## sto P-Dews -Sports

# Former Cowboy retires as coach for Hoxie

#### By John Van Nostrand

Colby Free Press Goodland grad Kirk Baker is ready to watch wrestling, just not at

matside anymore. Baker, who coached

Hoxie High School Indians' wrestling since 1982, retired after last season and is now preparing to watch his youngest son Tyler wrestle at Colby Community College.



a Cowboy was a state wrestling champion at 126 pounds in 1974, 132 pounds in 1975 and Grand State Champion at 132 pounds in 1976.

"Before Tyler got into high school, I thought about retiring," Baker said, "But (his wife) Kelly said that would not be fair to Tyler, and I still enjoyed every year."

Turns out, Tyler's high school wrestling years were great ones. He finished with three state appearances. Tyler was part of the 2003 state championship team that set state records for most points ever scored, 218.5, and most state plac-

"That was good to go out on," matic as how students keep that cial with stats and fund raisers." Kirk said. "I considered retiring went Trent was a senior."

Tyler is the third of the Baker's drawbacks," Baker said. four sons. Trent graduated in 2001 and won a state championship his senior year. Travis graduated in 1999 after two state championships. Baker has done well at an assistant before that.) He coached 31 state champions and had 86 wrestlers place at

graduate of Goodland High, and as state. As a team under Baker, Hoxie had seven state championships from 1990 to 2003, five secondplace finishes and two thirds. Baker finished with a 190-67-3 record.

> Baker said, the way students approach wrestling has changed.

with how knowledgeable kids are now about the sport," he said. "Kids have improved their health, nutrition and how they cut weight."

weight today.

Baker, 48, taught dozens of wrestlers the moves they needed to become a better wrestler. In turn, he said, those wrestlers taught him how to handle teenagers.

"Every one is a little bit differ-Hoxie since being named ent,"he said. "You have got to know head coach in 1984. (He was how to handle some people. With some, I could be blunt and to others it was pretty intimidating. But I always tried to keep it positive."

After last season, the Hoxie School Board named Mike Porsch to replace Baker. Baker coached Porsch at Hoxie High, and Porsch had been Baker's assistant for 11

"I hope I learned a lot from him," Porsch said after being named coach. "He has a lot of wrestling knowledge and know how to relate it to the kids. That was one of the strengths he brought."

In addition to Porsch, Baker

"It would not have been for her, I

Being his assistant for so long, "That was always one of the Porschsaid, he knew Baker's retirement was on the horizon.

"I felt it coming," Porsch said. "I knew the word wouldn't be out until the season was over."

Kelly said family was the main our older boys were able to experireason why her husband decided to ence being individual state champiretire. They are in the process of ons but also all were a part of at least adopting a 2-year-old boy, Brandon.

"We have both felt very blessed during Kirk's career that all three of coach like Kirk Baker.

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one state championship team," Kelly said.

And Hoxie was blessed to have a

## During his 23 seasons at matside, seasons. "Wrestling has been like football

Wrestlers compete at certain thanked his wife of 27 years for the weights and must maintain that support while coaching. weight during the season. Baker said how students kept that weight wouldn't have coached those last years ago was not nearly as dra- years," he said. "She was so benefi-

Elks K-18 baseball team beats Oakley there, 18-9

oushed its record to 4-1 with a 18-9 win Thursday in Oakley.

The team traveled to Quinter on Monday for a rematch with a team that whipped them 15-5 in the first game of the season. Goodland then will be at home at Memorial Field at 6 p.m. on Thursday to play Oberlin.

Scorekeeper Traci Waugh said they played in a drizzling rain for the first three innings, then it let up. It was the third time the two teams have met, with Goodland winning all three. The previous scores were 13-4 on June 12, and 17-7 on June 15 at Memorial Field.

pitched until the bottom of the sixth, when Cameron Morris came on to finish the game.

Kling struck out four and gave up Garth Helton came in as a substitute 1 with a save.

The Goodland Elks K-18 team three hits. Morris struck out three of in the bottom of the seventh and the batters he faced and gave up three hits.

The Goodland team got three hits and Oakley led 1-0.

Goodland got five runs in the second, and Oakley had three to give Goodland a 5-4 lead.

The team added a run in the third, the fifth, and Rome had one in the but Oakley came back with three in sixth. the fourth to lead 7-6.

for seven runs and blanked Oakley to lead 13-7.

Goodland added three runs in the sixth and Oakley added two to make Keagen Smith threw to second it 16-9. Goodland added two more baseman Duell for a pick-off, and he Thursday, Rory Kling started and runs in the seventh inning to win 18-

> For Goodland, first baseman Vance Johnson scored two runs and as a starting pitcher and Morris is 1-

Rain-delayed races held Sunday

scored one of Goodland's final two runs.

Adam Duell scored three, Morris in the first inning, but failed to score three, Kling one, Brandon Rome one, Kevin Amthor three, Dillon Trachsel two and Ben Waugh two. Amthor had a standup double in the third inning, Waugh had one in

Goodland stole eight bases. The In the fifth, Goodland exploded team had two errors in the second, two in the fourth and one in the sixth for five total.

In the fifth inning, catcher did it again in the seventh with a throw to Kling at third base.

