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• talking sports

# Let's talk about sportsmanship

There is nothing wrong with people taking their sports seriously. That's how I get to keep my fancy title when really I'm nothing but an upstart cub reporter.

But there is such a thing as taking them too seriously. Especially when you're just a fan or a coach, and few on your favorite team are old enough to vote.

I've talked about it before, but I've gotten upset enough to talk about it again: sportsmanship.

I'm not talking about Goodland fans. Goodland people are the most sportmanlike fans I have ever seen. (I haven't seen a football game yet. I hear those games get people pretty excited. I hope I don't have to change my judgment.) Fans from some of the towns our teams play, though, could really use a spanking. That's what my parents did to me when I misbehaved, or spoke out of turn, or acted like the south end of a northbound horse.

I noticed it at first during the basketball season. During the Orange and Black Classic in Colby, certain Atwood fans blasted the refs on every call. Rude stuff. It shocked me. People in northwest Kansas are supposed to be more civilized than that.

Now the summer baseball season is winding down. I've been to a lot of games out at Centennial Park, and not once have I heard a Goodland fan or coach berate the umpire.

Not true about other teams.

During an American Legion game, our boys were facing off with another team. One of our guys hit a slow grounder towards the third baseman, who fumbled the ball. Not a big deal. These guys aren't professionals. These things happen.

You'd think it was the ninth inning of the last game of the World Series and the coach would have to hock his wife's wedding ring to pay the bookie. He went ballistic. He screamed from the dugout, telling the youngster to get his head out of the clouds — and other places.

It wasn't just a one time deal. After every mistake on the field, he gave his best impression of a gorilla on speed. At one point, he kept one of his players in the dugout and gave him what-for until there were tears in the kid's eyes.

This guy made a Marine boot-camp instructor look like a 1960s flower child. And all for a baseball game.

One of my editors pointed out that coaches used to act like that all the time. And bosses. And fathers. Any authority figure. It made your players tough. I don't know which way is more effective, the old-school method of acting like a jerk, or encouraging your people, but I do know I wouldn't play for the guy.

His players didn't really play either. Not well, anyway. They lost — big time. They didn't communicate on the field. They ran into each other. There was no chatter. Nothing. They played like zombies.

Then came a recent game against Gove County. I didn't approve of their coaches either. Oh, they treated the kids well. In fact they seemed to really care about the players. Who they didn't care about were the guys in the blue shirts. You know, the fellows who sometimes make no more than \$10 a game. The umps.

Every close call was heatedly contested. The coaches ran on the field and screamed at the umpires, college kids who are just trying to be fair and keep baseball going in our town.

Then the fans got in the act. They screamed about bias for the home team. They claimed the umps had been bought off.

In short, they acted like a bunch of fools.

The players were influenced by the behavior of the full-grown people around them. They argued with the umpires. One kid even went so far as to throw his bat to the ground after a close call went against him. He didn't drop the bat. He threw it, like my 2-year old in one of her tantrums.

You couldn't blame him, though. Those were probably his relatives screaming from the stands.

I've noticed I've picked on out-of-town people, folks who might not read this paper. It's not intentional, it's just that those are the people who I've noticed acting up.

That's not to say I've never seen any Goodland person act in an unsportsmanlike manner, but they have been isolated incidents, jabs thrown in the heat of the moment, and none of them very serious. And the person always apologized afterwards.

Maybe that's why I get upset. I can understand losing your temper, especially when it comes to sports, but people ought to have the courtesy to apologize when they've calmed down a bit.

Or, they could not act like rabid lunatics in the first place, and they wouldn't have to worry about it.

## Player shot driver, says GQ magazine

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — While a friend disposed of his clothes, former NBA star Jayson Williams jumped into the pool at his home after fatally shooting a limousine driver, according to an upcoming article in GQ.

