

## West tosses gem

**By Roxie Yonkey**  
*Goodland Daily News*  
Nearly every no-hitter is saved by a great defensive play. Last night's Goodland American Legion baseball game, a 16-0 Goodland win, was no exception.

Goodland pitcher Landon West had no-hit visiting Benkelman, Neb., through 3 1/3 innings when great defense saved his pitching gem. Benkelman's Carson Watt hit a grounder off West's glove. The ball seemed about to go into the outfield for a hit when Goodland shortstop Kyle Whisler dove for the ball and got a glove on it. Whisler threw to Goodland's Michael Pickett at first, barely beating Watt to the bag.

West got all the run support he could ask for, as Goodland ended the game in the fourth on the 15-run rule.

Goodland's Matt Kuhlman finished off the game with a two-run shot over the fence in left center. Before Kuhlman's homer, five Goodland players had scored in the inning.

West allowed only two walks and no baserunner got past first. He struck out

seven, including four in a row, picking up his second win in as many decisions. Only one ball got out of the infield, a fly to Goodland left fielder P.J. Crumbaker.

Goodland's Aaron Gittinger scored three times. Whisler singled and doubled.

The win was Goodland's second in two straight decisions. Their game with Calhan, Colo., was called due to rain before enough innings had been recorded to make it official.

Goodland goes to St. Francis tonight for games at 6 and 8 p.m. Mountain Time. Their Friday doubleheader with Burlington has been cancelled, as has July 21's scheduled round-robin.

Two dates have been added to Goodland's schedule. They will play a home triangular with Calhan and Scott City Saturday. Scott City plays Goodland at 4 p.m.; Scott City plays Calhan at 6 p.m. and Goodland plays Calhan at 8 p.m. Rained-out home games with St. Francis will be made up Tuesday, July 17, at 6 and 8 p.m.

The zone tournament will be July 19-21 in Osborne.

### sports briefs

#### WNBA names Stiles rookie all-star

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — During a preseason game, Jackie Stiles sat in the locker room and wept after missing all eight of her shots in a loss to Seattle. The Portland Fire rookie has gotten much better since then, and now she's played her way into the WNBA All-Star game.

Stiles, the NCAA career scoring leader at Southwest Missouri State and the No. 4 pick in the draft, was among the six reserves named to the Western Conference team on Wednesday. The game will be played Monday at TD Waterhouse Centre in Orlando, Fla.

"I can't believe I'm a part of this. It's just an amazing feeling," said the Claflin, Kan., native. "The way I started off the season, I thought there's no way this would happen."

Stiles is the league's sixth leading scorer at 16 points per game.

# Big Stix win regionals

**By Lester Bolen**  
*The Goodland Daily News*

After dominating wins in the first two games of the regional tournament at Hill City last month, Goodland's 12-and-under fast pitch softball team, the Big Stix, became close acquaintances with the Hays Storm.

The two teams had to play three consecutive games, including a final showdown in the championship game. Although Goodland lost the middle game of the series the team dominated the Storm 20-12 in the finals to capture the regional championship and move on to the state tournament in Salina.

Goodland played Phillipsburg in the first game at regionals and used timely hitting to win by eight runs, 10-2. Dani Bedore pitched and won what would be the first of her three wins of the day.

In the second game of the day, Goodland's offense was again outstanding. Bedore pitched well as the team won over Norton 13-4.

Game three brought on the Storm for the first time. Although the Big Stix's offense didn't score as many runs —

and Bedore allowed as many runs as she had in the first two games combined — Goodland still managed to win an exciting 9-6 game.

In the second game against the Storm, the fourth of the regionals tournament, Goodland's offensive machine stuttered. The team only managed six runs while Bedore suffered her only loss of the day as Hays scored 15.

The two teams would move on to play in the championship game, with the winner to move on to state.

Lindsay Schields was the starting pitcher and although she and Bedore allowed the Storm to score 12 runs, the team's offense erupted for a tournament high 20 runs.

Schields picked up the win and Bedore earned the save for the state bound Big Stix.

"I thought we played our best softball of the year at Hill City," Big Stix coach Andy Scheopner said. "We hit the ball really well, got excellent fielding, and our pitching was as strong as it ever has been. When you combine

those three things you are going to be tough to beat."

For the tournament, Chelsea Gray led the offense with 12 hits, seven runs, and seven RBIs. With four doubles and one triple, Gray led the team in extra base hits. Bedore finished the tournament with a 3-1 record and one save. She also had 10 hits, seven runs, and seven RBIs, including a triple and a home run.

Melissa Swager was third on the team with nine hits and hit a double, a triple, and a home run. Swager also scored five runs and had six RBIs. Nicolette Clancy had two doubles and two triples. Clancy led the team with nine runs and had three RBIs. Shandel Simon was second with eight runs to go with her three RBIs and one triple. Whitney Archer had a home run and five RBIs.

The Big Stix's next action is the state tournament July 20-22 in Salina.

"State will be tough," Scheopner said. "There will be 25-30 really good teams there, but we are going down there expecting to place."

