

Two area players chosen as all-stars

Two players from Thomas County will be playing in the second annual Sunflower Shootout all-star basketball games Saturday, March 17, at the Smith Center High School gym.

The games, sponsored by the Smith Center Recreation Commission, will feature senior all-stars from the Mid-Continent League against a team of all-stars from a 14-county area in north central Kansas. Area players invited are Morgan Bell of Colby High and Cole Christensen of Golden Plains.

The girls game will tip off at 5 p.m. and the boys at 7 p.m., with 3-point contests at halftime of each game.

The Mid-Continent League girls roster includes Mikayla Gottschalk of Ellis; Kelsey Keith and Haley Dinkel, Hill City; Raegan Vanderplas, Phillipsburg; McKenzie Benoit, Tangie Hileman and Hallie McCall, Smith Center; and Lexi Reidel, Hannah Dietz and Haley Dietz, Trego County. Coaches will

be Kevin Jilka, Norton, and Kim Pakkebie, Phillipsburg.

North central Kansas girls are Cami Englebert and Bailey Brown, Beloit; Prairee Marlier, Lakeside; Caley Greving, Logan; Alissa Gasper, St. John's Beloit-Tipton; Kayley Johnson, Republic County; Shelby Heim, Hoxie; Kelsey Atchison, Thunder Ridge; Morgan Bisnette, Washington County; and Bell, Colby. They will be coached by Dallas Cox, Beloit, and Brandon Gehring, Logan.

The Mid-Continent boys team features Tye Nickell and Jordan Wahlmeier, Norton; Matt Craig and Adam Pfeifer, Hill City; Brad Pfannenstiel, Trego County; Alex Hobelmann and Kale Terrill, Smith Center; and Andrew Casey, Kyle Becker and Jameson Klein, Plainville. Coaches will be Doug Reusink, Norton, and Chris Rora-baugh, Plainville.

The north central Kansas boys squad includes Zach Brummer, Beloit; Keegan Heiland, Lakeside; Austin Herman, Thunder

Ridge; Kalen Cromwell, Republic County; Christensen, Golden Plains; Jaxsen Moss, Hoxie; Corey Dunlap, Natoma; Blake Walter, Rock Hills; Mitchell Walter, Washington County; and Dalton Jones, Oberlin. Coaches will be Alan Sheets, Republic County, and Kyle Beisner, Lakeside.

"We have assembled some of the top high school basketball talent in the state for this event and we are really excited about it," said Mike Hughes, Smith Center recreation director. "We are trying to make this an exciting and fun event for the players, and think the fans will enjoy the evening as well."

"Anyone who enjoys basketball will truly want to see this event. Last year's event was fun and exciting and everyone had a great time, and we anticipate the same this year."

Admission will be \$5 for adults, \$3 for children 6 to 12 and free for kids 5 and under are free.



JUDY ROGERS/Golden Plains High School

Trey Schwarz fought for the ball in a Golden Plains High School boys junior varsity game Feb. 10 against Weskan. Schwarz led the team with 10 points and contributed 3 in the varsity game. Helping out of the floor were Tom Koubek (No. 25), Jose Bermudez (No. 15), Benny Martinez (No. 40) and Domonic Luna (No. 11).

Junior varsity boys fall to Weskan 35-22

By Judy Rogers

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The junior varsity boys from Golden Plains fell to the Weskan Coyotes in Rexford following a full four quarters of basketball action.

The hometown Bulldogs put in 5 points during the first quarter of play Feb. 10 with 4 of those coming from Camron Spresser and a free throw from Benny Martinez. In the second quarter, the only 2 points for the Bulldogs came from Trey Schwarz late in the quarter as the Coyotes led 24-7 at the half.

Coming back some in the third, Schwarz continued to lead the boys on the floor as he played aggressively and confidently, putting in 3 more points. Those points and a three-point shot from Jose Bermudez were the only points posted on the Bulldog

side of the scoreboard for the quarter.

The Bulldogs then added 9 more points in the fourth with 4 from Spresser and 5 from Schwarz. The Golden Plains defense held the Coyotes to 7 in the fourth, but the Coyotes still took home the win 35-22.

Schwarz finished the game with 10 points and Spresser finished with 8. Bermudez brought home 3 along with 1 from Martinez.

"It was a fun and exciting game," Spresser said. "We didn't have Joseph but we still played hard."

