



Bulldogs’ quarterback returns

By Andy Heintz
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The Golden Plains varsity football team will be looking to make its third straight appearance in the playoffs this year. Coach Travis Smith said his team expects to return to the play-offs and they will be focused on getting a little better each day. Last year’s squad had a tremendous season, taking first in the Western Kansas Liberty League and winning District 8. The Bulldogs were 1-2 in their first three

games, but they finished their regular season with six straight convincing victories before losing to Victoria in Bi-District round of the eight-man division II playoffs. Quarterback Riley Spresser and center Devinn Ritter are both returning for their senior years. Spresser was having a great season when he broke his leg in practice after only playing three games. He was still voted honorable mention offense by the Western Kansas Liberty League. Spresser ran for six touchdowns and gained 424 yards overall in his all-too-brief season. He completed 19 of 32

passes. “Having him back is big lift for the team,” Smith said. The coach said Spresser’s favorite targets this year will probably be sophomore tight end Cole Christensen and senior tight end Tate Preston. Christensen is a 6-foot-5 athlete who made the Class 1A state tournament in the high jump last spring. “He’s going to be a force,” Smith said. Preston took over the quarterback position after Spresser was injured last season, but he will be playing tight end this season.

Ritter, standing at 6’3” and tipping the scales at 310 pounds, made the all-league team and he was named to the all-state team by the Topeka Capitol Journal. “Devinn is a beast,” the coach said. Smith said if he can get some guys around Ritter who can block the Bulldogs will have a strong offensive line this season. Sophomore Andrew Luna and junior Trey Schwarz will be replacing Jeremy Hunter and Jordan Spresser on the interior line, the coach said. The Bulldogs’ season begins at 7 p.m. next Friday at Quinter.

Football league full of promising freshmen

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) – If Bob Stoops had his way, the practice of redshirting incoming freshmen to save them for later would be scrapped at Oklahoma. He’d rather have his freshmen contribute right away for the seventh-ranked Sooners. “I believe that the quality of players we’re getting, they’re not going to be here for that fifth year,” Stoops said. Stoops’ crop of first-year players this season have him keeping those redshirts in the closet more than ever.

Nickel back Tony Jefferson, cornerback Aaron Colvin and linebacker Corey Nelson could all get playing time on defense, and Kenny Stills leads a trio of receivers trying to break into the rotation. Trey Millard made such an impact in his first few weeks of practice that he’s set to start at fullback. The Sooners aren’t the only ones with freshmen who could make an immediate impact. Here are some Big 12 freshmen to watch: Mike Davis, WR, Texas: Does Longhorns coach Mack Brown

need to say much more than this about the Dallas native? “Mike is a very confident young man. When he walks in the room he knows he’s good.” He’s among a higher number of freshmen Brown plans to play this season coming off of a loss in the BCS championship game, including defensive linemen Reggie Wilson and Jackson Jeffcoat, the son of ex-Dallas Cowboys defensive end Jim Jeffcoat. Justin Gilbert, CB, Oklahoma State: Coach Mike Gundy first noticed the speedy Huntsville, Tex-

as, native toward the end of his sophomore year in high school, then got an early commitment and anxiously waited to get him signed. “His highlight tape went on for about an hour,” Gundy recalls. He’s already had an 80-yard punt return TD in a preseason scrimmage. Jake Matthews, OL, Texas A&M: The son of NFL Hall of Famer Bruce Matthews certainly has the pedigree to be a force and he’s been practicing with the Aggies’ starters in his first training camp.

Practice makes perfect



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
Colby College freshman first baseman Brandon Wilson from Milliken, Colo., prepared to fire the ball home to the catcher during practice on Monday afternoon at the baseball diamond. Wilson recently signed with the team. His brothers Nate and Zach will also be playing for the Trojans this season.

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