

Cowgirls take fourth at state in Buhler

By Sharon Corcoran
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The Cowgirls golf team finished fourth in state competition Monday with two members getting medals for being in the top 20.

Senior Sammie Raymer and junior Chelsie Gausman were tied for 15th, finishing 18 holes in 95 strokes. Senior Eryn Toppliff tied for 40th, finishing in 105 strokes, sophomore Amber Douglas tied for 70th in 119 strokes, senior Heidi Yonkey tied for 76th in 123 and sophomore Natasha Hillman tied for 80th in 125.

"I am so very proud of this team," said Coach Connie Livengood. "The girls played the course on Monday — they played their game and played the course."

There were 100 golfers at the tournament at Cottonwood Hills Golf Course in Buhler. They competed in cold, breezy conditions under cloud cover.

Goodland was fourth out of 12 teams with a score of 414. Andover was first with 345, Concordia second with 391 and Syracuse third with 392.

Topeka-Hayden was fifth with 422, Columbus sixth with 428, Larned seventh with 433, Cheney eighth with 443, Rossville ninth with 454, Garnett-Anderson County 10th with 460, Osage City 11th with 461 and Wichita-Independent 12th with 493.

Individuals from Andale, Andover Central, Augusta, Basehor, Buhler, Clay Center, Colgan,



Senior Sammie Raymer (above) measured a shot before putting at the state golf competition Monday, and junior Chelsie Gausman (right) took a shot off the rough. They tied for 15th, both bringing home medals, and led the Cowgirls to a fourth-place finish.

Photos by Connie Livengood/Goodland High School



Council Grove, Eureka, Fort Scott, Hoisington, Jefferson West, Kansas City Piper, Lakin, Minneapolis, Mulvane, Nickerson, Oakley, Pratt, Pretty Prairie, Spring Hill, St. Marys and WaKeeney competed.

The Cowgirls were at a disadvantage, Livengood said, because they

did not get to practice the back side, holes 10-18, because of the weather, while the other teams had played the course a couple of times.

The girls held their own and had some good scores, the coach said; Andover has had the pleasure of having their seniors for four years,

and they held together as a team, as well as Concordia and Syracuse.

All those teams will lose almost all of their girls before the next season, Livengood said; Syracuse will lose nine seniors from their program.

"We will lose three seniors," she

said, "and we will miss them dearly. Sammie Raymer has been the number one golfer for three years. She has held the team up, as she has won some tournaments individually and placed in every tournament this year. Tying for 15th at state this year is still an improvement for her. I am

very happy for her."

Eryn Toppliff has also helped hold up the team, Livengood said; she has won a couple of tournaments and played the No. 3 position for the past two years. Yonkey set a goal last year to be on the varsity team this year and played all summer and worked hard after practice to get there. She is the most improved player on the team this year, the coach said.

"Chelsie Gausman will be returning next year," Livengood said, "and her tying for 15th this year was an accomplishment. She played some of her best golf at a state tournament," the coach said, "and we will be looking forward to her setting some high goals for next year."

Douglas also has improved, Livengood said, and she too played her own game at the state tournament. She has improved her game, the coach said; she started out slow and finished strong.

Douglas has bounced back and forth this year from playing Nos. 4, 5 and 6, Livengood said, along with Hillman, who will also be looking for a new year. Hillman started out the season playing very well and played No. 3 for awhile, Livengood said; she is going to be a good golfer — she has improved on thinking shots through.

"This team had a lot of character," Livengood said, "and they showed that by placing fourth at the state tournament."

"I have had a lot of fun coaching and watching them this year. I am happy for all of them."