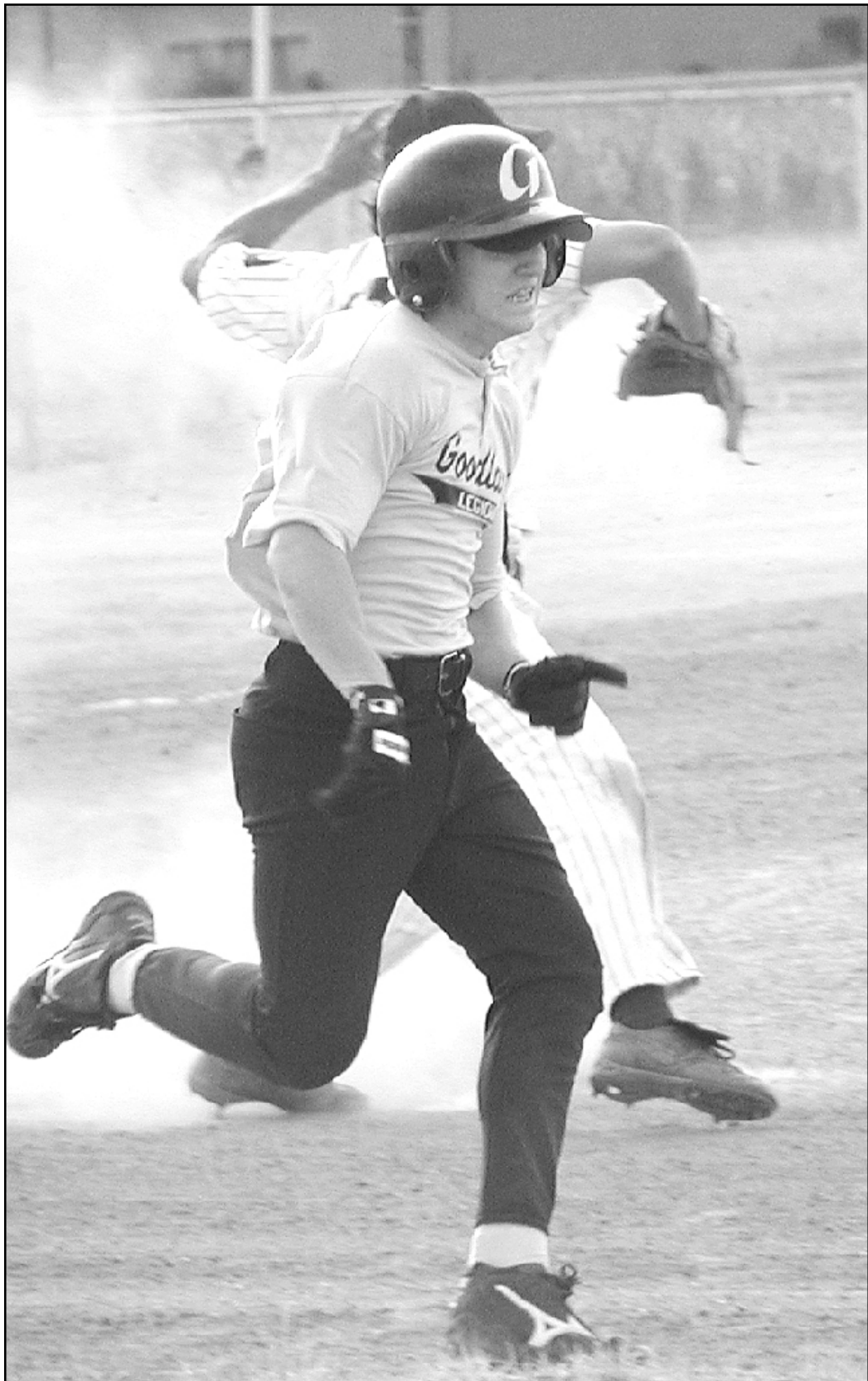
The article, to be published in the magazine's August edition, cites unnamed sources in recounting the night driver Costas Christofi died.

Williams had been in the bedroom of his mansion with Christofi early Feb. 14 when the shooting happened.

The one-time member of the New Jersey Nets closed a Browning 12-gauge shotgun "with a snap of his wrist," according to the magazine.

The weapon immediately fired, sending 12 pellets into the left side of Christofi's chest, the article said, citing unnamed sources.

## Trying to beat the throw



Goodland's Kyle Schulte ran for first in an 11-6 loss against Gove County last week at Memorial Field. Goodland won the second game of the doubleheader 11-6. Goodland's American Legion team was scheduled to play St. Francis on Monday night, but the game was canceled. The team's next game will be in the zone tournament Thursday in Scott City.

Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

# Cardinals' pitcher out eight weeks with tendinitis

LOS ANGELES (AP) — St. Louis Cardinals pitcher Rick Ankiel, who has thrown only 24 innings in the major leagues since his record wildness in the 2000 playoffs, will not throw again for at least eight more weeks.

The left-hander has tendinitis in his left elbow, which has plagued him since spring training.

"He's going to rest for the next eight weeks, and at that time we'll re-evaluate him and put his pitching plan together then," Cardinals trainer Barry Weinberg said Monday. "You don't predict or hypothesize on anything. You just take what it is. Right now he's in a resting mode."

Ankiel, who turns 23 on Friday, last pitched for St. Louis in May 2001 before getting sent to the minors. In his only spring training start for the Cardinals, on March 3, he left

"It's always helpful to have prominent doctors who have seen thousand of elbows look at it," Boras said Monday. "I mean, the doctor for St. Louis did diagnose the problem correctly, but the extent and the nature of the problem was just furthered by Dr. Andrews' opinion. Everybody agreed that he should be shut down."

Boras was told that Ankiel has a separation between his ligament and his elbow, which would take about 90-100 days to grow back together. The second exam determined that the ligament hadn't snapped.

"He was a little discouraged that he wasn't able to throw," said Cardinals catcher Mike Matheny, who spoke with Ankiel about two weeks ago. "It's just another bit of adversity he's going to have to overcome, but I think it's impossible to put a

after two innings because of tendinitis, and he was placed on the disabled list on March 28.

"You'd need a crystal ball to answer stuff like that," manager Tony La Russa said Monday when asked if Ankiel will pitch for the Cardinals this season. "We're just hoping for the best. We're going to be really careful with him. It's something you take seriously and go step by step. But he's young, and at some point, it'll all work out."

Ankiel was examined last Wednesday by Dr. James Andrews, whose finding was consistent with the opinion of Cardinals orthopedist Dr. George Paletta, who diagnosed Ankiel with a strained flexor tendon near his left elbow.

Ankiel was encouraged by agent Scott Boras to get the second opinion from Andrews.

## Rockies' rookie beats San Diego

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Colorado Rockies rookie Denny Stark was starting to make it hard on his manager.

Stark was on a pitch count because he hadn't started since June 3. But he also happened to carry a no-hitter into the sixth inning, which made manager Clint Hurdle a little antsy.

"I was trying to make his decision tough," Stark said after allowing one hit in six scoreless innings of the Rockies' 5-0 win over the San Diego Padres.

"It's a situation where I think I threw three innings once over the last month and a half," Stark said. "I just wanted to get as deep into the game as I could and give us a chance to win."

Stark (5-1), who replaced the struggling Denny Neagle in the rotation, held the Padres hitless for 5 1-3 innings before allowing Ramon Vazquez's double to left field.

"After six weeks, it's time to bring him out," Hurdle said. "He was outstanding."

"It got down to the point where how long were we going to let him go," Hurdle said. "I was just going to keep a guy warmed up for the inning and if he gave up a hit then I was going to yank him. Into the fifth he

got up around 75 pitches. We were hoping to close him off pretty quick after that, and we were able to. That was real efficient."

Justin Speier and Todd Jones finished the combined three-hitter.

Stark, who came to Colorado from Seattle in the offseason as part of the Jeff Cirillo trade, was 3-1 with a 3.34 ERA as a starter after being recalled from Triple-A Colorado Springs on May 13. He was sent to the bullpen after starter Shawn Chacon returned from the disabled list on June 5.

The Padres were coming off a 4-1 loss to the St. Louis Cardinals on Sunday in which previously winless Bud Smith allowed just three hits in seven shutout innings. Smith no-hit the Padres in San Diego on Sept. 3.

The Rockies got back at rookie lefty Oliver Perez (3-2), who struck out a Padres rookie record 13 in his last start, a 7-1 win at Colorado on July 7.

Perez struck out nine, but he also allowed Ben Petrick's homer to left on a full-count with one out in the second and Gary Bennett's RBI single with one out in the seventh before being lifted.

Bennett's hit scored Terry Shumpert, who hit a lead-off double.

