

Bulldog signs with college

By Judy Rogers
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Golden Plains High School senior Kalyn Weber has signed a letter of intent to play football at Garden City Community College for the fall 2012 season.

During his senior season, Weber rushed for 1,830 yards and scored 25 touchdowns. He was named to the Western Kansas Liberty League All-League First Team as a running back, and to the second team as a defensive back and kick returner. He was named as First Team All-State running back and linebacker by Kpreps.com.

He also received All-State honorable mention from the *Topeka Capital Journal* as a running back, and as a running back and as a linebacker from the *Wichita Eagle*. He was named to the all-area first team by the *Hays Daily News* and has been selected to play in the Eight Man All-Star game this summer.

As a junior, Weber was the second-team running back in the Western Kansas Liberty League,

first team all-district back for Kpreps.com and all-state honorable mention running back for the *Topeka Capital Journal*.

"It's a great accomplishment for Kalyn to continue his playing career at Garden City," said Coach Travis Smith. "What all these former players have had in common is work ethic. They were driven to be the best. They all worked extremely hard in the weight room and they were always out for track. Rarely did any of these guys miss a day of summer weights."

Weber, who played the past three years at Golden Plains, joins 2011 graduates Rilee Spresser and Devinn Ritter on the Bronbuster squad. He is the sixth Bulldog to sign with Garden City in recent years, along with Alan Brugge-man and Brett Spresser in 2007 and Dan Rogers in 2008.

Other Golden Plains alumni who have played college football include Lee Albers, who played at Butler County in 2002; Brandon Offutt, who played in Hutchinson in 2002; and Mike Miller, who played at Fort Hays State University in 1986.



Golden Plains High School senior Kalyn Weber signed a letter of intent to play football at Garden City Community College this fall. He is joined by his guardian, Vicki Wark, and Coaches Travis

Smith and Travis Betz. Weber, who received numerous honors this season, is the sixth Golden Plains athlete to sign with the Garden City football program in recent years.

Kansas Jayhawks headed to Final Four with 80-67 win

By R.B. Fallstrom
AP Sports Writer

ST. LOUIS – Tyshawn Taylor has yet to hit a 3-pointer in the NCAA tournament. Something about playing in domes, perhaps.

The Kansas guard did more than enough without the long-range touch that he can laugh about that 0-for-17 drought. The Jayhawks are in the Final Four, bound for the Superdome in New Orleans.

"I don't like domes. But you know what, domes love me," Taylor said after second-seeded Kansas made all the plays late in an 80-67 victory over top-seeded North Carolina in the Midwest Regional final on Sunday. "Because we won, you know."

"Is New Orleans a dome, too?" Kansas (31-6), which picked up steam after a 7-3 start, will play Ohio State on Saturday in its first Final Four appearance since winning the 2008 national championship. No matter that oddsmakers have made them the third choice.

"I don't know if I ever enjoyed coaching a team more than this one," coach Bill Self said. "I love them. We fight, it's combative sometimes, all those things."

"But I love coaching these guys." Taylor scored 22 points despite going 0-for-5 from 3-point range, and was all over the score sheet in the last 4 minutes with a three-point play, a steal, two rebounds and an assist on a 3-pointer.

Playing with four fouls, Jeff Withey had two blocked shots in the final 2 minutes to keep the Tar Heels down.

"I knew I had to be aggressive still. If I fouled out, I fouled out," Withey said.

Kansas finished the game on a 12-0 run, holding North Carolina (32-6) without a basket in the final 5:46.

The clock was still ticking when Self and North Carolina's Roy Williams met for the obligatory handshake.

Right after the buzzer, Travis Releford flung his sweatbands into the stands.

"We did it," forward Thomas Robinson said.

"We took another step. We took what we had, we worked hard and it paid off. For us to make it this year, with a team nobody thought we

could do it with, it's great."

After prevailing in just the 10th meeting against North Carolina, Kansas advances to play another power it has seldom seen.

This will be just the ninth matchup between Ohio State and Kansas, although it's the second time this season after the Jayhawks' 78-67 victory at home on Dec. 10.

"The last time we played them they had their best player on the bench and it was a home game, so it's definitely their chance to get back at us," Taylor said. "But we feel like we didn't play our best that game, either."

Kansas was No. 13 and Ohio State was No. 2, but missing Jared Sullinger due to injury, in that game.

Self said he didn't watch much of Ohio State's victory over Syracuse on Saturday night because he was catching up on sleep he didn't get prior to the Midwest semifinals.

"We're just fortunate and happy about playing," Self said. "I'm not going to think about Ohio State until probably tomorrow. I'm going to try to enjoy this."

Whatever happens, he'll enjoy the Final Four, too.

