

SPORTS

GCCC baseball splits series with Seward County

BY GCCC SPORT INFORMATION

LIBERAL — The Garden City Community College baseball team jumped out to an early lead but could not hold off a late surge from Seward County, falling 4-7 in Game 3 of a conference doubleheader Sunday in Liberal.

The Broncbusters dropped Game 4, 7-13, to split the four-game series with the Saints. GCCC won the first two games of the series Thursday in Garden City.

The Broncbusters (13-19, 6-9) struck first with a pair of runs in the second inning and added two more in the third, but the Saints used a three-run third and a decisive four-run sixth to take control.

Cody Kilpatrick paced the offense, going 2-for-3 with a double and two RBI, while Sean Togher delivered the biggest swing of the day with a two-run home run in the third inning. Mason Tafoya added two hits and scored once as part of Garden City's seven-hit effort.

Garden City opened the scoring

in the second when Kilpatrick laced a two-run double to bring home Karson Evans and Sean Philpotts. The Broncbusters extended the lead to 4-0 in the third after Tafoya singled and later scored on Togher's two-run homer.

Seward County answered in the bottom of the third, capitalizing on timely hitting and a Broncbuster error to plate three runs and cut the deficit to 4-3.

The game remained tight until the sixth inning, when Seward County took advantage of miscues and delivered the decisive blow. Blaine Chancy's bases-clearing triple highlighted a four-run frame that flipped the score and gave the Saints a 7-4 lead they would not relinquish.

Walker Maximick (1-3) took the loss for Garden City, allowing five runs over 5.1 innings. Gabe Grandy worked the final two outs in relief. Seward County's Ashton Creighton (2-1) earned the win with four scoreless innings out of the bullpen.

Garden City was held scoreless over



Garden City Community College's Sean Togher winds up to make a pitch to a Seward County batter Thursday in the first game of a doubleheader at Williams Stadium. BRAD NADING/GARDEN CITY TELEGRAM

the final four frames while committing three errors.

In the nightcap, GCCC erased an early deficit with a big third inning, but a late surge from Seward County proved too much as the Broncbusters fell 7-13 in the conference doubleheader Sunday.

Garden City (13-20, 6-10) trailed 5-0 early before responding with four runs in the third and another in

the fifth to briefly pull within striking distance. Seward County, however, pulled away with a five-run eighth inning to secure the series finale.

Sean Togher led the Broncbusters offensively, going 2-for-4 with a home run and four RBI, while Evans added a home run, double, and two RBI. Aiden Wilson also homered and drove in two runs as part of an eight-hit effort for Garden City.

Seward County struck early, capitalizing on walks and a Broncbuster error to score four runs in the first inning, highlighted by a two-run double from Ryan Todd. The Saints added another run in the second to build a 5-0 lead.

Garden City answered in the third inning with a surge of power. Togher delivered a two-run double before Evans followed with a two-run home

run. Wilson added a solo shot later in the frame, cutting the deficit to 5-4.

The Broncbusters trimmed the margin to 6-5 in the fifth when Wilson drove in Evans with an RBI single, but Seward County responded with single runs in the fifth and sixth innings to extend the lead.

The game remained within reach until the

See GCCC, A8

GCHS girls' swimming seeks another WAC crown

Buffaloes have mix of veterans, newcomers

BY GCHS ATHLETICS

The Garden City High School girls' swimming team has had its share of recent success competing in the Western Athletic Conference.

Since ending Great Bend's nearly two-decade dominance in the WAC championship in 2021, the Buffs have won three of the last five conference titles, including the last two.

Now entering her 10th season in guiding the program, former GCHS standout Jennifer Meng (maiden name Bolden) sees her current squad almost like two separate teams that will need to be melded into one.

On the one hand, she has nine returners from the 2025 WAC championship squad, including WAC champions Livi Meng in the 50-yard freestyle (26.19), Brylee West in the 500-yard freestyle and Ellie Sekavec in the 200-yard individual medley.

On the other hand, Meng welcomes another nine swimmers, all of whom are new to competitive swimming.

"When we had our first team meeting, I walked in and my heart skipped a beat," Meng said. "It's one of the biggest classes for newcomers I've had. The challenge will be to work on the strokes and get them up to competitive levels and it will take some time."

Another top returner is Jencie Stocking, who placed second in the

500 behind West as the Buffs piled up 557 points to finish ahead of Hays (509) and claim the prestigious title. It serves as one of the primary goals each season for the team.

Other returners include Lauran Lightner (freestyle), Emma Wheeler (butterfly, freestyle), Abigail Wise (backstroke, individual medley), Daniela Chacon (backstroke, freestyle) and Bryanna Ramos (butterfly/freestyle).

"It's a great group of girls and they have been working and training hard," Coach Meng said. "We did some early time trials and almost all of them were faster than they were a year ago, so that's a great sign."

