

Former wrestler selected for Hall of Fame

By Brandi Jones

Billy Gabel, former St. Francis High School wrestler and Goodland assistant wrestling coach from 2001 to 2002, has been selected to be inducted into the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

Gabel, the son of Colby High School Principal Larry Gabel, was a four-time state champion in high school with 125 total wins and 5 losses. He was named Senior 3-2-1 A Wrestler of the Year and was the 1996 Kansas Wrestler of the Year. He competed in the Junior Fargo All-Americans for two years, placing fifth in Greco Roman the first year and seventh the second year.

He was a four-time Junior Regional National Champion and was named Outstanding Wrestler in 1996 at the Rocky Mountain Regionals. Gabel was also featured in the 1996 Sports Illustrated magazine.

After high school, Gabel was recruited by the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and wrestled there from 1996 to 1999. He then transferred to Oklahoma State University to wrestle with his

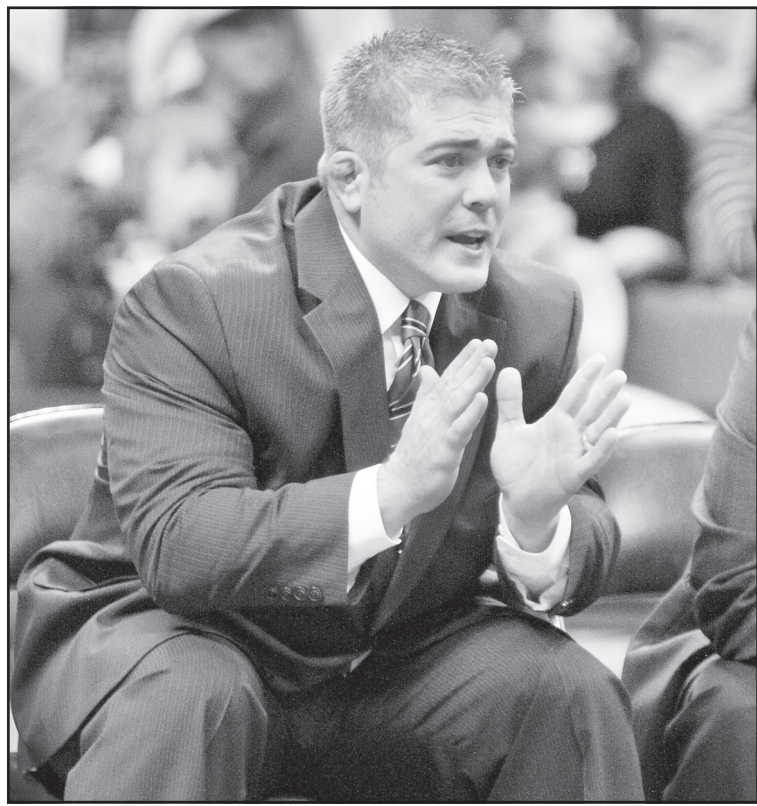


PHOTO COURTESY OF CRAIG BISACRE
Billy Gabel coached his team from Pine Creek High School in Colorado Springs, Colo., where he has been the head coach since 2008.

brother, Kelly Gabel. He wrestled at Oklahoma State from 1999 to

2001 where he graduated with his degree in physical education.

He then began teaching and coaching in Goodland from 2001 to 2002. He went on to teach and coach at Pine Creek High School in Colorado Spring, Colo. He was the assistant wrestling coach there from 2002 to 2007 and was named the head wrestling coach in 2008.

In 2004, Gabel took a team of 19 Colorado wrestlers to compete in Germany. He has served on the Colorado USA Wrestling Board as a cadet director, equipment director, and folkstyle director over the past eight years.

As a first time head coach for Pine Creek High School, Gabel's team placed 30th in the state. His second year as head coach, the team placed second in the state and Gabel was honored with the 5A Coach of the Year Award. His third year, they placed seventh in the state, and last year his team took a third-place finish at the state tournament.

In the four years that he has been the head wrestling coach, he has had 16 state placers and/or champions, a pair of two-time state champions, five High School National All-Americans, one Senior National third place All-American, and six Fargo National

All-Americans.

