

Cowgirls' first game tonight at Max Jones

The Goodland Cowgirls open their basketball season tonight against Imperial, Neb., at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

Coach Don Smith has seven returning letter winners, including six seniors: Stephanie Sheldon, Nicolette Clancy, Emily Murray, Lindsay Schields, Kaylee Billinger and Whitney Archer.

"Size will be a factor," Coach Smith said. "We will need to rebound well, and it will be critical to have a great team defense."

Imperial will have two very tall girls who played junior varsity last year, he said. Last year, the Cowgirls beat Imperial 61-46.

The Northwest Kansas League will be well balanced and very competitive this year, he said, and league teams should do well in nonleague play. Four to six of the eight teams should be very competitive, he said, and he Colby girls have an early season ranking. Oberlin and Oakley could both have good teams.

"We are starting out with no injuries," he said. "There has been a lot of absences at the high school due to flu. The soap scrimmage on Tuesday night was the first night in a week the whole group was together."

Last year, the Cowgirls lost to the Lady Jaguars of Andover Central in the quarterfinal game of the Class 4A state tournament in Salina. They finished the regular season with a 6-1 league record.

Senior Whitney Archer was chosen for the all-league first team and senior Kaylee Billinger won honorable mention.

The girls varsity team will start playing at 5:30 p.m., with the boys varsity about 7 p.m.



Senior Emily Murray rebounded the ball at Tuesday's soap scrimmage at Max Jones Fieldhouse. The next action for the Cowgirls starts at 5:30 tonight at the fieldhouse facing Imperial, Neb.

Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Imperial Longhorns good test for Cowboys

By Tom Betz

The Goodland Star-News

Two Cowboy seniors want to start the basketball season with a win tonight like they had against Imperial High School last year, when the game went down to the last shot for a 64-62 Goodland win.

Senior guard Mikey Doll, 5'11", won't soon forget the game, as his three-point shot at the buzzer gave the Cowboys the victory.

"I thought it was pretty cool, making the shot and the way the whole team came over to congratulate me," Doll recalled.

Senior center Nick Angelos, 6'5", sparked the Cowboys at the end of the third period with four straight baskets to put the Cowboys in the lead going into the final quarter.

Coach Jon McLean said he is expecting a lot out of his returning varsity, players especially Doll and Nick Angelos, when the team opens its season at 7:30 p.m. tonight at Max Jones Fieldhouse.

"I expect a lot out of Nick Angelos as the center," McLean said. "We will need him to score and rebound. He has improved over last year and should get better through the season."

He said Doll will be important as a guard with his ball handling and outside shooting.

He expects Imperial to bring a good team from Nebraska and play a good opening game.

"We have beaten them the last two years," McLean said. "They were pretty tight games, and I look for them to have a good team."

McLean said the boys have been fighting the flu this week; he had 10 players out on Tuesday and five on Wednesday.

"This is a good group," he said, "and they like playing basketball. Their effort has been good in practice. We are starting ... with not a lot of players with varsity experience, but I think they will get better throughout the year. We want to peak at the end of the year when we get to the playoffs."

Despite the lack of experience, McLean expects the team to run a lot and push the ball up the floor.

"We'll try to get up and down the floor quite a bit," he said. "We may not have as much depth as we need, but it will depend on conditioning and how they improve during the season."

Nathan Linin, 5'10", is another senior the coach expects to play a lot, but right now Linin has a sprained ankle. McLean said he did not practice on Tuesday and was not sure he would practice on Wednesday.

Linin and senior Eric Reyna, "5'9", were not out last year, he said. McLean said Reyna is not eligible to play, but may be eligible in the second semester.

Senior exchange student Eig Anutrapibal, 6', will play on the "C" team, McLean said.

Junior Tanner Smith, 6'1", is one McLean will look to as backup help for Angelos.

"I expect Smith to have a big year," McLean said. "He has a lot of ability and can score and jump well for rebounds."

Junior Josh Duke, 6'2", is another player McLean expects to continue to get better and provide depth at the post position.

Juniors Grant Wilkens, 6', and Preston Dautel, 5'10", he feels have improved, and McLean said he expects them to get a lot of junior varsity action and possibly move up to varsity.

Juniors Tom Terry, 6'2", and Chris Irvin, 5'11", will see a lot of C team and junior varsity play, the coach said. As the season goes on, he said, he could see them improving.

Junior Spencer Windell, 6', was not out last year. McLean said he should get better with solid junior varsity action, and has a chance to move up as the year goes on.

Sophomores who McLean expect to have an impact are Travis Angelos, 6'1"; Greg Farris, 5'9"; and Andrew Taylor, 6'.

"I think Travis Angleos is going to be a good player," McLean said, "and I like the quickness of Farris, who is a good shooter. Taylor I look to see a lot of improvement, and he may play some varsity."