## Texas pitcher in hospital with blood clots

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Texas Rangers closer Hideki Irbu was hospitalized Monday with small blood clots in his lungs.

Irbu was taken to St. Luke's Hospital by assistant trainer Ray Ramirez about 4 a.m. EDT Monday after complaining of chest pains and shortness of breath.

He will fly with the team back to Texas after Tuesday night's game. Initially, it was reported that Irbu was expected to be hospitalized for two to three days before returning to Texas.

Irbu was given medication and blood thinners to dissolve the clots and was scheduled for additional tests to determine where the blood clots formed.

"I saw him at 6 in the morning and he looked great and his spirits were good," Rangers manager Jerry Narron said.

"I know he'll be on some type of blood thinner for a while. I don't know when he'll be able to pitch for us again."

"It is serious. With the death of (Cardinals pitcher) Darryl Kile, I don't think anybody is going to do anything but be sure he is healthy. Baseball is secondary."

Irbu led the Rangers with 16 save and had a 3-8 record with a 5.74 ERA in 38 games.

He was placed on the 15-day disabled list.

Narron said he would "just try to mix and match" with the closer's role.

# Football camp about to start

A football camp run by Goodland High School's new coach will start Monday, July 29, at the school's field.

Tony Diehl's camp will run until Friday, Aug. 2. Junior high players will work out from 8 to 9 a.m., and high school athletes from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m.

The coach said he has sent out letters to the players, but if he missed some-one, they can just show up.

The first day of fall practice will be Monday, Aug. 19. It may be the traditional "midnight practice," when the kids start at 12:01 a.m., he said, or it may be postponed until the next day.

Players will need to have their physicals before the first practice, Diehl.

"I'm really excited," the first-year coach said. "I'm ready to get in there and work with them."

# Royals beat Rangers twice in doubleheader

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Raul Ibanez looks at the Royals' lineup and gets inspired — and the RBIs keep coming.

He drove in three runs in each game of a doubleheader Monday as Kansas City swept the Texas Rangers 8-6 and 6-4. He knocked in seven runs to tie a team record the day before.

Ibanez credited teammates hitting ahead of him, including Joe Randa, who also drove in three runs in the nightcap.

"Absolutely, it feels great to get key hits," said Ibanez, hitting .386 over the past 17 games with 23 RBIs and seven homers.

"Again, Joe Randa was hitting in front of me and having a good at-bat. You see that and you push yourself to not be the one to not put a great at-bat out there."

An outfielder filling in at first for the injured Mike Sweeney, Ibanez put his team ahead in the nightcap with a two-run single in the seventh that broke a 4-4 tie.

In the opener he had a bases-loaded triple.

On Sunday, he had a pair of homers, one of them a grand slam. The seven-RBI performance tied a club record held with seven other players, including Hall of Famer George Brett. The 10 RBIs in two games and 13 in three are Royals marks.

Ibanez was moved to first base on Sunday because Sweeney's back was bothering him.

Sweeney, second in the AL in hitting

with a .355 average, sat out both games again Monday.

"It's nice for someone to step in when the big man is out," Royals manager Tony Pena said.

The two wins Monday extended the Royals' streak to four in a row, matching their longest of the 37-54 season.

Kansas City's Luis Alieca had his first four-hit game of the season in the second game and scored three runs, as did Carlos Beltran, who had three hits including two doubles.

The Royals nearly had two young pitchers pick up their first big league victories. Shawn Sedlacek won the opener, his first decision in five starts. He'd left three of those games with the Royals ahead, only to see the bullpen fail to hold the lead.

On Monday, he retired 14 straight batters after a shaky start that saw the first four Texas batters reach base.

"Sedlacek deserved the win," Pena said. "He was a little rusty, but we expected that. He pitched out of a jam in the first inning and then took care of business."

The bullpen almost failed him again as the Rangers scored three runs in the ninth, two on Herbert Perry's home run off Dan Reichert, who was optioned to Triple-A Omaha after the game. Closer Roberto Hernandez got the final out for his 15th save, and he picked up a 16th in the second game.

Runelvys Hernandez, called up from Wichita, made his big league debut in the second game and left after five innings with a 4-2 lead.

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