

Golden Plains girls advance in substate

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In the first round of the substate basketball tournament, the Golden Plains High School varsity girls entered with a No. 4 seed and played the No. 5 Brewster-Triplains Lady Titans on their home floor in Rexford.

The hometown Lady Bulldogs allowed the Lady Titans the first points of the game Feb. 28, but quickly took control of the floor and powered through to a 14-7 lead by the end of the first quarter, with all the girls on the floor contributing.

The Bulldogs extended their lead in the second quarter to 25-14 with 9 of the second-quarter points coming from sophomore Hailee Spreser.

Sophomore Kylie Jones dominated the third quarter with 8 points, along with a strong showing from junior Angela Ritter and sophomore Jordan Christensen, who chipped in to help the Lady "Dogs maintain a 39-27 lead going into the fourth.

The Lady Titans were not about to give in easily, as they continued to play hard and added another 13 to their final score, but the Lady Bulldogs distributed

the ball well, made good on their free throws and finished the game with a 55-40 win.

The girls only missed two free throws for this game, making 9 of 11 attempts – four in the final quarter. Spreser finished with 14 points, Ritter had 12, Jones 12, Christensen 7, Juenemann 6 and Paulita Ramirez 4.

Christensen led the team underneath the boards as she pulled down 11 rebounds along with 10 grabbed by Spreser.

Other rebounds were claimed by Jones 6, Ritter 4, Ramirez 3, MiKayla Lobato 2 and Juenemann 1. Lobato pulled away 2 steals with Juenemann, Ramirez and Christensen each grabbing 1.

Christensen distributed the ball for 8 assists while Ritter had 7 and Spreser 1. The girls also controlled the ball well, only having 16 turnovers.

"It was exciting to begin the first round of substate this well," Hailee Spreser said. "Determination and controlling our turnovers helped us to win this game. Also, the crowd was amazing. They never gave up on us and encouraged us throughout the game."

This victory allowed the girls to advance to the semifinal round, where they would challenge the Greeley County Lady Jackrabbits.



JUDY ROGERS/Golden Plains High School
Jordan Christensen brought the ball up the floor with determination in the Class 1A substate basketball tournament. The Golden Plains girls won the first round to advance to the semifinals.

Varsity girls end season 13-7

By Kayla Cornett
Colby Free Press
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The Colby High School varsity girls basketball team had a successful season this winter, highlighted by the Lady Eagles winning the Great West Activities Conference league championship.

The girls had an 8-1 league record, with their only loss coming against Holcomb, the second-place team. They also played well in the annual Orange and Black Classic, taking third place in the home tournament.

Coach Parker McKee said it took a little time at the beginning of the season for the girls to get used to varsity play, but they caught up quickly.

"We started off the season 1-3, which was a sign of our lack of varsity experience," McKee said. "However, we were able to win 9 of our next 10. I felt that we played our best basketball during the month of

January." In those nine games, the girls beat all five of the league teams along with Thomas More Prep-Marian from Hays and Liberal.

The Lady Eagles didn't get far in the postseason, however, losing in the first round of the substate tournament to Haven.

The varsity ended its season with an overall record of 13-7.

The team will lose two starters for next year, seniors Morgan Bell and Brenna McKee.

"They were both consistent throughout the season," McKee said.

Other seniors include Paige Roopchan, Marie Lorent and Claudia Huerta. Andrea Leija was the team's senior manager.

Bell still has a basketball game to play, though, as she was chosen for the second annual Sunflower Shootout all-star basketball game Saturday at the Smith Center High School gym. Bell will be the sole representative for Colby High in the game.

Tough-tested Kansas Jayhawks ready for national tournament

By Dave Skretta
AP Sports Writer

LAWRENCE – Kansas coach Bill Self would've had trouble stacking his team's schedule any tougher.

The Jayhawks challenged Kentucky, the No. 1 overall seed in the NCAA tournament, in their second game of the year. They played Georgetown and Duke in the Maui Invitational, and decided to invite Ohio State to storied Allen Fieldhouse for an early December showdown.

All of that before they even got to the Big 12 portion of their schedule, and two games each against Missouri, Baylor and Iowa State.

There was a purpose to the madness, and that purpose is now.

Perhaps no other team in the NCAA tournament is as tested as the No. 2 seed Jayhawks, who open pursuit of a sixth national championship against No. 15 seed Detroit on Friday in Omaha, Neb.

"It was a monster schedule for us," Self conceded. "I think that

was very good for us in Big 12 play, because I don't think we go 16-2 if we hadn't lost some games to a really tough schedule in the nonconference."

Yes, the Jayhawks certainly took their lumps.

