

Second half sinks Cowboys' homecoming

By Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News
The Cowboys gave the Oakley Plainsmen all they wanted in the first half, but couldn't score in the second and lost their homecoming game Friday, 35-12.

The Plainsmen, ranked third in the state in Class 2-1A, kept their unbeaten record with the win, but they did find themselves behind the Cowboys 12-8 in the second quarter.

"It was nice to be ahead of a good team," said Cowboys Coach Jonathan Dansel Monday morning, "but we need to learn how to finish and win games like that."

Oakley's first score came on a four-yard run by senior running back Drake Moore with 9:23 left in the first quarter. A 42-yard run by junior running back Kelly Younkin set up the touchdown, giving the Plainsmen a first and goal at the 4. Senior quarterback Chase Sperber made the two-point conversion, making the score 8-0.

The Cowboys came back to score two touchdowns and lead 12-8 in the first half. The first drive took nine plays for 69 yards but the second touchdown took just one for 56 yards.

The Cowboys took the kickoff after the first Oakley touchdown and began moving from their own 31. Sophomore quarterback Travis Angelos ran for 6 yards and handed off to junior fullback T.J. Hawkins who ran for a first down at the 43.

On three running plays, they were at the Oakley 49 facing a fourth and 2. Hawkins took the handoff and refused to stop until he had a first down at the Oakley 46.

The drive seemed to stall and the Cowboys went backwards on a sack of Angelos and a pitch to junior running back Casey Henderson for 15. Facing third and 15, the Cowboys called a time out. Angelos dropped back to pass, but the ball was tipped by Plainsmen freshman defensive back Brandon Maurath. It went right into the hands of Cowboys junior wide receiver Forest Trachsel, who ran into the end zone for a touchdown with 5:14 left in the first. The two-point conversion was no good, making the score 8-6.

The Cowboys stopped the Plainsmen on their next drive and took the ball over at their 43. They drove down to the Oakley 17 before the drive stalled at the end of the first period. On fourth down, Angelos'



Cowboys quarterback Travis Angelos (11) faked a handoff to running back Casey Henderson (3), then dropped back to pass over the middle to senior receiver Tyler Hillmer in the second half of the homecoming game Friday. The pass went incomplete. The Cowboys (1-5) lost to state-ranked Oakley (6-0), 35-12.

Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News

pass to senior receiver Tyler Hillmer was out of bounds in the end zone.

The Cowboys again stopped the Plainsman and Hillmer received the punt at the Goodland 44. On first down, Hawkins took the handoff and broke free up the middle for 56 yards and a touchdown. Again the two-point conversion was no good, leaving the Cowboys leading 12-8.

Hawkins, out of breath after the long run, stayed on the sidelines recovering for a few minutes.

"It was a great read by Angelos," Coach Dansel said. "It was a read option play, and a good handoff to Hawkins. It is a glimpse of what we can do when things go right."

Dansel said Hawkins had 100 yards rushing in the game. Angelos had 32 yards and completed four of

13 passes for 81 yards. Trachsel had two receptions for 59 yards and the one touchdown.

It took Oakley seven plays and 80 yards to retake the lead 14-12 with 8:01 left in the half.

The Cowboys were unable to move and had to punt.

The Plainsmen took four plays to go 60 yards with Moore running the final seven yards on a reverse for a touchdown. The two-point conversion run by Moore was good, making it 22-12 with 4:54 left in the half.

With time running out, the Plainsmen had a first and goal at the 7. Moore ran for and apparent touchdown, but a holding penalty brought the ball back. The Cowboys' defense stiffened and on fourth down, Chase Sperber threw

a pass to junior tight end Jared Sperber in the end zone, but it was incomplete.

During halftime, Hillmer was crowned Homecoming king and Stephanie Sheldon was crowned Homecoming queen.

The Cowboys kicked off to Oakley to start the third quarter and Younkin took it 85 yards for a touchdown with 11:47 left in the quarter. The two-point conversion was no good, making the score 28-12.

"That sort of deflated our momentum," Dansel said. "We can't afford to give up big plays."

The Cowboys defense stepped up and stopped the next Oakley drive at the Cowboys 12 on a fourth-down play. The Plainsmen held the

ball for 12 plays and two penalties only to come up short.

The Cowboys took over, but could not get a first down and had to punt.

The quarter ended with the Plainsmen converting a fourth down and two for a first down at the Cowboys' 23. The Plainsmen had a first and goal at the Cowboys' 8, but the defense stiffened and pushed the Plainsmen back..

Oakley took a time out with 9:49 remaining, facing fourth and goal at the 13. Chase Sperber passed to senior tight end Paul Kuhlman for a touchdown. The point after kick was good, making the score 35-12.