Bulldogs lose top hitter, struggle at regionals in Rexford

By Joey Falkoff
The Colby Free Press

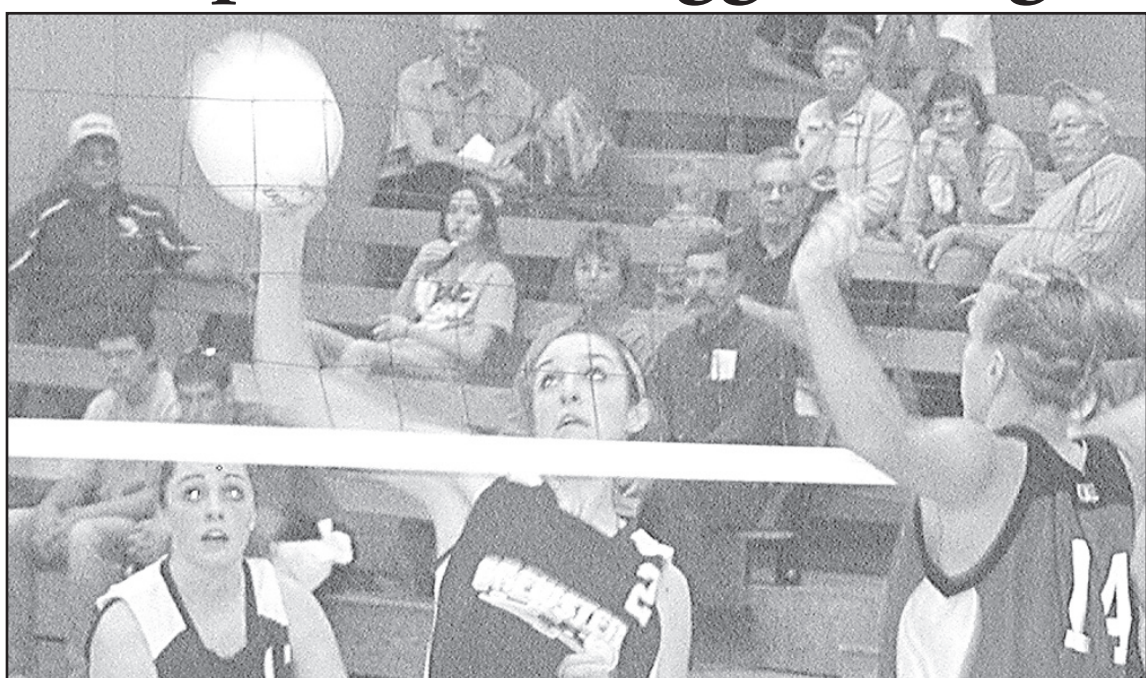
Losing your star hitter at any point in the season is a big loss, but having it happen right before regionals is nearly crippling.

The Brewster Bulldog volleyball team found that out the hard way Tuesday losing to the 8-23 Quinter Bulldogs (20-25, 25-20, 18-25) in the first round of the 1A regional tournament in Rexford.

The No. 3 seeded Bulldogs were without the services of leading hitter Nichelle Erskine for unspecified reasons, and consequently, their season was ended by a Quinter team that was seeded sixth and who the Bulldogs had beaten earlier this season.

Erskine's absence on the front row was painfully noticeable as Brewster struggled throughout all three games to put balls away.

"She's obviously our leading hitter," said Bulldog Coach Lynda McKee with a smile. "She led us in kills in every single match this year. I thought our girls did a good job of playing together, considering we just put in a new line-up



Brewster Bulldog Baylee Westover (No. 2) returned a shot to the Quinter Bulldogs in the 1A regional volleyball tournament at Rexford. Teammate Abbie Allen (No. 13) backed her up.

Photo by Joey Falkoff/The Colby Free Press

yesterday."

The Bulldogs' new line-up appeared to be working just fine in the

first game as they jumped out to a 15-8 lead.

Quinter scored 10 of the next 11

points and turned a 15-8 deficit into 18-16 lead. Quinter led 22-18, and Brewster tried to make one final

push after kills by Melissa Crumrine and Melissa Baird cut the lead to 22-20.

Quinter would go on to win the final three points, but they were helped greatly by Brewster errors.

In the next game, the two teams nearly matched each other point for point until a series of Quinter errors allowed Brewster to grab a 14-9 lead. Quinter rallied to tie the game at 17-17 and then took a 19-18.

McKee called a time-out, and her team responded by putting together their best stretch of the match to pull the game out. Baird had three kills over the next six points to help her team regain a 24-20 lead. On match point, Baird only needed to watch, as Quinter's Crystal Quint hit a ball out of bounds to give Brewster the game.