The junior varsity boys currently hold a record of 4 wins and 7 losses as they look forward to playing games at Cheylin, Healy and against Northern Valley to finish out their season.

"I've enjoyed playing JV this year with the freshmen and everyone else," Spresser added.

Lady Bulldogs junior varsity holds on for 18-16 victory

By Judy Rogers

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The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs junior varsity basketball team won a close two-quarter game against the Lady Coyotes from Weskan on the Rexford floor.

The girls played a fervent first quarter Feb. 10, leading 8-5 going into the second. As the girls played the second 8 minutes, they continued to hustle, led in part by sophomore Paulita Ramirez in both aggressive action and successful shooting.

With a two-point basket from MiKayla Lobato, the girls' lead

extended to 10-5 before the Lady Coyotes fought their way back, closing the game to 10-8.

A basket from Ramirez extended the Lady 'Dogs' lead to 12-8, but the Weskan girls tied it up at 12.

Macayla Easton put the home team back on top with another two-point basket and Ramirez extended the lead to 16-12. Weskan hit a shot and it was back to a two-point game.

Easton hit another shot with a pass from Rachael Ritter only to be answered by Weskan with 36 seconds left to play.

With 12 seconds on the clock, Weskan called timeout and re-

turned to the floor in possession of the ball. Bulldog defense pressured the Lady Coyotes and they threw the ball out of bounds.

With three-tenths of a second on the clock, Golden Plains gained possession and held on for the 18-16 win.

"The JV has gotten so much better as the season continued, having won three of their last four games," Ramirez said. "They work better together as a team as they have gained experience on the court. Playing in the JV games has helped all the girls play more confidently in the varsity games."

The win left the junior varsity with a 5-5 record.

Lady Trojans rodeo team finishes third at K-State

By Jim Latoski

Colby Community College

The Colby Community College women's rodeo team capped off an exciting weekend of college rodeo at the Kansas State University Rodeo in Manhattan from Feb. 17 to 19 by taking third place, missing second by a mere 5 points.

The Colby rodeo team, under coaches Allen Russell and Chris Sherman, competes in the Central Plains Region, the largest in the United States. The K-State Rodeo included 26 college teams from Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri with a total of 578 entrants.

Two Lady Trojans enjoyed their best weekends of the year. Competing against 53 other entrants in goat tying, sophomore Samantha Fooks, Tribune, finished second in the first round, sixth in the final round and fifth in average.

Freshman barrel racer Chelsea Buckingham

from Leon, Iowa, made her second final round of the year. She finished fourth in the first round, third in the final round and third in average out of 120 contestants.

Both have made an excellent start in pursuing their goal of reaching the College National Finals Rodeo held in Casper, Wyo., each June.

Sophomore Lucas Jones, Broken Bow, Neb., and freshman Lindsey Estes, Leoti, also had solid weekends in calf roping and breakaway roping. They both broke the barrier (leaving the roping box too quickly), which kept them from making it back into the final round.

Coach Russell said he is excited about the progress being made by his riders, and is especially happy with the performance of the women's team this weekend.

The team was on the road again at the Garden City Community College Rodeo from Friday through Sunday.

KU player emerges as top candidate

By Dave Skretta

AP Sports Writer

LAWRENCE — Bill Self remembers having arguments with his own kids over who was better, Magic Johnson or Larry Bird, and the Kansas coach always went with the pride of French Lick.

The reason was simple: The Lakers simply oozed talent, so Johnson didn't receive the sole attention of opposing defenses.

That's why Self also goes with Thomas Robinson, the third-ranked Jayhawks' star forward, when the debate turns to national player of the year.

Anthony Davis has had a sublime season for top-ranked Kentucky, but he's surrounded by a cast of characters capable of 20 points a night.

Without Robinson, the Jayhawks could be sitting on the NCAA tournament bubble.

Naturally, the Wildcats' supporting cast is a big reason John Calipari would vote for Davis.

"At the end of the year, he's going to end up taking 200 shots less than all those guys that they're considering — 200 shots less — yet probably has as big an impact on any of these games," the Kentucky coach said.

Calipari is right that Davis will end up taking far fewer shots than most superstars. He's also right that there are other deserving candidates for player of the year.

Still, Davis and Robinson are leading the pack for the national awards.

In the Wildcats' storied history,

no player has landed one of the three major individual honors: the Wooden Award, Naismith Award or AP Player of the Year. Dan Issel didn't do it. Neither did Tony Delk, Jamal Mashburn, John Wall or Tayshaun Prince.

