



Kerek Mason was the only runner for Goodland at the state cross country meet Saturday at Wamego. He ran well the first mile but then started to struggle on the hills, as he was running only his second race after coming back from illness. Photo by Jeff Mason/The Goodland Star-News

Tough season for runner

By Sharon Corcoran
The Goodland Star-News

It was a tough season — no question about it — but senior Kerek Mason made the best of it, with a trip to the state cross country meet even though he missed three weeks due to illness, and is now looking to the future.

Mason sat out about half of the season’s races and felt less than himself in the ones he ran, with the exception of the regional race that qualified him for state.

Mason struggled early in the season, finishing the 3.25-mile race in 18 minutes, instead of the 16 he did last year. After the race in Johnson Sept. 23, he was diagnosed with mononucleosis, a viral disease characterized by lingering weakness. He missed the next three races before returning for the regional, which he called the highlight of his season. Finishing fourth, he qualified for state, but in Wamego he finished 63rd out of 101 runners in 19 minutes, 9.29 seconds.

Officials changed the course at Wamego, said Coach Richard Schwasinger. During the invitational earlier this year, they had problems with kids cutting corners, so they changed the layout, adding hills. The runners were on hills the whole time, either up or down, he said, and after having mono, Mason just couldn’t handle it.

The Wamego coach called us “flatlander schools,” Schwasinger said, those of us out here who don’t have many hills.

“Kerek ran his first mile in 5 minutes, 20 seconds,” the coach said, “exactly where we wanted to be. The effort was there, but he just got in trouble physically. He couldn’t come back and run that race. He put in his best race; it just wasn’t enough.”

Even the healthy kids had trouble, Schwasinger said; the runners from Colby who had done so well all season struggled. Colby had runners finish 21st, 28th, 72nd, 81st and 87th. The team finished ninth out of 12.

Mason says it was a hard season, but he is looking toward wrestling and track and plans for college. One of the state’s top runners when healthy, Mason has been recruited by several colleges and antici-

pates continuing his cross country career, but he has not made up his mind where. He’s still hoping to impress the big guns, the University of Kansas and Kansas State University, but he hasn’t ruled out smaller schools.

Fourteen or 15 colleges have sent letters, he said, and three coaches called last night. Some of the bigger ones, he said, are Emporia State and Wichita State.

“I still have track,” he said. “I’m thinking of running the mile in 4:20, breaking the school record. I’m trying to get KU or K-State to look at me.”

Mason said he appreciates the attention he has gotten from colleges, and thinks it’s a big honor to be recruited for cross country.

“I have had colleges say I’m their top recruit,” Mason said, “because of what I’ve done in the past. I’m glad they are looking at that instead of what I am doing now.”

Mason said his season started a little rough having a new coach in his senior year, with former assistant Schwasinger replacing Don Smith, but it worked out.

Mason said he’s thankful he had help from Schwasinger and from his teammates in the week before regional.

“I’m really glad I got in shape. I really wanted to make it to state.”

Having friends on the team was a big help, he said, and having people to talk to while running made it better.

He said the highlight of the season was the race at regional.

“I started fast,” Mason said, “and everyone thought I was gonna die. They didn’t think I was a threat. I was behind a pack from Buhler and got to going faster and faster. I was in third most of the last mile, but I let someone pass me because I didn’t want to push too hard.”

Kerek is the son of Jeff and Nona Mason, a lawyer at Vignery and Mason and a teacher at West Elementary. His brother ran in cross country for the Cowboys, and his sister Alyssa was a manager for the team.

bowling results

Monday Afternoon Ladies League October 30	Team high scores series: McClure’s Plumbing and Heating 1825
Bowladium Lanes over Wheatridge Farms 3-1 Callahan’s over Alcorn/Shelter Insurance 3-1 McClures Plumbing and Heating over Clawsons 3-1	Individual high score game: Lori Amthor 203 Individual high score series: Suzie Butts 534
Team high score game: McClure’s Plumbing and Heating 654	Standings 1. Alcorn/Shelter Insurance 26-14 2. Wheatridge Farms 25.5-14.5 3. Clawsons 20.5-19.5

Blue Star Banner Program at the Elks

Do you have a spouse, son, grandson, daughter or granddaughter, in the active duty military? If so, please call the Goodland Elks #1528 at 785-890-6521 or drop by at 1523 Arcade in Goodland for information about this program.

Goodland Wrestling Club SIGN-UP

Our high school wrestling team has experienced great success through the years. These high school placings reflect the time and effort that these wrestlers put in during their participation in the USA Kid’s Wrestling program. The Goodland Kid’s Wrestling Club would like to invite you and your youngsters, grades K-6, to join the success of our future GHS wrestlers. **We will be holding our annual ‘sign-up’ meeting on November 13, 2006, at North Elementary, at 6:30 p.m.** You will need to purchase a USA card for \$30 and view the ‘At Risk’ video before practices begin on December 27, 2006. Please bring a copy of your birth certificate, if this is your first sign-up, with you. We will be signing up for the first 2 tournaments that night as well. We will have our ‘old’ uniforms on display at the sign-up and end of year meetings only. These uniforms may be purchased for \$5 each piece. **For details please contact Terry Bahe at 890-6393 or 821-2844.**

Tough Andale Indians roll over Cowboys, 61-0

The top-ranked Andale Indians, taking advantage of Cowboys errors in the first quarter Tuesday, built a 41-0 lead and marched on to win their first-round Class 4A play-off game 61-0.

The Cowboys, who finish the season 3-7, knew Andale was going to be a tough game. The team qualified for the playoffs by defeating Hugoton 41-20 and Colby 8-6 in district games, but lost to fourth-ranked Ulysses 75-12.