The Cowboys recovered a Oakley fumble at their 43. On third down, Hillmer caught a pass over the

middle, but the ball was knocked out of his hands and recovered by the Plainsmen at the 46. Oakley got a first down at the Cowboys 36 and ran out the clock to win 35-12.

"Defensively I was very proud of how we played and showed heart," Dansel said, "but at week six we are still not very disciplined. The heart was there, but the discipline was not. Once we put those together the kids will see how good we can be."

"We did better with ball security, but can't afford turnovers. We had a bunch of dropped passes that would have been keys especially on third-down conversions."

To begin district play, the Cowboys face another tough opponent as the Ulysses Tigers, ranked third in Class 4A, come to Cowboys Stadium on Friday. Gametime is 6 p.m. "It is another tough game," Dansel said. "We seem to play pretty tough at home."

Three senior Cowgirls qualify for state tennis tourney

Three Goodland seniors qualified to for the state tennis meet in Emporia on Friday at the Class 4A Regional meet in Pratt.

Jillian Parker qualified in singles, finishing fourth. Parker beat Barbara Bickner of Colby, 6-4 and 6-3 and Elise Wedel of Buhler, 3-6, 6-2 and 6-4. Her match with Wedel lasted an hour and forty minutes.

"Jillian showed a lot of patience and composure in coming back from a first-set loss to capture the second and third sets," Coach Wallace Hansen said.

At regionals, competitors have to win two sets to advance. Parker lost in the semifinals to Victoria Guede of Pratt, 6-2 and 6-2. In the match for third or fourth place, she lost to Logan Ward of Colby, 6-3 and 6-2.

"This is Jillian's second year qualifying for state," Coach Hansen said. "She finished 11th in 2005."

Parker's record going into state is 21-11 with 10 of her losses to other state qualifiers.

Jena McCall and Sandy Johnson in doubles also qualified for state, finishing fourth. They beat Comba and Harper of Nickerson, 6-3 and 6-4, and Reinhart and Detrixhe of Russell, 6-1 and 6-1.

In the semifinals, McCall and Johnson faced their arch opponents, Dugger and Wilson of Colby. The three-set match lasted over an hour. They won the first set 7-6 and 7-5, lost the second 6-4 and third 6-4.

"They were leading 3-0 in the third set when momentum shifted," Coach Hansen said, "and they couldn't regain it before Dugger and Wilson had won six games and the match."

McCall and Johnson faced Farley and Schmidt of Larned for third or fourth. They lost the first set 6-3 and won the second 6-3, but Larned won the third set. They go to state competition with a 26-7 record.

In team scores, Russell and Larned led with eight points, Colby and Buhler had seven, Goodland finished in fifth place with four, Kingman had two and Nickerson, Ulysses and Pratt none.

The doubles team of sophomores Kaitlin Fugleberg and Shonna Webster won their first match at regionals over Nisley and Osborn of Nickerson, 6-2 and 6-1. They lost their second to Farley and Schmidt of Larned, 6-1 and 6-1, ending the

year with a 19-13 record.

Sophomore Saundra Redlin, playing in her first regional, lost to Mallory Mahoney of Russell, 6-0 and 6-1.

"Saundra played courageously this year and the experience will

serve her well in the future," said Coach Hansen. "Goodland players won over 60 percent of all the matches they played this fall, counting varsity and junior varsity both."

The state matches will start at 12:30 p.m. Central Time, Friday at

the high school courts, 3302 W. 18th St. in Emporia. Use the Industrial Ave. exit from I-35, and go west on the north side of the freeway. Baldwin High School is the host for the Class 4A State Tournament.

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School calendar for October 11 through October 17

Wednesday: BlackDay, KS State Deca Fall Chapter Devel. Conference @ Rock Springs, 8 a.m. FCCLA Fall Leadership Academy at Wakeeney; 6:30 p.m. Basketball & Wrestling Rules Meeting @ Colby,

Thursday: Gold Day, KS State Deca Fall Chapter Devel. Conference @ Rock Springs, Girls C/9th Volleyball - Colby Volleyball C Squad, Boys C/9th Football @ Garden City High School.

Friday: Black Day, Homecoming 6:00 p.m. V Football - Oakley High School. Girls State Tennis, Varsity Football - Ulysses High School.

Saturday: Girls Varsity State Tennis, 9 a.m. Girls Varsity Volleyball - NWKL Volleyball Tourn @ Atwood, 9 a.m. Young Guns Football, 10 a.m. Boys/Girls Varsity Cross Country NWKL Cross Country Meet @ Oakley.

Monday: ITBS Testing Window, Girls Varsity Golf, State Tourn.; Boys JV Football @ Colby HS

Tuesday: Black Day; ITBS Testing Window.

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