Because of these accomplishments, his positive contributions to the sport of wrestling after high school graduation, and his display of positive character and values, Gabel is being inducted into the Kansas Wrestling Hall of Fame on Saturday in Salina.

Gabel said athletics, coaching and life are summed up in a couple of sentences.

"You have to be willing to sacrifice to achieve something great," he said. "Staying strong in your faith in the Lord and trusting His lead in your life will always be worth while."

Gabel said he had many people to thank for receiving this award.

"I would like to give credit first of all to my Lord and Savior," he said. "I'd also like to thank my wife, Rudilee, and my daughters for pushing me to be a better father, husband, man, and coach. My father, Larry Gabel, for not only being the best head coach a wrestler could have, but an amazing father, leader, and best friend. My mother, Beth, has always been the most supportive and encouraging person in my life. To my sister, Brandi Jones, who never left

the side of the mat as I achieved my goals and whose support and love never wavered. And to my brother, Dr. Kelly Gabel, who is the best brother and best friend anyone could ask for."

Gabel said that he would like to thank the community of St. Francis and all those who supported him.

"I owe you so much," he said. "Thank you all for being such an amazing part of this journey. Every one of you shares a part in this award."

Gabel's wife, Dr. Rudilee D. Gabel, obtained her Ph.D. in educational leadership this past summer and is a college professor and high school teacher. They have two daughters, Gia (2) and Zoe (newborn).

Gabel's father Larry was the head wrestling coach in St. Francis for 32 years and currently serves as principal and athletic director for Colby High School. In 2005, Larry received the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association Hall of Fame Award and just last year was inducted into the Kansas Activities Association Hall of Fame.

Golden Plains seniors play last home game

By Judy Rogers

Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains High School seniors played their last home game Friday against the Wheatland-Grinnell Thunderhawks. Seniors stepping on the home field for their final time included Cole Christensen, Tyler Stevenson, Kalyn Weber, Trey Schwarz and Ethan Walter. Schwarz, who was injured over the summer, was back on the field for his first and only home game of the season.

Following a senior recognition ceremony, the Bulldogs elected to receive to start off the game. They were unable to make the downs and were forced to punt back to the Thunderhawks who rushed into the end zone, made their extra points, and grabbed a 0-8 lead halfway through the first quarter.

When the Bulldogs got the ball back, Stevenson broke Weber free on the first down and Weber ran in a Bulldog touchdown. Although the point-after-touchdown pass attempt fell incomplete, the Bulldogs were on the board 6-8.

The 'Hawks returned the kick back close to the goal line and wasted no time crossing the line to increase their lead to 6-14 as their extra-point pass attempt fell incomplete.

The 'Hawks tried to cross the line one more time but were stopped by Weber and junior Jose Bermudez as Bermudez displayed his intensity with a

touchdown-saving tackle at the end of the quarter.

As the teams switched directions in the second quarter, the 'Hawks wasted no time in showing the hometown Bulldogs why they came into the game with a 5-2 record, quickly finishing the drive with a touchdown run. The extra points were good and the 'Hawks were leading the Bulldogs 6-22.

The Bulldogs were not about to give up as Weber broke through the line for a first down. Following gains by Stevenson and Christensen, Bermudez caught a pass for another first down. After a brief time out to consult with Coaches Travis Smith and Travis Betz, Weber connected with Christensen for a 15-yard touchdown pass and the 'Dogs narrowed the Thunderhawks' lead to 12-22.

As the halftime break approached, the Golden Plains defense held the 'Hawks forcing them to punt. The Bulldogs had several successful passes to Christensen, and Stevenson continued to run strong, but with under six seconds until the half, Wheatland-Grinnell threw a long touchdown pass to extend its lead to 12-28 at the buzzer.

The Bulldogs returned to the field determined to play with pride. They kept the 'Hawks out of the end zone and created some opportunities for themselves with an interception by Stevenson.