The win gave Kling a 2-0 record

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# Sherman County Fairgrounds

Bring family and friends out for the

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## after speedway track dries out

For the second time this season, and drivers. the weather delayed racing at Sherman County Speedway, and the races set for Saturday, June 17, were held on Sunday afternoon, June 18, instead.

Cars will be back on Saturday, July 8, for another weekend of racing, with the pits to open at 5 p.m. and races to begin at 6.

Three drivers from Burlington seem to have a lock on the Mini-Stock division, standings with Brian Kleine (car No. 1) on top, Jacob Long (71) in second and Donald Kleine (21) third. In the track standings before the races on June 18, Brian Kleine was in first with 160 points; Long had 155 and Donald Kleine had 151. The three finished the Mini-Stock main in the same order.

Fourth went to Andy Blackhart (94), Colby; fifth Cory Navarro (6), Burlington; sixth Chris Dawdy (S09), Goodland; seventh Jason McClung (2J), Goodland; eighth Christopher Kleine (9), Burlington; ninth Dale Delange (7D), Burlington; 10th Josh Frecks (16), Stratton, Colo.; 11th Cassandra Dawdy (77), Goodland; 12th Tyrel Smith (12), Goodland; 13th Dawn Kleine (5), Burlington and 14th Steve Ealey (55), Colorado Springs.

Point standings for the ministock before the rain delayed races had Chris Dawdy in fourth (140 points), Smith fifth (136), Frecks sixth (134), Dawn Kleine seventh (124), McClung eighth (107) and Delange ninth (93).

In the Econo Class, Bryant Nemecheck (06) continues winning, and is sure to move up in the points standings. He won the Econo Main, which has all Goodland cars

(11H), third Justin Colby (17), fourth Josh Colby (71), fifth Kevin DeLano (57), sixth Roger Snethen Stevens (77) of Colby, Derrick (S5), seventh Junior Wolfrum (11), Braudway (44) of Colby was third eighth Marshall Carson (68) and and Tom Nelson (30) of Aurora ninth Ricky Pummer (13).

In the Econo point standings, Snethen and Justin Colby were tied for first with 147 points. Hoppe was a point behind in third at 146, and Josh Colby was a close fourth with 145 points.

DeLano was fifth (136), Bryant Braudway eighth (31). Nemecheck sixth (118), Lee Brandon Nemecheck 10th (84).

In the Bomber class, Jeremy Main Event, and to stay atop the standings with 159 points. Second went to Kyle Rohleder (3R) of in the main event. WaKeeney, who is four points behind Blackwell in the track standings with 155.

sixthAllenSnethen(21)Colby, sev-Snethen (S98) Goodland and 11th Nick Keller (5K) St. Francis.

Arntt is third in the bomber standings with 139 points, Allen Snethen Coen and Stegman were tied for fourth (135), Joey Snethen fifth third (131), Dechant fifth (127), (126), Haremza sixth (112), Hill and Remetes were tied for sixth Hockersmith seventh (106), (124), Beakley eighth (119), Raymond Dechant (car 00) eighth Nordyke ninth (110) and Lueck (75), Tyler Henderson (43) ninth 10th (104). (69) and Branum 10th (68).

In the Stock class, Randy Tipton

(9) of Weskan, won the main event Second went to Marshall Hoppe to continue to lead the track standings with 126 points.

> Second in the race was Jason fourth.

Stevens is second in the stock standings with 93 points, Mike Mattox (100) third (64), Nelson fourth (59), Joe Shoup (6sw) fifth (33), Brian Kleine (1) sixth (32), Kreg Welsh (1W) seventh (32) and

In the Modified class main event, Hageman seventh (105), Wolfrum Darren DeLoach (21) of Lamar, eighth (97), Pummer ninth (96) and Colo., won, and could take over first place in the track standings. Before the races, DeLoach was second Blackwell (25) of Gem won the with 138 points behind Jeff Tubbs (37) of Colby at 139 points. It was not Tubbs' day, as he finished 14th

Second in the modified main was Brady Coen (3) Wiley, Colo., third Chris Lueck (33L), Stratton, fourth Third in the Bomber was Ron Ronnie Hill (42) Sharon Springs, Haremza (11X) Colby, fourth fifth Justin Beakley (86) Lamar, Bruce Plumisto (A1) Colby, fifth sixth Keith Stegman (19) Lamar, Travis Branum (3RT) Colby, fifth seventh David Schemm (4S) Clint Hockersmith (O1W) Oakley, Sharon Springs, eighth Dwayne Dechant (2D) Lamar, ninth Monte enth Chad Stulzman (14) Colorado Nordyke (9) Holly, Colo., 10th Springs, eighth Steve Arntt (12) Chris Remetes (10) Denver, 11th Goodland, ninthAdamKimler(16) David Solberg (13) Burlington, Colorado Springs, 10th Joey 12th Jason Brees (21B) Westminster, Colo. and 13th K.B. Murphy (38) Sharon Springs.

In the modified track standings,



#### 5:30 p.m. Carnival Rides Little Kids Rides - \$5 bracelet Other rides - \$10 bracelet

6:00 p.m. Barbecue (4-H Junior Leaders) Free Watermelon Feed sponsored by the Goodland Rotary

6:30 p.m. Free Concert by Willie Mack

9:27 p.m. Fireworks Show by Joe Diaz, Largest Display in the Tri-State area All times are Mountain Time

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