Kevin Durant is the only freshman to win all three trophies in the same season.

The Jayhawks have had their share of stars in recent years: Paul Pierce, Nick Collison, Mario Chalmers and Sherron Collins, to name a few. But they haven't had anybody win national player of the year since Danny Manning won the Naismith and Wooden awards in 1988.

No player from Kansas has won the AP award, which was first handed out in 1961.

So how best to handicap it? Start with the stats:

Davis is averaging 14.1 points and 9.8 rebounds, and his 66.1 field goal percentage is among the 10 best in the country. The 6-foot-10 forward also has swatted 140 shots, and needs just 31 more blocks to break the SEC record set by Mississippi State's Jarvis Varnado in 2009.

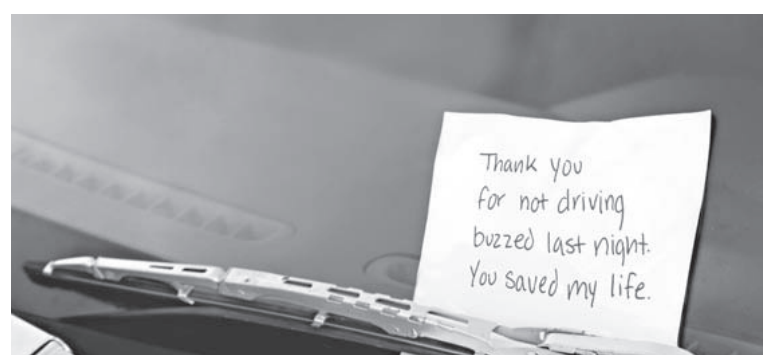
Robinson, meanwhile, is the only player in the Big 12 to average a double-double at 18 points and 11.9 rebounds. He's been even better against ranked teams, averaging 19.8 points and shooting nearly 56 percent against a group of opponents that includes Duke, Baylor and Missouri. Kentucky, too.

There are plenty of differences in Davis and Robinson.

Davis is long and lean, while Robinson has muscles upon muscles. Davis prefers to work around the rim, using his quickness to get around post defenders, while Robinson has shown an improving mid-range game and the ability to extend defenses all the way to the perimeter.

There are also similarities. Both prefer to pawn off the attention on their teammates, giving them credit for their own success. Both have become the go-to player when things are going poorly, though that's rarely been the case this season. Both have led their teams to conference championships.

Now, both of them are in the running for player of the year.



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A federal court has authorized this notice. This is not a solicitation from a lawyer.

Residents of Kansas have sued BP PRODUCTS NORTH AMERICA INC., CASEY'S GENERAL STORES, INC., CIRCLE K STORES, INC., CONOCOPHILLIPS COMPANY, KUM & GO, L.C., QUIKTRIP CORPORATION, SAM'S WEST, INC., EQUILON ENTERPRISES, LLC dba SHELL OIL PRODUCTS US, VALERO MARKETING AND SUPPLY COMPANY AND 7-ELEVEN, INC. ("Companies"), arguing that the Companies omitted facts and overcharged consumers when they sold motor fuel for a specified price per gallon without disclosing or adjusting for the expansion and contraction of motor fuel due to temperature. The Court has decided the cases may proceed as a class action for the purpose of deciding whether the Companies are liable on plaintiffs' claims and whether to issue an injunction against the Companies. The Court has not yet decided if the Companies did anything wrong. This notice summarizes your rights and options. More information is in a detailed notice available at www.KansasHotFuelLitigation.com. If you are included in the class, you must decide whether to stay in the class and be bound by the outcome, or ask to be excluded and keep your rights to sue for any claims you might have. **There is no money now and no guarantee that there will be.**

For purposes of determining liability and injunctive relief, the Court has allowed the lawsuit to proceed as a class action. In May, 2012, the Court will conduct a trial at which time it will be determined whether the Companies are liable on plaintiffs' claims. If the plaintiffs succeed in proving liability, the Court will then decide whether injunctive and/or declaratory relief is appropriate. Also, if the plaintiffs succeed in proving liability, plaintiffs may ask the Court to allow the lawsuit to proceed as a class action to determine money damages. If the Court declines to certify a class for money damages, class members would need to proceed individually to prove any claims for money damages.

The Companies have denied all allegations. They have filed motions asking the Court to dismiss this case on the merits. If those motions are granted, it may extinguish any claims you have related to this matter. Copies of the motions are available at www.KansasHotFuelLitigation.com. When the Court enters orders ruling on the Companies' motions, copies of the orders will also be available on the website.