After several gains by Weber, Stevenson pushed through for

a first down and Weber carried another first down to the 4-yard line. Weber then propelled himself over the goal line for another Bulldog touchdown. With Christensen easily crossing over for a two-point conversion, the Bulldogs closed the Thunderhawks' lead to 20-28 with six minutes remaining in the third quarter.

With Wheatland-Grinnell back in possession, the 'Hawks attempted a long run that was stopped by Bermudez. A penalty by the 'Hawks backed up their gain. They faltered some with a fumble but managed to recover it and made two more successful touchdowns and extra points to expand their lead to 20-44 by the end of the third quarter.

In the fourth, the Bulldogs stayed strong and repeatedly stopped the Thunderhawks' offense, holding them scoreless throughout the quarter. Christensen caught a beautiful pass in the end zone, but it was called out of bounds. Junior Andrew Luna fired up and pushed the 'Hawks off the field and Bermudez continued to stop their attempts to run as the Bulldogs held the score to 20-44 at the buzzer.

"I am really proud of my boys tonight," Coach Travis Smith said. "They played one of the best teams in the state close all night. I learned a lot about the heart some of them showed."

The Bulldogs, holding a 3-5 record, will finish their season tonight in Logan.



MARY ZERR

The Colby fifth grade football team entered the field right before a game against Hays. The team is 5-1 this season and will compete against Phillipsburg on Saturday.

Colby fifth grade football team vying for regional title in Hays

The Colby fifth grade football team is preparing this week to play the fifth grade Phillipsburg team at the regional competition to be held in Hays at 2 p.m. on Saturday at the Fort Hays State University football field. The Colby team is currently 5-1 for the season.

The Colby fifth graders are coached by Travis Branum, Fred Britt, Andy Schippers, and Scott Platt. If the team wins on Saturday, they will play again on Sunday for the opportunity to place in the top two in the region. If the team loses, they will play on Sunday for the opportunity to place third or fourth in the region. The team placed fourth in last year's competition.

Team members are Carter Stanley, Trey Miller, Heath Bolyard, Peyton Ortnier, Brett Roulier, A.J.

Reed, Dylan Seiwert, Tyler Zerr, Aaron Platt, Tucker Branum, Jordan Schippers, Tommy Cline, Tristan Singer, Josh Olson, Kory Finley, Kyler Britt, Alex Ferguson and Isaac Rosales.



Fiscal Year 2012 General EQIP and WHIP Sign-up Ends November 15, 2011

Tuesday, November 15, 2011, is the cutoff date for the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program (WHIP) applications in Kansas to be considered for Fiscal Year 2012 funding.

Stop by your local Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) office to get more information about helping you help your land. Applications are accepted year round.

Office Address: 915 East Walnut, Colby, KS 67701
Office Phone: 785-462-7671
Web sites: www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/eqip
www.ks.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/whip

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Kansas State tunes up for Sooners

By Dave Skretta

AP Sports Writer

LAWRENCE – Kansas State's Bill Snyder preaches to his players to treat every game the same, no matter the opponent, the place or the circumstance.

He's going to have a tough time making the message stick this week.

Collin Klein threw for a career-high 195 yards and accounted for five touchdowns, freshman Tyler Lockett returned a kickoff for a score and caught a touchdown pass, and No. 12 Kansas State tuned up for a big showdown against Oklahoma with a 59-21 pasting of Kansas on Saturday.

The Wildcats (7-0, 4-0) are riding their best start since 1999, when they won their first nine games. They'll host the third-ranked Sooners Saturday in a matchup that should go a long way toward deciding the Big 12 champion now that there's no conference title game.

The Jayhawks, meanwhile, caused more trouble for themselves than they did their rival.

Kansas was penalized nine times for 105 yards, and two fumbles

early in the second half resulted in touchdowns that effectively put away the game.

Jordan Webb threw for 169 yards and a touchdown for Kansas (2-5, 0-4), which has dropped five straight, including a 47-17 defeat

to the Sooners last week.

"This game would have been a big confidence-booster for our team," said Kansas safety Bradley McDougald. "I saw a lot of guys work hard this week and it didn't show up, and it hurts."

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