheader win over Sharon Springs, 14-2 and 6-1, on Tuesday.

Jimenez said some of the players back from last year include Reed Bellamy, Laine Herl, Dallas DeLaRosa, Austin Avelar, Ryan Hillmer, Michael Pettibone and Stephen Buller.

The Rough Riders will travel to Sharon Springs on Thursday for games beginning at 5:30 p.m. June 20 the teams will play at 5:30 p.m. in WaKeeney.

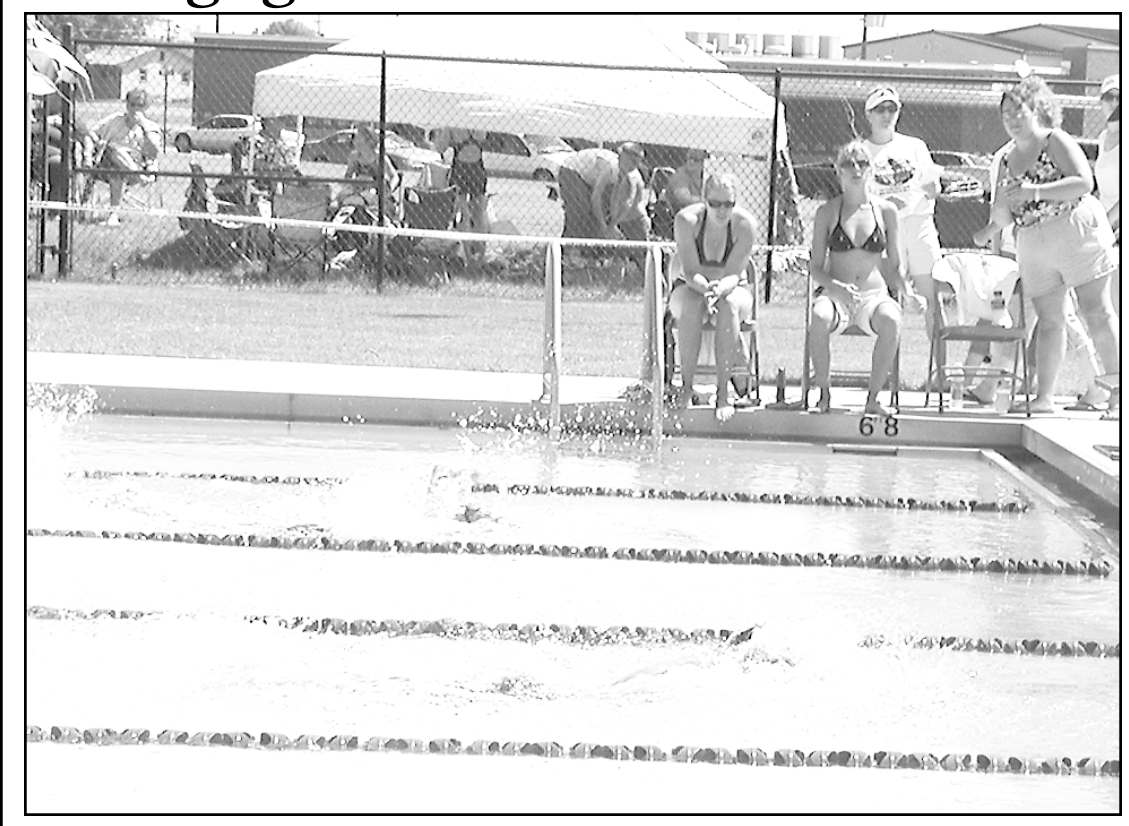
The teams will be at home on June 23 against Grainfield and June 30 they will face Colby.

On July 5, the A team will be in Hoxie for a tri-night with Hoxie and Norton beginning at 5:30 p.m. July 7, they will host WaKeeney in the last game of the season.

Jimenez said the teams would travel to Hill City for a league tournament on July 11-16. The league winner can advance to regional and state tournaments.

Helping Jimenez are Ryan Scheopner (who helps with the high school baseball team), Poncho Avelar and Harvey DeLaRosa.

Racing against time



Swimmers from the Goodland Swim Club competed in boys 11-12 freestyle event at a home meet on Saturday at Steever Water Park. Ten area teams competed.
Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Oberlin graduate plays for Tigers

When the Fort Hays State University volleyball team begins practice later this summer, its members will include a player from northwest Kansas.

Oberlin's Lydia Karnopp, a graduate of Decatur Community High School, will join the Lady Ti-

gers for their first season as a member of the Mid-America Intercollegiate Athletics Association.

Karnopp, a four-year letter winner for the Red Devils, helped lead her team to the Class 3A state championships last season, finishing with a 27-8 record. She was one of

three Oberlin players to make last year's All-Northwest Kansas League team.

The Lady Tigers went 16-15 overall last season and 10-9 in their final year in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference.

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