

# Cowboys open season with sweep in Burlington

By Tom Betz

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The Cowboys opened with baseball season on Friday with a sweep of the doubleheader in Burlington winning the first 13-6 and the second 8-5.

Today the Cowboys are at Memorial Field with the first pitch a 3 p.m. against Scott City. The second game is scheduled to begin at 5:30 p.m.

This will be the only time people can see the Cowboys until after spring break when they are back in action on Tuesday, April 5, when Burlington come to Memorial Field for a rematch.

Coach Devlin Mull said he was excited with the play of his team on Friday, and felt they played with aggression and confidence. He said he felt they swung the bat well and played good defense.

"We had some mistakes," he said, "but it was good to see they shook those off and kept playing and did not let the mistakes hurt their confidence."

"It is early, but they played well in the opening games and feel we will have a good chance this year. We will get a good test today against Scott City. I believe they are probably the team picked to win our league, and we will see some good arms and see how we do."

Garth Helton was the starting pitcher in the opening game and gave up four earned runs and struck out four in his four innings of work.

Michael Pettibone came in to pitch in the fifth and gave up one earned run in his three innings. He had four strike outs getting two in the sixth and two in the seventh.

The Cowboys were leading 7-5 in the top of the fifth after taking the lead after a home run by Reed Bellamy in the third inning.

The Cowboys added three runs in the fifth, and three in the seventh to win 13-6.

Burlington scored one run in the bottom of the fifth to give them six runs.

The Cougars pitcher struck out Helton and Bellamy in the top of the sixth, and Devon Garrett was thrown out at first.

In the seventh Robert Cowan was thrown out at third, but Coach Mull said that was because he had a hit and run on, but Avelar didn't hit and Cowan tried to steal third. He said it didn't exactly work, but Hillmer did advance to second and scored when Avelar hit a single.



Cowboy catcher Ryder Kling prepared for a pitch from Cowboy Michael Pettibone who pitched the final three innings of the opening baseball game at Burlington. Goodland won 13-6.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News



Kling got a hit and advanced on a wild pitch. Kling scored on a wild pitch for the third run of the inning.

In the bottom of the seventh after Pettibone had struck out the first two Cougar batters the third one hit a high foul ball Kling caught just in front of the backstop fence to end the game.

"That was a great way to end the game," Coach Mull said. "Kling had some great plays for us, and is a very athletic player."

In the second game Dallas DeLaRosa was the starting pitcher, but struggled and gave up four runs in the first inning.

Hillmer came in to pitch in the second and completed the five inning game giving up one run.

Avelar gave the Cowboys a 2-0 lead in the second game with a home run in the top of the first.

The Cougars scored in the bottom of the second, but Hillmer shut them down in the second and for the rest

of the game, Mull said. Avelar was 5 for 7 on the day with the home run in the second, Mull said.

Gunner Helton was the designated hitter in the first game and was 2 for 4 in the first game. He was 1 for 2 in the second game with a big hit to drive in a run and put the Cowboys ahead.

Coach Mull said he is still trying to see who can play, and was able to get a look at some players. He said it was good to be able to bring in some players and nice to have the luxury to have some depth.

He said he is working on the starting outfield and who can hit.

"We had a nice crowd from Goodland, and that was nice to see," he said.

He said it got colder in the second game with the wind and quite a few of the crowd left, but he was glad to see the people and hopes they come out today to see the Cowboys at home.

Mull said Cowan had some good plays in the field, and said he is glad to see the guys keep their heads despite an error.

He said he has talked to them about forgetting the errors and keep going. He said he told them errors will happen, and they need to be able to forget quickly and keep focused on the game.

## FUN BY THE NUMBERS

	7	4	9		5		
	8	2				6	1
9	5		2	3	6	8	
				3	4		
7	4		6	8			
1		6		7	2		8
	6	9		5		1	8
			6	9		5	
5			8	1		9	

Level: Beginner

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### Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

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## School calendar for March 23-29

- Wednesday: Gold day  
7:30 a.m.: PLC
- Thursday: Black day
- Friday: Gold day
- Monday: NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK
- Tuesday: NO SCHOOL SPRING BREAK  
10 a.m.: Junior High Track at Burlington Invitational



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