

# Buffaloes chill Cowboys' first football day

**By Tom Betz**  
*The Goodland Star-News*

The weather was chilly for the first of September, and the Cowboys football team wound up on the chilly end of a 20-6 game against the Rawlins County Buffaloes in Atwood on Friday.

The Goodland defense did its part most of the night, but the offense was as cool as the evening air.

"The defense looked good all night — for the most part," said Cowboys Coach Jonathan Dansel. "They did give up a few big plays."

The first quarter was a defensive struggle, with Goodland stopping the Buffaloes on two drives and recovering a fumble at midfield. The Cowboys were unable to move the ball.

The Buffaloes moved from their 24, and after a 34-yard run by sophomore Drew Basgall, they had a first down at the Cowboys 20. On third down, Cowboys junior T.J. Hawkins caught senior Justin Howard in the backfield for a six-yard loss. On fourth down, the Buffaloes tried a screen pass, but it was short, giving the ball back to the Cowboys on their 20.

On first down, junior quarterback Josh Doke went back to pass, but he was caught from behind by a Buffalo and lost the ball. Atwood recovered at the Cowboys' 13 with less than a minute in the quarter.

Basgall carried the ball three times to make it fourth and goal from the 2 at the end of the quarter.

Atwood scored on the first play of the second period to lead 6-0. The extra point hike went over the head of the kicker, who tried to pick it up and throw a pass to senior Ben Warta, but it fell incomplete.

Senior Tyler Hillmer returned the kick off to the Cowboys' 28 to start the team's first possession of the second quarter.

Junior running back Casey Henderson broke through the middle for nearly 10 yards to give the Cowboys some life. On second and inches, T.J. Hawkins broke free for a 62-yard run and a touchdown to tie the score at 6 with 11:22 left in the half.

The point after-try by junior Ren Scherling was no good, as the snap rolled back to him. He tried to pass the ball to a Cowboy in the end zone.

The Cowboys stopped the Buffaloes on the next drive and got the ball back on their 20. The Cowboys moved out for a first down at the 31, but were unable to move, and had their first punt downed at the Buffalo 38.

Atwood used a reverse to senior Matt Migchelbrink to move the ball to the Cowboys' 40, and 15 yards was tacked on for a hit out of bounds by a Cowboy.

The Cowboys defense stiffened when the Buffaloes moved to the Goodland 9. The Cowboys gave up three yards, and when Atwood tried another reverse to Migchelbrink, Henderson was waiting for him.

The Cowboys took over on their 7 and Henderson gave them some running room when he broke a tackle in the backfield and ran for a first down at the 24. The Cowboys let the clock run out to the end of the half with the score still tied at 6.

The Cowboys got the ball to start the second half. Henderson was running through tackles and Hawkins was getting a few yards as they moved from their own 26 to the Atwood 49 before stalling. On fourth down, the snap back to Scherling was low and he put his knee down, giving the Buffaloes the ball on the Cowboys 34.

It took the Buffaloes seven plays to score, making it 12-6. A pass attempt for two-point conversion was incomplete to Howard.

The Cowboys couldn't move and had to punt, giving the Buffaloes the



The Cowboy defense kept the team in the game Friday at Atwood, said the coach. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

ball at their 48.

On the third play of the drive, freshman Devin Wolters broke free for 35 yards before being taken out of bounds at the Cowboys 6 by Travis Angelos. Basgall punched the ball in from the one-foot line with 2:36 left in the third period. Sophomore Jackson Grafel ran wide around right end to make the score 20-6.

Goodland had the ball at the end of the third quarter, and faced a punting situation with 11:43 remaining. The Buffaloes took a time out. The snap went over the head of Scherling and was downed at the Cowboys 15.

The defense stepped up and Hillmer intercepted a pass to stop a Buffalo drive. However, on the next play Doke threw behind his receiver and it was picked off by Migchelbrink and returned to the Cowboys' 3.

The Buffaloes fumbled and junior A.J. Stephens recovered for the Cowboys.

The Cowboys moved the ball to the 12, but on fourth and one, the Buffaloes stopped the drive.

"I had faith we could make the

one yard," Coach Dansel said.

The Cowboys stepped up on defense and Stevens tackled Basgall for a loss to the 15. A holding penalty on the Buffaloes moved to ball back to the 25, and the Cowboys

sacked the Atwood quarterback for a loss at the 33. On third down, Warta was thrown for a five-yard loss to the 38 by sophomore Rory Kling.

The Cowboys got the ball back at

their 32, but a fumbled pitch moved them back to the 25, where the Buffaloes took over on downs.

The Goodland defense held, and the Buffaloes ran out the clock to win 20-6.

The Cowboys will be in action at 6 p.m. Mountain Time on Friday when they travel to St. Francis to meet the 1-0 Indians. Saintry defeated Oberlin, 46-0, in the season opener Friday.

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## School calendar for September 6 to September 12


**Wednesday:** Gold Day; PDC meeting 3:45 p.m.  
**Thursday:** Black day: seventh and eighth grade volleyball in Goodland against Hoxie, 3:30 p.m.; seventh grade football in Goodland against Hoxie, 3:30 p.m.; "C" football in Goodland against Colby, 5 p.m.; junior varsity tennis at Greeley County High School, 2 p.m.  
**Friday:** Gold Day; football in St. Francis, 6 p.m.  
**Saturday:** Kansas Best Robotics in Wichita; cross country in Wamego, 8 a.m.; varsity volleyball at Overland High School, 9 a.m.; junior varsity volleyball at Machebeuf, 9 a.m.; Young Guns football in Goodland, 9 a.m.  
**Monday:** Board of Education Meeting, 7 p.m.; varsity golf at TMP-Marian, 8 a.m.; junior varsity football in Goodland against St. Francis, 4:30 p.m.  
**Tuesday:** Gold Day; golf in Ulysses, 2 p.m.; volleyball in Lakin, 3 p.m.; tennis in Goodland, 2 p.m.; junior high cross country at Wichita County, 3 p.m.; West Site council meeting, 4 p.m.;




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