"You know what, if you get this far, you're going to play a great team no matter what," Self said. "And they get a chance to play a pretty good team, too."

"It should be a lot of fun."

All five Kansas starters scored in double figures. Player of the year candidate Thomas Robinson had 18 points and nine rebounds, Elijah Johnson had 10 points with a key 3-pointer in the finishing run.

Reserve James Michael McAdoo had 15 points in 19 minutes with a pair of steals that led to two-hand dunks for North Carolina.

Tyler Zeller had 12 points, six rebounds and four blocks in his final game and John Henson, who averages a double-double, had 10 points but just four rebounds while hampered by a sprained right ankle he had taped during the first half.

Harrison Barnes had 13 points, but just five in the second half, and also had three turnovers.

Barnes was the last of the North Carolina starters to meet with reporters in a somber locker room, slumped for several minutes in

his stall with a towel draped over his head.

"We had an opportunity to win that game and we didn't come through," Barnes said. "I missed a lot of shots I usually make. Big-time players come through in big-time games, and it just wasn't there tonight."

Williams faced Kansas for just the second time since leaving the school he coached for 15 seasons.

He's been at North Carolina for nine years and yet the scars linger with one fan holding a sign that said, "Roy Down, 2 to Go."

North Carolina missed star point guard Kendall Marshall, out for the second straight game with a broken right wrist.

Marshall ruled himself out before the game because he couldn't catch a pass, and said after the game that if the Tar Heels had made it to the Final Four he would have been ready.

"It was my decision," Marshall said. "I think I would have hurt my team more than helped them."

Stilman White had seven assists Sunday for a two-game total of 13 with no turnovers in place of Marshall, who counseled the freshman during timeouts from the bench.

But White couldn't come through late when Kansas switched to a zone that sagged on the inside and dared him to shoot.

"We switched into a zone and it gave them a huge problem," Withey said. "Coach Self knows what he's doing."

The ploy seemed to confuse North Carolina.

"They switched it up on us and we couldn't figure it out. I'm still trying to figure it out," Henson said. "That's why we're sitting here now."

The schools traded baskets in an entertaining, high-octane first half that had it deadlocked at 47. North Carolina shot 64 percent and Kansas was at 56 percent, and there were only nine turnovers total.

Baskets were hard to come by the rest of the way. Kansas shot 35.5 percent but North Carolina was an abysmal 23 percent in the second half.

"We knew we had to tighten up on defense. We shut them down," Robinson said. "It feels great right now. Call me tomorrow morning and I can tell you how it feels then."

All-star games set for Sunday

Two Colby High players, Morgan Bell and Dalaan Organ, have been named to the rosters for the 19th annual Northwest Kansas All-Star Basketball Classic sponsored by Colby Community College.

Cole Christensen of Golden Plains High School also made the men's team and Kasey Hoyt of Brewster the women's team.

The games, featuring high school seniors from around northwest Kansas, will be played Sunday in the Colby Community Building. The women's game will tip-off at 5 p.m., with the men's game to follow at 7 p.m.

Following is a list of players who will be participating in the event.

Women's Team No. 1: Mackenzie Mense and Shelby Heim, Hoxie High School; Caley Greving, Logan; Mackenzie Weiser and Brooke Hemmert, Oakley; Jori Mote and Kellie Young, Weskan; Tangie Hileman, Smith Center; Haley Dinkel, Hill City; Hannah Dietz and Haley Dietz, Trego Community High.

Women's Team No. 2: Bell; Kaitlynn Walker, Russell; Kay-

len Rath and Carrie Pilkington, Oakley; Kelci Crittenden, Greeley County (Tribune); Lexi Riedel, Trego (WaKeeney); Hayley Pletcher and Hallie Kuhlman, Wallace County (Sharon Springs); Hillary Chvatal, Rawlins County (Atwood); Katren Cramer, Dighton High School.

Men's Team No. 1: Kylan Bennett and Darrick York, Healy; James Black-Persinger, Hugoton; Drew Clarke, Ness City; Corey Dunlap, Natoma; Luke Friess, Hoxie; Austin Herman, Thunder Ridge; Ty Kaiser, Wheatland-Grinnell; Damian Kogl, Rawlins County; Organ; Isaac Schiltz, St. Francis; Jake Stoppel, Wilson.

Men's Team No. 2: Will Bixenman, Wheatland-Grinnell; Corey Dinkel, Victoria; Cody Frederick, Hugoton; Guy Fullmer, Dighton; Ryan Hillmer, Goodland; Garrett Kissell and Kyle Zerr, Ulysses; Jaxsen Moss, Hoxie; Jordan Wahlmeier, Norton; Ethan Young, Cheylin; Saeger Grafel, Decatur Community High (Oberlin).

For information, call Athletic Director Ryan Sturdy at 460-5548.

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