The newcomers' group includes four juniors — Melissa Morales, Emily Alba-Cantu, Melody Garcia and Giselle Rueda; five sophomores — Makeaely Miner, Melany Enriquez, Aryanna Hernandez and Gema Herrera; and one freshman — Tegan Snodgrass.

"The newcomers are working on stroke knowledge and making turns and starts," Meng said. "The beginners are really beginners and so the practices are almost like two within itself."

Meng said some of the returners are now in their second season of competition.

"Each group is looking strong, but certainly the ones with some varsity experience and ahead of things," Meng



Garden City High School's Ellie Sekavec makes a stroke and takes a breathe while competing in the 100-yard freestyle during a girls' swim meet last season at the Garden City Family YMCA. Sekavec is one of the returners to this year's Buffalo team. BRAD NADING/GARDEN CITY TELEGRAM

said. "It was encouraging to see the time trials faster than a year ago."

As always, the goal is to be peaking in May when the WAC Championship comes around and this year, the Buffs will be the host school on May 14.

"We will use the regular season much like we did a year ago," Meng said when talking about planning for the WAC event. "We'll keep track of how other (conference) teams are doing and that helps us plan for which events we will put girls in to give us the best chance of winning. It's kind of like our version of watching film."

Meng said Sekavec and West have been swimming competitively in the summer and off-season, showing signs of significant improvement and leadership.

The Buffs are slated to get the season under way on Tuesday, March 31, at the Hutchinson

Invitational. They will host their own meet (quad) on Thursday, April 2, with Holcomb, Liberal and Dodge City rounding out the competing schools.

Coach Meng, who was a state medalist during her high school career, said she believes the sport is one of the most demanding of all competitive athletics.

"It's one of the most challenging because it's tough mentally and physically," she said. "You must maintain a positive attitude to be successful. Is it hard? Yes. But they can do it and the girls are working very hard."

GIRLS' SWIMMING 2026 SCHEDULE

March 31—at Hutchinson; April 2—GCHS Quadrangular, 4 p.m., Family YMCA Pool; April 11—at Wichita Trinity; April 14—GCHS Invitational, 4 p.m.; April 18—at Wichita North;

April 21—at Haysville-South; May 14—WAC Championship, 4 p.m.; April 24—at Marion; April 28—at Hays (Fort Hays State Univ.); May 7—at Salina

South; May 22-23—Class 6A State Championship, 10 a.m.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Bids for the "Finney County Juvenile Detention Center Remodel" at 507 W. Santa Fe Street, Garden City, KS, will be accepted by the Owner's Representative, Nolan Thill, Finney County Director of Building Maintenance. Contractors shall submit Bid Proposals by 1:30 PM Local Time, April 28, 2026, at the Finney County Administration Building, First Floor Conference Room, 311 N. 9th Street, Garden City, KS. Bid Proposals will be opened publicly at the above stated time. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Bond, certified check or other security in the amount of 5% (five per cent) of the bid. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Architect (on behalf of the Owner) will conduct a Prebid Meeting at 1:30 PM Local Time on April 8th, 2026 at the Finney County Juvenile Detention Center, 507 W. Santa Fe Street, Garden City, KS. Prime Bidders attendance is required at Prebid Meeting. Bids will only be accepted from prime bidders represented on Prebid Meeting sign-in sheet. Subcontractors are encouraged to attend Prebid Meeting. Plans and Specifications, as well as Contract Documents for the Project will be viewable online, and/or download copies free of charge, from the Project Architect's website. Architect Representative: Nick Nemechek, GMCN Architects, Inc., 115 East Laurel Street, Garden City, Kansas 67846, Phone 620-276-3244. ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS Bids for the "Finney County Juvenile Detention Center Remodel" at 507 W. Santa Fe Street, Garden City, KS, will be accepted by the Owner's Representative, Nolan Thill, Finney County Director of Building Maintenance. Contractors shall submit Bid Proposals by 1:30 PM Local Time, April 28, 2026, at the Finney County Administration Building, First Floor Conference Room, 311 N. 9th Street, Garden City, KS. Bid Proposals will be opened publicly at the above stated time. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Bond, certified check or other security in the amount of 5% (five per cent) of the bid. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids. Architect (on behalf of the Owner) will conduct a Prebid Meeting at 1:30 PM Local Time on April 8th, 2026 at the Finney County Juvenile Detention Center, 507 W. Santa Fe Street, Garden City, KS. Prime Bidders attendance is required at Prebid Meeting. Bids will only be accepted from prime bidders represented on Prebid Meeting sign-in sheet. Subcontractors are encouraged to attend Prebid Meeting. Plans and Specifications, as well as Contract Documents for the Project will be viewable online, and/or download copies free of charge, from the Project Architect's website. Contact the Architect as noted below to obtain website access information. Architect Representative: Nick Nemechek, GMCN Architects, Inc., 115 East Laurel Street, Garden City, Kansas 67846, Phone 620-276-3244.