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Cowboys open baseball season in Burlington

_sports

By Tom Betz

nt.betz@nwkansas.com Major League baseball teams are playing pre-season games in warm places like Arizona and Florida, and the high school baseball season kicks off today for the Goodland Cowboys who will play the Burlington Cougars at Burlington.

The Cowboys will play a doubleheader with the first pitch at 3 p.m. for the first game and at 5:30 p.m. for the second game. That will be the same time for all the games the Cowboys will play this season, and the home games kick off on Tuesday when the Cowboys play Scott City at Memorial Field.

Coach Devlin Mull said he feels the Cowboys can improve on the 9-13 season from last year. He said he expects Scott City to be the preseason favorite in the league, and is glad the Cowboys get a chance to see them early.

He said he is pleased with the 15 boys he has out for the team, and feels he has some good pitchers to help the team.

He said his top pitcher is Garth Helton and expects him to start the first game today. Coach Mull said he will likely start Dallas DeLaRosa in header with Burlington. the second game.

Mull said he thinks Michael Pettibone will be the middle reliever and Ryan Hillmer will be his closer. He said he will have Austin Avelar pitch some as well as Taylen Smith one of the new freshmen team members.

"It is great to have some good arms on the mound," he said. "The pitching is a key to having a successful season."

Mull said Avelar will play at second and short stop, DeLaRosa will play at first when not pitching. Hillmer will play some at short stop. Devon Garrett will play at third base, and Ryder Kling will be the starting catcher.

He said Gunner Helton will play in left and Reed Bellamy will be a utility player. Robert Cowan will play at first with DeLaRosa. He said Pettibone will play in right field when not pitching.

He said the other members of the team will mostly play in the out field to start the season including D.J. Yarbrough, Billy Dehoyos, Spencer Smith and Sheldon Nelson.

The Cowboys will be off for spring break the last week of March, and will resume the season on Tuesday, April 5 with a home double-



ers before beginning practice on Tuesday afternoon. The Cowboys is to begin at 5:30 p.m. The Cowboys will be at Memorial Field at 3 have 15 out for baseball, and open the season today at Burlington p.m. on Tuesday as they face Scott City.

Coach Devlin Mull (center) huddles with his Cowboy baseball play- with the first pitch at 3 p.m. The second game of the doubleheader

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News





or home plate.



Coach Devlin Mull (above) hit fly balls out to the outfield (far left) and grounders (left) to the infield as part of the practice. He talked to the players about how to reduce steps and throw the ball.

Crossword Puzzle

In the outfield the Cowboys practiced catching a fly ball and getting it to a relay man at second or trying to throw to other players at second or third base.

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