As it turned out, that would be the last highlight for the Bulldogs who never led at any point in the final game. After getting out to an 11-5 advantage, Quinter only let Brewster get as close as two points (13-11). From that point, Quinter

built their lead as high as 22-13. Brewster tried to rally at the end, but Quinter held them off for the victory and a trip to the semifinals to take on Hoxie.

"If we played poorly, I would be disappointed, but I can't say we didn't try our best out there," said McKee.

Erskine's absence did allow some other girls to step up namely Melissa Baird. Baird finished the match with a season-high 11 kills.

Behind Baird in kills were Baylee Westover with eight, Abbie Allen with three, Britt Kammer with two and Crumrine and Rose Bear each with one. Kammer led in assists with 11. Crumrine was second with seven, and Allen added three as well. Allen, Kammer and Westover all tied for the team lead in blocks with three.

The loss ended Brewster's season at 22-15 and also ended the career of seniors Westover, Allen and Baird. All three girls, McKee says, will be sorely missed.

Cowgirls face tough competition at league

By Sharon Corcoran
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Goodland faced tough competition at the Northwest Kansas League Volleyball Tournament Saturday and couldn't manage to win.

Playing in Pool A, the Cowgirls faced the teams that ended the tournament in first and second, Colby's Lady Eagles and Oakley's Lady Plainsmen.

"We played well but were unable to record any wins," said Coach Jerry McKee. "We are struggling to get the ball down on our opponents, we find ourselves always on defense and we need to develop a stronger attack game."

"Both of the teams coming out of our pool ended the day first and second in league — our pool was fairly well loaded."

The Cowgirls lost to Colby 25-18

and 25-11 in their first game, then lost to Oberlin 25-17 and 25-12 and to Oakley 25-13 and 25-17.

Colby was first in Pool A and played Quinter, who was second in Pool B. Oakley was second in Pool A and played Rawlins County, first in Pool B. No. 1 seed Colby faced No. 5 seed Oakley in the finals and won the tournament.

The Cowgirls faced Ulysses and Norton at a home triangular Tuesday. Senior athletes and their parents were honored in the Senior Night festivities. The Cowgirls lost to Ulysses 25-20 and 25-13 and to Norton 23-25, 25-22 and 25-20.

This weekend, the Cowgirls enter substate at Colby. Seeded No. 7, they face the No. 2 seed Ulysses in the opening round. The match between the 20-14 Tigers and the 4-29 Cowgirls will begin at 2 p.m.

Mountain Time Saturday.

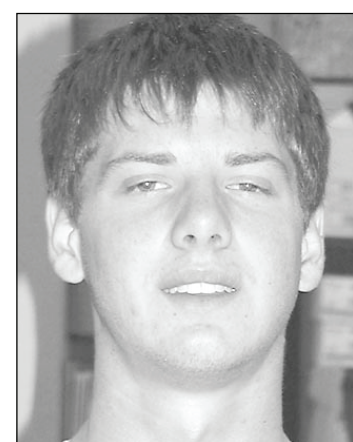
"We have lost to Ulysses twice (this season)," McKee said. "The first time, it was 25-21, 25-20, and the second time 25-20, 25-13. We're hoping we can turn it around and get them."

Colby is seeded No. 1 with a

31-5 record, Nickerson No. 3 with a 19-14 record, Smoky Valley No. 4 (18-18), Pratt No. 5 (15-19), Hugoton No. 6 (13-18) and Russell No. 8 (3-31).

If the Cowgirls beat Ulysses, they will face the winner of Nickerson vs. Hugoton at 5 p.m.

student of the week



Name: Levi Coon
Parents: Lonnie and Brenda Coon
Grade: Senior
Age: 17

We've nominated this student because: Levi is a hard working student dedicated to doing the right thing regardless of the task. He works well with other students and is always willing to assist others. Levi is an asset to the school and community.

Student Comment: The things I will remember about high school, is all the good times with my friends.

My choice of movies, books, and games: Music is rock and oldies; Game is Horse race; Movies are Fly Boys and Joe Dirt; Book is Adventures of Huck Finn.

After I leave Goodland High School I intend to ...: Attend K-State at Salina in their professional pilot program.

And 10 years from now, I think I'll be ...: Flying somewhere.

Favorite Quote: "Success is the ability to go from one failure to another with no loss of enthusiasm." Winston Churchill

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