

from our viewpoint...

## With the Cowboys winning or losing

When the Cowboys came running out of the locker room with their heads up Tuesday, there was a surge of pride, and though they were down 61-0, the boys played as hard in the second half as in any game of the season.

Though they did not score against the top-ranked Andale Indians, we were proud of how they kept trying to the end. A lot of plays fell just off the fingertips of receivers, and a few tackles would have made quite a change in the game.

Andale certainly showed why they are the No. 1 team in the state, and we hope that the Ulysses Tigers can win their next two games and get a chance to meet the Indians in the semifinals on Friday, Nov. 17. If that happens, we will be pulling for the Tigers to get a little District 16 revenge.

The Cowboys and new coach Jonathan Dansel had a tough year, but with the young players on the team, the experience this year should mean more improvement for next year.

Our hats off to the four seniors who played this year, Josiah Goodley, Tyler Hillmer, John Mosbarger and Ryan Gausman. Gausman hurt his knee and did not get to play for about half the season, and Mosbarger had an elbow injury that kept him out for several games.

Dansel can build a core with the talents of the juniors, sophomores and even the freshman for next year. Sometimes it takes a year or two for a team to jell and get used to what coaches are asking the players to do.

Juniors Casey Henderson, Josh Doke, T.J. Hawkins, Jake Kling, Aaron Deeds, A.J. Stephens, Jason Krayca, Bob Daxon, Brett Meissinger, Forest Trachsel, Ren Scherling and Grant Wilkens are the core Coach Dansel will depend on to be his leaders.

Sophomores Travis Angelos, Franando Martinez, Brandon Rome, Clay Schilling, Ryan Taylor, Jace Mosbarger and Rory Kling made important contributions and will have more experience to draw on next year.

All the Cowboys can hold their heads up and remember that they made it to the playoffs.

American football is a great game, and it is always fun to watch. Of course, it is more fun to watch a winning team, but there are always going to be some lean years to go along with the great ones.

Three cheers for the Goodland Cowboys. We will look forward to seeing these young men involved in other sports through the winter and spring. It is only 9 1/2 months until practice starts for the next football season. — *Tom Betz*

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## In the cold weather we add humidity

Cold weather is upon us and it brings out some weird things.

Steve spent part of Sunday bringing the humidifiers up from the basement, cleaning them, putting in new filters, plugging them in and filling them.

We inherited our first humidifier from my mother-in-law about 10 years ago. It made such a big difference in how my skin felt that I bought a second one last year so I would have one on the main floor and a second upstairs in our bedroom.

I no longer feel like a lizard in the winter time. My skin is dry, but it doesn't scale right off.

The weird thing is we still have the dehumidifier going down in the basement.

So we're adding water to the air on two floors and trying to remove it on a third. Go figure.

□□□□

We walk every day but Mondays, miles and miles. We'd walk Monday, but after an 18-hour day I don't move any farther than I must.

We like to walk during the day, but that isn't always possible with work schedules.



**cynthia  
haynes**

• open season

So there we were last week walking up the street at 11 p.m. It was chilly, but not freezing. My feet were warm. I had on a hat and gloves. My legs were good and my torso was covered with a good, warm coat. Even my face wasn't complaining.

My neck, however, whined the entire walk. "I'm cold. Why didn't you get a muffler? The head isn't cold. Why didn't you get a hat with something to cover me, too? You could have found a better coat. There are some in the closet with higher collars. If you had a higher collar, I wouldn't be cold."

I was surprised. Usually, it's my ears that do all the complaining.

□□□□

The Oberlin Business Alliance is trying to

redecorate some middle-aged Christmas decorations.

The wreaths are still in pretty good shape — the greenery gets fluffed every year and the light bulbs replaced. However, the bows are getting ragged and many are more pink than red. These silly bows cost \$20 apiece and that means \$40 to refurbish each of half a zillion wreaths with one bow on each side.

Someone with a little ingenuity suggested that the alliance ask people to adopt a wreath and send in \$40 for the replacement bows.

I've sent in our \$40. Our wreath is the third one from U.S. 36 on the west side of the road. I'm naming it Belle.

Anyone else who wants to pick a wreath, buy a bow and beautify the town can get a hold of Glenva Nichols at the Chamber of Commerce office.

(OK, before Glenva has a coronary, I'll admit — I made up the part about picking out a wreath. The \$40 is a donation to beautifying the town. I'm still naming my wreath Belle, whichever one it is.)

## '06 elex back to toss-up

The latest polls show that something very strange and quite encouraging is happening: The Republican base seems to be coming back home.

This trend, only vaguely and dimly emerging from a variety of polls, suggests a trend may be afoot that would deny the Democrats control of the House and the Senate.

With two weeks to go, anything can happen, but it is beginning to look possible that the Democratic surge in the midterm elections may fall short of control in either House.

Here's the evidence:

• Pollsters Scott Rasmussen and John Zogby both show Republican Bob Corker gaining on Democratic Rep. Harold Ford Jr. in Tennessee, a must-win Senate seat for the Democrats. Zogby has Corker ahead by seven, while Rasmussen still shows a Ford edge of two points.

• Zogby reports a "turnaround" in New Jersey's Senate race, with GOP candidate Tom Kean taking the lead, a conclusion shared by some other public polls.

• Even though Sen. Jim Talent in Missouri is still under the magic 50 percent threshold for an incumbent, Rasmussen has him one point ahead and Zogby puts him three up. But unless he crests 50 percent, he'll probably still lose.



**dick  
morris**

• commentary

• Even though he is a lost cause, both Rasmussen and Zogby show Montana's Republican Sen. Conrad Burns cutting the gap and moving up.

• In Virginia, embattled Republican incumbent Sen. George Allen has now moved over the 50 percent threshold in his internal polls. (He'd been at 48 percent.)

Nationally, Zogby reports that the generic Democratic edge is down to four points, having been as high as nine two weeks ago.

None of this data indicates that the Republicans are out of trouble yet, but Democrats must win one of these three races: Ford in Tennessee, Menendez in New Jersey or Webb in Virginia. If not, they'll fall at least one seat short of controlling the Senate even if they succeed in knocking off all five vulnerable GOP incumbents in Montana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Missouri.

Why are Republican fortunes brightening? The GOP base, alienated by the Foley scan-

dal and the generally dismal record of this Congress, may have fast forwarded to the prospect of a Democratic victory and recoiled. They may have pondered the impact of a repeal of the Patriot Act, a ban on NSA wiretapping and a requirement of having an attorney present in terrorist questioning — and decided not to punish the country for the sins of the Republican leaders.

President Bush's success in dealing with North Korea and his willingness to reassess tactics in Iraq could also play a part in the slight shift now underway.

Then, too, some in the Democratic Party must be finally realizing what a disastrous decision it was to put Howard Dean in as national chairman. The Democratic National Committee is broke and borrowing, while the GOP can afford to put money into its key races.

Right now, we would have to say that control of Congress has gone from "lean Democrat" to a "toss-up." And that's progress for the Republicans.

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