“The Indians are one of the fastest teams in the state,” Cowboys Coach Jonathan Dansel said Thursday. “I think they will be the Class 4A state champion. They are very disciplined on defense and they really fly around to the ball. They have a tremendous team.”

The temperature was about 35 at kick off, and with a slight breeze out of the north, the wind chill was below freezing.

Andale won the toss and deferred, giving the Cowboys the ball to start the game.

That was the first of six kickoffs the Cowboys got in the first quarter as the Indians ran up a 41-0 lead.

The Cowboys gave up three interceptions, a punt returned for a touchdown and runs of 30 and 51-yards. Things got no better in the second quarter, as the Indians took two plays to go 50 yards for another touchdown, making the score 47-0

and with 8:11 left. Another 25-yard run made it 54-0.

On their eighth possession of the half, the Cowboys started to move, and on a third and 1, Franando Martinez carried for a first down, but then fumbled the ball to the Indians as the Goodland 37.

Andale started substituting players, and the Cowboys defense was able to stop the Indians on a fourth-down play at the 20.

The Cowboys moved the ball for two first downs to their 42. With the clock down to 20 seconds, the Cowboys pulled out a trick play that backfired and ended with another Indian touchdown. With the point after, the halftime score was 61-0.

On the play, sophomore quarterback Travis Angelos pitched to Martinez, who tried to throw a pass downfield. It was intercepted and returned for a touchdown, the team’s fourth interception of the half.

Still, the Cowboys came running out of the locker room to get ready for the second half.

“At halftime we talked about not giving up,” Dansel said, “and that we were in the playoffs. I told them there may be times in life when you feel like giving up, but you have to keep going.”

Andale did not score again. The Cowboys stopped them twice on downs and recovered an Indian

fumble at the Cowboys 15 to stop another drive.

In the fourth quarter, the Cowboys again stopped the Indians on fourth down at their own 27.

With more Andale substitutes in on defense, the Cowboys gained some traction, with Martinez running for three first downs that moved the Cowboys to midfield.

Angelos threw a pass to junior Grant Wilkens at the Indians 10. The Indians were flagged for pass interference, giving the Cowboys a first down at the Indians 33 with 3:30 left.

On fourth and 1, Martinez ran for a first down at the 23 with 2:05 left.

Angelos tried a pass into the end zone to junior Josh Doke, but it went incomplete. With under a minute left, Angelos again tried a pass to Doke to avoid a shutout. An Indian grabbed that pass in the end zone and brought out to the 7. Andale then ran out the clock to win 61-0.

“It was disappointing because we had put a good drive together and marched down the field,” Dansel said. “I was proud of the kids for fighting hard for the last two games after being 1-6 after losing to Ulysses. It really shows the heart of the kids when they could have thrown the season away.”

Dansel said he is looking forward to working with the boys next year.

Four area football teams advance in state playoffs

Four teams from northwest Kansas moved into the second round of the state football playoffs on Saturday as the Goodland Cowboys came home from a brief fling in the limelight.

In Class 4A, the Cowboys (3-6) lost to top-ranked Andale 61-0.

Andale (10-0) moves on to the second round against Buhler (7-3) on Saturday. Buhler defeated Russell (5-4) 43-8 on Tuesday.

Fourth-ranked Ulysses (9-1) defeated Pratt (5-4) 50-14 on Tuesday. Nickerson (2-7) pulled an upset,

beating Smoky Valley (8-1) 14-13 in overtime. Ulysses will face at Nickerson on Saturday.

In Class 3A, the third-ranked Scott City Beavers defeated Lakin 45-12 to remain undefeated at 10-0. The Beavers will play at Southeast of Saline (10-0) on Saturday. Southeast, of Gypsum, whipped Norton 36-14 on Tuesday.

In the first round of Class 3A play, Hoisington (9-1) defeated Holcomb 41-28 on Tuesday. Hoisington will play at Sacred Heart of Salina (8-2) on Saturday. Sacred Heart defeated Phillipsburg 53-26 on Tuesday.

The fourth-ranked Class 2-1A St. Francis Indians (9-1) defeated WaKeeney-Trego County 30-6 on

Tuesday. The Indians will face Meade (8-2) on Saturday at Meade. Meade defeated Stanton County 30-28 on Tuesday.

The third-ranked Oakley Plainsmen (10-0) defeated Rawlins County 34-14 on Tuesday to remain unbeaten. The Plainsmen will face Lacrosse (10-0) on Saturday at Oakley.

In the 8-man Division II playoffs, the Brewster-Triplains Titans lost to Victoria (9-1) in the first round 40-30.

The fifth-ranked Sharon Springs Wildcats remained unbeaten at 10-0 with a 60-12 win over Palco on Tuesday. The Wildcats will play at Bucklin on Saturday. Bucklin (5-4) upset Moscow 44-32 on Tuesday.

bowling results

Wednesday Night Scratch League November 1
Adronics over Floyd’s Refrig. & AC 11-9 J&L Deliveries with Sigco postponed Fitzgibbons Inc. over Weber Kennels 11-9 Steve’s Body Shop over Phil’s Pro Shop 15.5-4.5
Team high score game: Steve’s Body Shop 642 Team high scores series: Steve’s Body Shop 2410 Individual high score game: John Fixsen 278 Individual high score series: John Fixsen 904
Standings 1. Steve’s Body Shop 15.5-4.5 2. Adronics 11-9 3. Fitzgibbon’s Inc. 11-9 4. Weber Kennels 9-11 5. Floyd’s Refrig. & AC 9-11 6. Phil’s Pro Shop 4.5-15.5 7. Sigco 0-0 8. J&L Deliveries 0-0

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