The Topside Tip-Off tournament comes up next week, and Coach McLean said it is going to be a tough row for the Cowboys.

"We open with McCook (Neb.), which is a tough first-round game," he said. "Then it will be Wary (Colo.) or Sharon Springs. We would probably play Ottawa in the finals if we get that far."

"Our team is going to get some good competition in that tournament."

Classifieds work! 899-2338

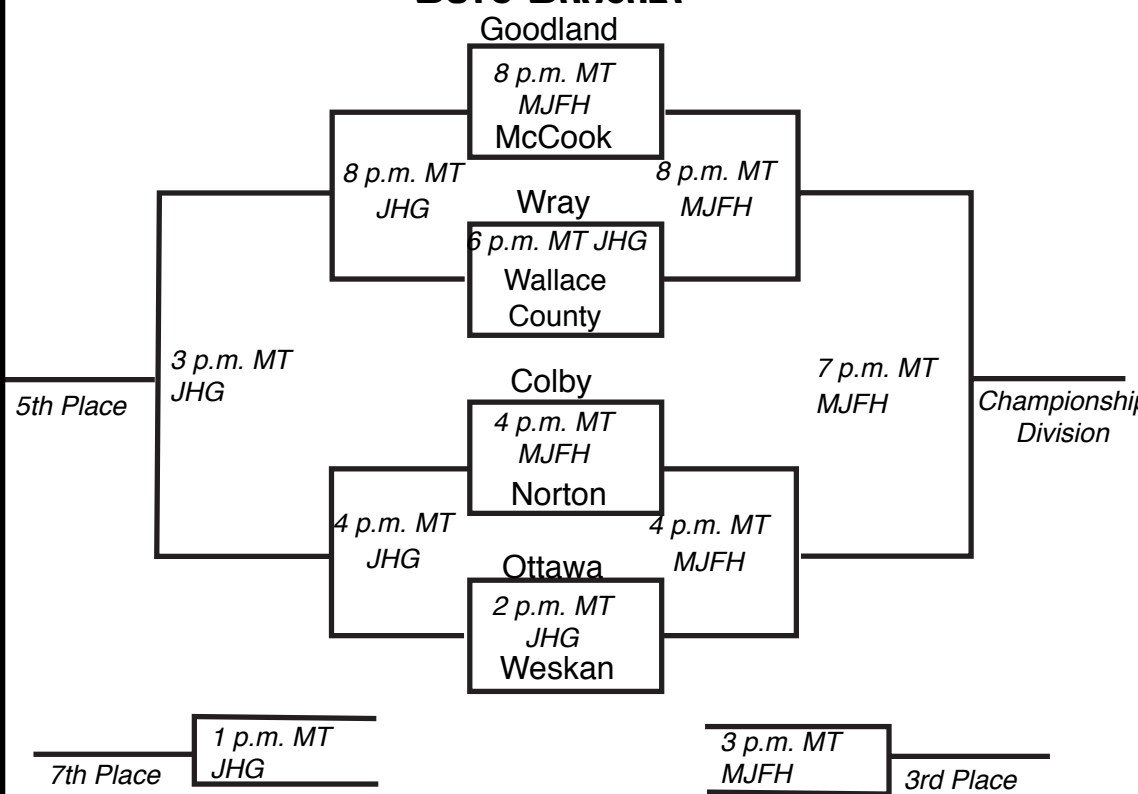
December 1-7
HAPPY FEET
G

Bring this AD to the theatre for \$1.00 OFF on a large popcorn. & 2 med. EXP. 12/31/06

Nightly 7:00
Sunday Matinee 1:30
Movie Bucks Make Great Gifts!
www.goodlandnet.com/movies
Sherman
1203 Main - Phone 899-6103

Genesis Movie! Saturday & Sunday 1:30
December 2 & 3
Over the Hedge (PG)
Sponsored by: Bankwest, Bowman's Heating & Air Conditioning, Cochran Farm Supply, Topside Office Products, Wendy's, and The Sherman Theatre.

BOYS BRACKET



Back Row (left to right): Heather McDonald, Don Newell, Stephanie Leibhart, Shelly Angelos, Dan Brenner, Ron Lucas, Jacques Drennen and Mike Brannick. Front Row (left to right): Debbie Martin, Monica Stramel, Kathy Cochrane, Karen Ginther.

Brought to you by these fine sponsors:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Goodland Greenline | Wal-Mart |
| Short & Son Trucking | Dan Brenner Ford-Mercury |
| Peoples State Bank | McDonalds |
| Western State Bank | Taco John's |
| First National Bank | Coca-Cola Bottling Company |
| S&T Communications | Sherman County Convention |
| Eklund's First Insurance | & Visitors Bureau |
| Howard Johnson | |

Topside Tip-Off Basketball Tournament Dec. 7 - 9 Max Jones Field House

GIRLS BRACKET