## Royals hoping to avoid history

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — If their second half turns out as bad as the first for the Kansas City Royals, the season will go down as one of the worst in franchise history.

As bad as 1969, the expansion team's first year. As bad as 1970, when the Royals won only 65 games while struggling for a niche in the American League.

This team that many expected to contend might even finish as bad or worse than the 1999 bunch that staggered home with a threadbare 64 wins and set a team record for futility.

"We have not performed well," said David Glass, the former Wal-Mart CEO who bought the Royals last year for \$96 million. "But I am not discouraged."

The Royals start the second half of the year in Pittsburgh Thursday night riding a seven-game losing skid. Their 34-53 record has them 21 games be-

hind Minnesota in the AL Central.

Glass thought, and many players agreed, they could win 86-88 games this year and actually look like contenders for the first time since the 1994 strike stopped a 14-game winning streak.

But unlike many owners, in times like these Glass is not inclined to grab a hammer and begin furiously pounding the panic button.

"It's been a really disappointing first half," he said.

What has saved Muser's job is effort. Even on their toughest days, the Royals are rarely accused of dogging it.

If they're not the worst team since Ewing Kauffman brought major league baseball back to western Missouri, the 2001 Royals are the streakiest.

Last Sunday's 14-5 rout at the hands of Houston was their seventh straight loss. Prior to that, the Royals won six

in a row, including three wins at Cleveland.

From June 12 to June 16, they won five straight, giving hope that things were turned around. Then they promptly lost five straight.

It has become painfully obvious the team misses leadoff hitter Johnny Damon, who was dealt to Oakland when it became obvious the Royals could not afford to re-sign him.

Perhaps at least partly because of Damon's absence, third baseman Joe Randa and right fielder Jermaine Dye are not experiencing anything close to the run-production years they enjoyed the two previous seasons.

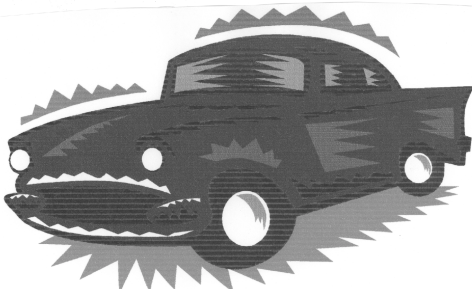
Nevertheless, for now at least, Glass is staying the course.

"I still believe in the nucleus of the young players we have on this team," Glass said. "We just need to find ways to add to that."

"Winning changes everything."

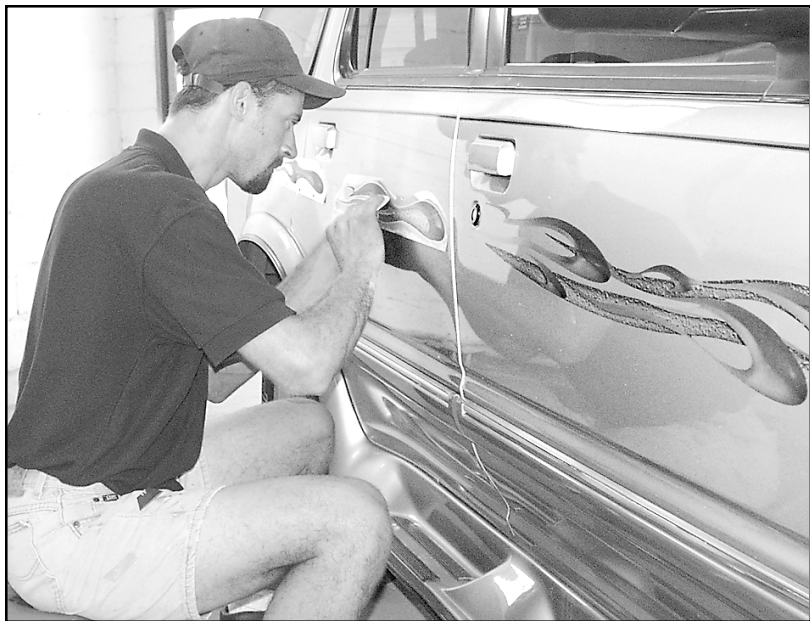
# Grand Opening, Saturday, July 14

Refreshments served all day, ribbon cutting 1 p.m.



## Custom Paintworks

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Northwest Kansas resident Randy Gallentine, owner / manager, has 17 years of auto body and painting experience. The 1983 Norton High School graduate is a 1984 NWKTC graduate in Auto Body.

From August 1984 to 1988 Randy managed the Herl Chevrolet body shop. He served ABC Nissan in Phoenix, Arizona, as automotive painter and shop foreman from August 1988 until October 1994. Randy was assistant manager of Reliance Body Shop in Oberlin until March of 2001.

He is the father of two daughters; Nichole, an incoming sophomore at Goodland High School, and Aspen, 19 months, who lives with her mother in McDonald. His son, Levi, 11, lives in St. Joseph, Mo.

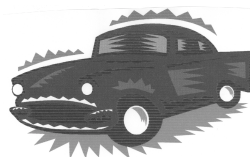


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