

Slammers 12 and Under fourth at state tourney

Another season is in the books for the 12 and Under Goodland Slammers Softball Team finishing fourth at state in Emporia on Sunday.

The Slammers had a season record of 14-13, and went 4-2 in their appearance at the state tournament.

Saturday the Slammers team was at the ball field at 6 a.m. to warm up for the first game, and played four more games in the 100 plus temperature and humidity.

The girls lost the first game against Garden City Lil Twisters 8-4. The girls went on to play four more games winning all of them. They defeated the Pink Panther's 11-4; Lady Express 2-1; Base Burners 9-6 and the Hurricanes 11-5.

The wins from Saturday gave the girls an opportunity to move into Championship play on Sunday. The Slammers season came to an end Sunday morning with a loss against the Salina P Twisters, 7-4.

The Goodland Slammers got fourth place out of 15 teams in the Silver Bracket. This was the first trip to State for most of these girls. The experience and memories they have will help them improve and set goals higher for next year, said Jeris McCombs team manager.

The season started with a dual against the Grainfield Blue Aces. The Slammers split the evening with Grainfield winning the first game 2-1 and the Slammers coming back on the second game winning 13-10. They met with the Blue Aces again in Goodland and split again. Blue Aces winning 10-8 and Slammers winning 9-5.

The first tournament was in North Platte, Neb., on June 11. This was a great way to start off the season as there were teams from Colorado, South Dakota, Nebraska and the Slammers from Kansas, McCombs said.

The first game was with the McCook Rebels winning 11-3. The Slammers fought hard in the second game against the McCook Rebel's Pink but fell short with a loss 7-5.

The girls came out of the dugout for the third game with North Platte and pulled out a win beating them 11-6. The last game of the weekend was Sunday morning against Norfolk with a loss 12-0.

The annual Father's Day Tournament in Russell was the next stop for the Slammers. They placed second at this tournament with a record of 3-2. The girls beat Great Bend Quicksilver B (8-7), Larned



Renegades (12-0) and Lyons Extreme (8-3). The Slammers fell to the Hays Heat (9-1) and Great Bend Quicksilver A (12-0).

Regional play was in Great Bend on June 24. The Slammers loss to Hays Heat 12-9, which was an improvement from the weekend before.

Beat the Quick Silver B team 15-14 in extra innings. That game provided much excitement for the girls and the fans as the Slammers came back from a score of 8-4 to win.

The last game of the day was against Lyons Extreme and the Slammers lost 5-3.

The Slammers placed third in Dodge City Super C on July 9. Their first game was against the Quick Silver B team, who was out for revenge as the Slammers had beaten them twice already. Goodland won 11-10.

The next game was with Grainfield Blue Aces and the Slammers lost 7-5. The win put the Slammers in the bracket to play against Quick Silver B again. The Slammers came out with fire and won the game 11-5.

Next up for the Slammers was the Quick Silver A team (who went on to win State in Gold) and the girls played a hard fought game with them, but Quick Silver won 9-4.

With the loss, the girls entered the third place game against the Garden City Lil Twisters and won 9-8, giving them the third place trophy.

Goodland 12 & Under Slammers



Slammers Grace Cole (3) plays a little cat and mouse (top photo) running down a base runner between second and third and Sage Vandiver (15) and Kayleigh McCombs (11) go to cover second base

at the state tournament at Emporia. Margaux Thompson (33) picked up a bunt and threw to Taylor Darst (7) at first base for the out in a game at the Dodge City Super C tournament.

Photos by Jeris McCombs/The Goodland Star-News

team members include: Abbie Neal, Alexi Vasquez, Braelyn Hoelting, Grace Cole, Kaitlyn Daise, Kayleigh McCombs, Kelsey White, Makayla Schwartz, Margaux Thompson, Morgan Morris, Rheagan Hageman, Saige Vandiver, Taylor Darst and TC Ruhs.

The girls were coached by Matt Kuhlman, Joy Braun and Mike Vandiver, who filled in at State.

Goodland Cowboy to play basketball for Kansas Wesleyan

Signed, sealed and delivered. The Kansas Wesleyan Men's Basketball team has wrapped up its recruiting class with the announcement of 10 signees for the upcoming season including a Goodland Cowboy.

The group of 10 joins 15 others already signed, bringing the total signing class to 25 for first year coach Chris Fear.

Five junior college transfers and

five freshmen dot the list.

"I am very pleased with my first recruiting class at Kansas Wesleyan University," Coach Fear said. "Our coaching staff has worked very hard to recruit young men who will be productive members of the campus community as well as excellent students and basketball players."

One of the 10 joining the Coyotes next year is Robert Cowan (For-

ward, 6'3", 200 pounds, Freshman of Goodland. As a Cowboy Cowan averaged 14 points, seven rebounds and two steals per game while being named to the honor roll.

The Coyotes will open the basketball season on Nov. 1, at 7:30 p.m. (Central Time), at home against Baker University.



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