

‘Throw me the ball, Coach!’



Terry Daise, Grant Junior High football coach, ran the team through a passing drill Tuesday afternoon at the school's field. The first games will be against Colby at 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 5.
Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

Problems slow down Kansas native

By Stephen Wade
The Associated Press
LONDON — It's been a tough 2002 for Maurice Greene, who isn't accustomed to finishing second — much less fifth.
The Olympic and world champion at 100 meters has lost three times this season and he blames some of his problems on deaths in the family and a falling out with his shoe sponsor.
Greene, who owns the world record of 9.79 seconds, vows to be back at his best Friday in a meet at Crystal Palace. He'll face a strong field that includes European champion Dwain Chambers, Tim Montgomery and two-time Olympic silver medalist Frank Fredericks.
"I'm telling you I'm going to win this one," Greene, of Kansas City, Kan., said Tuesday. "When you say

something, you have to live up to it. So we'll see if I can do it or not. It also depends on how you come back from a loss. Watch me come back from this one."
In his most recent race, Greene was fifth in the dash at the Weltklasse Golden League meet in Zurich, Switzerland, finishing in 10.10. Montgomery won in 9.98.
The 28-year-old Greene was second to Chambers on June 28 in Norway and sixth in a second-tier meet two days later in England.
While Greene did turn in the fastest 100 in the world this year (9.89), he acknowledges he hasn't been at his best and says he's been distracted by deaths of a grandmother and uncle, a late start in training, and an acrimonious end to his relationship with his sponsor, Nike.

"I'd been with them so long," he said, referring to Nike. "We had a close relationship. It hurt me badly. Mentally, my mind was really messed up. I felt hurt. I was more than let down. I was hurt, deeply hurt by the way they treated me."
Greene switched to Adidas.
"While we did negotiate with Maurice, we didn't come to a deal that both parties agreed on," Nike spokeswoman Beth Hegde said. "To suggest that Nike did not treat Maurice — or any of its other sponsored athletes — in the proper manner is categorically incorrect."
Without an Olympics or world championships in 2002, Greene wanted to compete a handful of times. He figured he'd maintain the dominance he established by setting the world record and becoming the first

man to win the 100 and 200 at the same world championships.
Instead, he's run more than expected and lost as many races as he's won.
"This year has been very trying for me. I've been through a lot this year," he said. "After the season's over I'm going to take a month off and then do some strength training, which is where I'm lacking this year and get back into my normal shape."
And what does 2003 hold in store?
"Next year I will say I will consistently run 9.8 seconds and get down into the 9.7s every now and then," Greene said.
"I want to continue being No. 1 for the next two, three or four years. I'm going to go out of this sport on top. I'm not going to leave doing eighth, ninth, fifth, sixth. I'm going to go out winning and running fast times."

Eight new Cornhuskers 'blackshirted'

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)—Eight new players received the coveted "black-shirt" given to Nebraska's top defenders Tuesday.
Fifteen Cornhuskers in all received the black practice jersey, which is traditionally awarded to starters and a few other players with solid roles on the defense.
"I know the players who have had these before. It's a really exciting day," said sophomore middle linebacker Barrett Ruud, one of the eight new blackshirts.
After a ceremony, defensive coordinator Craig Bohl handed out the jerseys to first-timers Ruud, safety Philip Bland, linebacker Demorrio Williams, tackle Patrick Kabongo, rush end Trevor Johnson, nose tackle Ryon Bingham, linebacker T.J. Hollowell and rover Aaron Terpening.
Repeat blackshirts went to linebacker Scott Shanle, tackle Jon Clann

son, cornerbacks Pat Rickets, Lornell McPherson and DeJuan Groce and ends Chris Kelsay and Demoiné Adams.
"At the beginning of it, when they gathered together on the field you

could see and feel the unity and the excitement of it," coach Frank Solich said.
In other team moves, Sophomore Mike Stuntz moved up to No. 2 quarterback.

New cleanup batter helps Rockies win

By John Mossman
The Associated Press
DENVER — Jay Payton couldn't recall ever batting cleanup in the majors. You might say he likes it.
Inserted into the No. 4 spot because of Larry Walker's back injury, Payton went 3-for-4 and hit a three-run homer as the Colorado Rockies beat the Montreal Expos 8-6 Tuesday night.
"I can't say that I ever hit there with New York," said Payton, who was acquired from the Mets on July 31. "Coming up in the minors, I was always a 3 or 4 hitter, but once I got to the big leagues, I've pretty much always been 6 or 7."
Actually, a check of the records showed he did bat fourth in two games with the Mets, in 2000.
Hitting fourth has its advantages, Payton said.
"When you're at the top of the lineup, you're surrounded by better hitters and you're going to get good pitches to hit."
He got a good one in the first inning.
After singles by Juan Pierre and Todd Helton, Payton hit a three-run homer — his 11th — to give the Rockies a lead they never relinquished.
"Payton has been a big-time shot in the arm for us," Rockies manager Clint Hurdle said.
"We've hit him first, second, fourth and fifth. He can put down a bunt. He's hit three home runs. He's driven in some runs, he steals bases and he plays a good outfield."
Colorado also has gotten a boost from a rejuvenated Denny Neagle.
Neagle (7-7) went five innings, allowing seven hits and three runs — two earned. Sent to the bullpen for a month at midseason after disappointing re-

sults, the left-hander is 3-0 with a 1.08 ERA in his last four starts.
Neagle gave up a run in the third to end his consecutive scoreless innings streak at 20, a record for a Rockies starter and third-best in team history.
"I've had something to prove," Neagle said. "That's what is keeping me going."
"There were some people who doubted me, some people who said maybe I was getting too old or that maybe I didn't have my stuff anymore. Whatever the naysayers wanted to say, I knew I could prove them wrong. I knew I was still in the prime of my career."
Neagle thrived despite a tight flexor tendon in his throwing elbow which most affected his best pitch, a changeup.
"I knew I wasn't going to have my best stuff like I had the last three starts because of this injury," Neagle said. "I wasn't going to be able to use my changeup as much. But good pitchers find a way to get it done when they don't have their best stuff."
Jose Jimenez pitched a perfect ninth for his 34th save in 38 opportunities.
Javier Vazquez (8-10) lasted only three innings, allowing nine hits and six runs, five earned.
"You can't win games when you give up eight runs," Expos manager Frank Robinson said.
Troy O'Leary's two-run single made it 6-3 in the fifth, but Neagle avoided a huge inning. Jose Vidro and Vladimir Guerrero singled, and Wil Cordero was hit by a pitch, loading the bases with no outs.
O'Leary singled to left, but Neagle retired the next three batters, two on infield popups.

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