They lost 75-65 to Kentucky in Madison Square Garden. They fell to the Blue Devils, 68-61, in a thrilling tournament title game in Hawaii. They even lost to Davidson on a neutral floor.

The Jayhawks had the toughest strength of schedule at one point this season. The most recent ranking released Monday had them tied with Wisconsin for fifth, trailing only Michigan State, Ohio State and Michigan from the Big Ten and conference foe Baylor.

Kansas has faced no fewer than a dozen teams that made the NCAA tournament field, including three of the No. 2 seeds and two of the No. 3 seeds.

Among the others are No. 12 seeds Long Beach State and South Florida, which the Jayhawks trounced 72-40 early in the season.

The average seeding of the 12 opponents who made the NCAA tournament? Roughly 6.4.

Pretty stout stuff.

"We're always going to put pressure on ourselves, and if we put the pressure on ourselves to be the best that we can be, then we have a pretty good chance of winning," Taylor said.

It's not just this season that has put the Jayhawks through the ringer.

In an era of one-and-done players, Kansas is the rare superpower that has managed to build over the course of several seasons, turning raw talent into an intimidating juggernaut.

Leading scorer Thomas Robinson, one of the favorites for national player of the year, is a junior who spent last season mostly riding the bench. Taylor is a four-year starter, and fellow starters Elijah Johnson, Travis Releford and Jeff Withey are all juniors.

Then there's Connor Teahan, who may have more experience than anybody in the tournament.

The first guy off the bench for the Jayhawks is a fifth-year senior who took the strange route of red-shirting before his senior season. That means he's the only player remaining from the 2008 team that beat Memphis in overtime for the national championship.

Two Trojans chosen for conference teams

Colby Community College men's basketball player Jamie Adams, Chicago, has been named to the All-Conference Second Team in the Western Division of the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference.

Carson Konrade, a 6'3" sophomore from Spearville, received honorable mention for the All-Conference Team.

Players were nominated by their coaches and then voted on by opposing coaches. Coaches couldn't vote for their own players.

Coach of the Year for 2011-12 is Bryan Zollinger of Seward County Community College. The

Most Valuable Player is Deverell Biggs of Seward County.

First-Team selections were Deverell Biggs, Seward; Algie Key, Barton County; Anthony Thomas, Hutchinson; and Devon Branch and Richard Carter, Cloud County.

Second Team: Adams; R.J. McGhee and Tyshon Pickett, Dodge City; Chauncy Williams, Garden City; and Dwayne Brunson, Barton County.

Honorable Mention went to Konrade; Irvin Hollinger and Daveon Boardingham, Seward County; Bryton Hobbs, Pratt; and Alex Davis, Hutchinson.

Runners needed for Spring Fling 5K next week

The Colby Recreation Department plans several events in March.

It's not too late to sign up for the Spring Fling 5K and Youth Mile Run next Thursday.

Recreation Director Stacy Lee said the department was short on runners at the deadline last week, so she is going to wait to order T-shirts until after the race.

"I have had several sign up late, so I am going to postpone the order," Lee said. "We will also have a youth mile run prior to the 5K next week for ages 12 and under."

The Spring Break Bash will take place from 10 to 11:45 a.m. on Wednesday for kids 4 to 12. Join the department staff for a morning of spring crafts and games. Cost is \$10 per child. Please sign up by Friday.

A Baby and Me swim class for adults and infants will start Tuesday, March 27, at the Colby Community College pool.

Cost is \$45 for seven weeks. The class will be taught by Samantha Miller. Register by Friday, March 23, Lee said, as the department needs at least five participants to hold the class.

The second annual 3-on-3 Youth Basketball Tournament will be Saturday, March 31, at the Colby Grade School gym.

There will be girls and boys divisions for grades 3 and 4, 5 and 6

and 7 and 8. Teams must register by Friday, March 23.

This is a fund raising tournament for summer sports equipment, Lee said.

A women's basketball league with games played on Tuesdays evenings will run through April. Deadline to register a team is Wednesday, March 28.

To register for department events, call Lee or Mary McLaughlin at 460-4440.

Golden Plains, Triplains-Brewster players chosen for all-league

Seven area players were chosen for the Western Kansas Liberty League 2012 All-League Basketball teams.

Senior Cole Christensen, sophomore Jordan Christensen and sophomore Kylie Jones are representing Golden Plains High School on

the boys and girls all-league teams.

Junior Michael Schmidt, senior Kasey Hoyt, sophomore Brittany Plummer and freshman Shayna Rogge were chosen from the Triplains-Brewster boys and girls teams.

Receiving honorable mention was sopho-

more Hailee Spreser of Golden Plains.

The other teams that had players on the teams included Cheylin, Dighton, Greeley County, Healy, Wallace County, Weskan and Wheatland-Grinnell.

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