You should continue to visit the Kansas class website (www.KansasHotFuelLitigation.com) to obtain important updates related to this case.

ARE YOU AFFECTED? Your rights will be affected if you are a member of the class and you do not opt out of the class. The class includes all current Kansas residents and entities that at any time since December 31, 2003, purchased motor fuel at retail in the state of Kansas, from a gas station owned, operated, or controlled by one or more of the Companies, without the temperature of the motor fuel having been disclosed by the Companies. Excluded from the class are federal judges who have presided over the case, persons employed by the Companies, affiliates of the Companies, any juror or alternate assigned to the trial of this case, and individuals and entities who timely and validly request exclusion from the class. If you are not sure whether you are included in the class, you can get more information, including a detailed notice that has more information at www.KansasHotFuelLitigation.com. More information

about this case is also available at the Court's website: <http://www.ksd.uscourts.gov/motor-fuel-temperature-sales-practices-litigation/>.

WHO REPRESENTS YOU? The Court appointed Robert Horn, Thomas Bender and George Barton to represent you as "Class Counsel." You do not have to pay Class Counsel, or anyone else, to participate. Instead, if they get money or benefits for the class, they may ask the Court to award attorneys' fees and costs, which would be paid by the Companies or out of any money recovered under a settlement, before giving the rest to class members. You may hire your own attorney to appear in Court for you; if you do, you have to pay that lawyer. Zach Wilson and Matthew Cook are class members, and the Court has appointed them to represent the class.

WHAT ARE YOUR OPTIONS? If you are a member of the class, you have a choice of whether to stay in the class or not, and you must decide this now. You can do nothing and remain in the class, or you can ask to be excluded from the class.

Do Nothing; Stay In This Lawsuit; Await The Outcome; Give Up The Right To Sue For Claims You May Have. If you want to remain a class member, you do not need to do anything at this time. You automatically will be included in the class. If you choose to remain in the certified class, you will be bound by the judgment obtained on the liability and injunctive relief aspects of the claims. If plaintiffs prove that the Companies are liable, you may use that judgment either as a member of the class (if the Court decides to certify a class on money damages) or individually to prove certain elements of a claim for money damages. In addition, if you choose to remain in the certified class, you will be entitled to your share of any benefits awarded to the class through any settlement approved by the Court (net of attorneys' fees and expenses which may be determined by the Court to be payable from any recovery or paid directly by one or more of the Companies). You will not be personally responsible for attorneys' fees or costs unless you hire your own individual attorney. Instead, if you are excluded and the Companies win or settle the lawsuit, you will lose your claims covered by this lawsuit. In short, you give up the right to sue the Companies on your own for the same legal claims in this lawsuit. If you want to independently pursue any claim related to the issues in this lawsuit, you may need to opt out of the class action.

Ask To Be Excluded; Get Out Of This Lawsuit; Keep Your Right To Sue For Claims You May Have. If you ask to be excluded and plaintiffs prove that the Companies are liable, you will not be able to use the judgment to obtain money damages through a class action lawsuit or individually. Also, if you ask to be excluded and plaintiffs obtain a favorable settlement which the Court approves, you will not be able to ask for a share of the settlement. Similarly, if you ask to be excluded and the Companies win or settle the lawsuit, your claims will not be lost as a result of this lawsuit and you will not be bound by any judgments or orders of the Court. You will be able to sue the Companies for the same legal claims that are involved in this lawsuit. It is possible that if you ask to be excluded and do not sue the Companies on your own within the required legal time period you will lose your right to bring those claims.

To exclude yourself, you must submit a Request for Exclusion which includes your full name (and business name, if applicable), mailing address, email address, your signature (or an electronic signature consisting of "/s/ plus your typed name), and the following statement: "I request that I be excluded from the Kansas Class *In re Motor Fuel Temperature Sales Practices Litigation*, MDL Docket No. 1840." You must email or mail your exclusion request to Class Counsel no later than April 30, 2012, at: Kansas Class Opt Out, c/o Robert A. Horn, 2600 Grand, Ste. 1100, Kansas City, Missouri 64108; or KansasHotFuelLitigation@hab-law.com.

HOW CAN YOU GET MORE INFORMATION? If you have questions or want a detailed notice or other documents about this lawsuit and your rights, visit www.KansasHotFuelLitigation.com.