

Three riders place first in two-day show

The Colby Community College Equestrian Team competed in a two-day show at the Colorado College equestrian center in Fountain.

"I was incredibly proud of how everyone rode," said Assistant Coach Elizabeth Kinnally. "It was a great way to end the year. They just keep getting better and better." "Even when they drew a horse that was challenging, the way they handled it and maintained their position was incredibly improved from the beginning of the year. I am lucky to have been hired to help coach this talented group, and I am incredibly excited for post-season showing and next year."

Three Colby riders took first place in their event. Brittany Normand, Fort Scott, qualified for regionals on the flat and was high point rider the first day. Chelsea Brady, Parker, Colo., was reserve high point rider during day one.

The second day, the team earned reserve high point and Brady qualified for regionals on the flat.

Individual results of the show Feb. 25-26:

Equestrian Team, Day 1
Intermediate Over Fences
Brady, first.

Novice Over Fences
Normand, first; Heather Darling, Abilene, third; William Wright, Louisburg, fifth.

Open Flat
Brady, second.

Intermediate Flat
Darling, sixth.

Novice Flat
Savannah Isely, Bird City, first; Normand, second; Faye Miller, Topeka, fifth.

Advanced Walk, Trot, Canter
Amanda Barnum, Colby, third.

Beginner Walk, Trot, Canter
Tayla Kimball, Medicine Lodge, second; Amanda Reed, Brookville, fifth.

Equestrian Team, Day 2
Intermediate Over Fences
Brady, second.

Novice Over Fences
Normand, third; Darling, fourth; Miller, fifth.

Open Flat
Brady, second.

Intermediate Flat
Normand, second.

Novice Flat
Isely, second; Mariah Woolsoncroft, Salina, fifth.

Advanced Walk, Trot, Canter
Barnum, first.

Beginner Walk, Trot, Canter
Kimball, fourth.

The team traveled to Boulder, Colo., for regional competition at the University of Colorado on Feb. 27.

"All of the women rode very well," said Kinnally. "The Advanced Walk Trot Canter class was especially challenging, with eight riders all at the top of their game. It was a close call. Brady and Isely will continue on to Zones at Stanford on April 7 and 8."

Individual results:

Open Flat
Brady, second.

Novice Flat
Normand, third.

Advanced Walk Trot Canter
Isely, second; Woolsoncroft, fifth.

Head coach for the team is Shanda Mattix. In addition to coaching the team, she directs the horse production program.

Mattix serves on the Kansas Horse Council board as Region 1 director. She also is chair of EquiFest of Kansas, a state-certified horse show judge and a 4-H horse volunteer.

As a student, she was a member of the equestrian team, the Kansas State University women's varsity equestrian team and the 2005 K-State horse judging team. As a college equestrian, she was a regional qualifier all four years.

Kinnally attended the University of Wyoming in Laramie and Laramie County Community College in Cheyenne, where she majored in math education.

A native of New Jersey, she has been involved in intercollegiate horse show competition for eight years.

Lady Bulldogs win game in Healy 54-13

By Morgan Walz
Golden Plains High School

After getting postponed, the Golden Plains High School girls basketball team traveled to Healy to play the Lady Eagles.

The girls started off tough Feb. 20, ending the first half 30-7. The girls' tough defense and continuous scoring resulted in having a comfortable lead of 46-10 by the third quarter.

The girls played hard for the remainder of the game, ending it

with a final score of 54-13. The Lady Bulldogs now have a winning record of 10-9.

Angela Ritter was the lead scorer of the game with 18 points, Jordan Christensen closely followed with 12 points. Hailee Spresser, Kylie Jones and Taylor Todd each had 6 points, Mikayla Lobato 4 and Brooke Wark 2.

"I am so proud of how far we have come," junior Angela Ritter said about the season so far. "We have won five of the last six games."

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GOLDEN PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL

Golden Plains High School boys basketball player Cole Christensen went up for two against Northern Valley in his last game on the home floor in Rexford. Christensen, who has been a

stat leader for the Bulldogs all season, has been selected to play in the Sunflower Shootout and Northwest Kansas All-Star games.

Senior Golden Plains player chosen to play in all-star games

By Judy Rogers
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Golden Plains High School senior Cole Christensen has been selected to play in two upcoming All-Star Basketball games.

The first game will be Saturday, March 17, in Smith Center. He has been selected to play in the Sunflower Shootout with game tip off at 7 p.m.

Christensen has also been selected to play in the Northwest Kansas All-Star game on

Sunday, April 1, in Colby at the Colby Community Building. Game time has not yet been determined.

"I look forward to playing with this talented group of players," Christensen said. "Many of them I've competed with throughout high school. It should be a lot of fun."

Christensen, who was a member of the state-qualifying basketball team last year, has worked hard for the Bulldogs all year during his senior season.

He scored 310 points for the Bulldogs this year for an average of 14.8 points per game.

His highest scoring game for the season and his career was 32 points against Sharon Springs in the Bulldogs' final game.

In addition to his scoring prowess, he has been successful underneath the basket with a total of 259 rebounds and contributed on the floor with over 70 blocked shots and 24 steals.

Following the all-star games, Christensen plans to conclude his high school athletic career by competing in high jump during track season.

Kansas, Missouri keep Big 12 title hopes alive

By Dave Skretta
AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Kansas coach Bill Self would love nothing more than to reprise two epic regular-season games against bitter rival Missouri this weekend. The reason is quite simple.

"That means we win tomorrow," he said. "We got our hands full big-time tomorrow."

The third-ranked Jayhawks cruised into the semifinals of the Big 12 tournament with an 83-66 victory over Texas A&M on Thursday, while the fifth-ranked Tigers coasted into the semifinals in their half of the bracket with an equally easy 88-70 win over Oklahoma State.

But before Kansas can focus on another match-up with Missouri,

Thomas Robinson and Co. have to deal with No. 12 Baylor, which got a career-best 31 points from Perry Jones III in an 82-74 win over Kansas State that was never really as close as the final score indicated.

Missouri will have to find a way past Texas, which needed a 22-4 run in the second half to dispatch No. 25 Iowa State 71-65 in Thursday's nightcap. J'Covan Brown finished with 23 points for the Longhorns, converting the go-ahead three-point play in the closing seconds.

Provided both teams win, though, Missouri and Kansas would make for a tantalizing finale.

The Jayhawks squandered a big lead in the closing minutes when the teams met in Columbia,

and Missouri returned the favor by blowing a 19-point lead in an overtime loss in Lawrence.

With Missouri heading to the SEC next season and officials from Kansas have been saying they have no intention of playing the Tigers out of conference, that was the final scheduled regular-season match-up between two teams that have played for more than 100 years. There's still simmering anger that Missouri nearly torpedoed the Big 12 with its decision to leave.

The fire was fanned even more this week when Self proclaimed that Kansas City, which lies on Interstate 70 between the two campuses, is more of a "Kansas town" than a "Missouri town."

Yes, lines have certainly been drawn, and one of them goes right

through the Sprint Center. Assuming, of course, Kansas and Missouri take care of business Friday night.

The Bears looked dominant against Kansas State, which had surged into the Big 12 tournament having won four of its last five games.

The Longhorns may have needed to knock off the Cyclones in the quarterfinals to get into the NCAA tournament, and things looked dire when they fell behind by 11 in the second half. But a 22-4 spurt turned the game around, and Brown delivered in the closing minutes.

At the very least, they earned a spot in the Big 12 tournament semifinals.

Right along with the Jayhawks, Bears and Tigers.

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