



DICK BOYD/Norton Telegram

Tayte Query teed off at the Norton Golf Invitational last year for the Colby High boys golf team at the Prairie Dog Golf Course in Norton. Query and four other seniors graduated last spring.

# Colby golfers prepare for new season

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The Colby High boys golf season begins in April and the Eagles have some work to do to get ready for their first tournament.

The boys have only been practicing for a week, said Coach Matt Sims, partly due to snow on the ground earlier this month.

He said he has a young team this year after losing five seniors to graduation: Paul Schiferl, Konnor Kriss, Michael Tubbs, Trevor Strutt and Tayte Query.

The team has 19 golfers this season, 10 freshman, six sophomores, two juniors and only one senior.

"We are very young and inexperienced this season," Sims said. "We have two returning varsity golfers in David Browne and Ian Koerporich."

The Eagles had some success

last year, finishing in second place at the Norton and Atwood tournaments. They took third in the Great West Activities Conference tournament with a score of 327, their best of the year. However, Schiferl was the only Colby golfer to qualify for the state tournament.

However, Sims said this year's team has been working hard and he believes there will be a lot of improvement throughout the spring.

"This group is full of a lot of guys who work hard to get better," he said. "They stay after practice and play extra, which always will help them improve. Even though we are young, I feel we will see lots of improvement over the course of the season."

The first varsity tournament will be Tuesday, April 9, in Goodland. The junior varsity will begin play Tuesday, April 16, also in Goodland. The team will have its home tournament on Thursday, May 2.

# Girls' teamwork brings success

By Judy Rogers  
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The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs have had great year, ending up with third place at the state Class 1A tournament.

Last fall, the volleyball team showed considerable improvement on the floor, as the girls improved on last year's record to finish 23-15. They fell short in the substate tournament, but they had several players receive post-season honors. The girls had as their motto, "One team, one goal, one heart, one soul." Part of their success included the bonds they formed as teammates and as friends.

The girls' teamwork continued into the basketball season with the motto "A team above all, above all a team."

The girls won their first game over Western Plains and defeated Rawlins County before losing to Ellis and Wheatland-Grinnell in the Castle Rock tournament.

They regrouped and went on an 18-game winning streak as they claimed the Western Kansas Liberty League championship, the substate tournament and finished third at state earlier this month.

"We worked hard and worked well as a team all season," said junior Jordan Christensen. "We also felt the support of our school 'team' throughout the season and the post-season. The energy and enthusiasm of our crowd helped us keep our momentum going on the floor."

The girls faced challenges along the way. "Our biggest challenge," said Coach Parker Christensen, "was gaining confidence in ourselves. Four losing seasons in a row can be a deep rut to pull yourself out of."

Another challenge the team faced was

dealing with the same team several times. After losing to the Lady Thunderhawks from Wheatland-Grinnell in December, the Lady Bulldogs had to face them twice more, defeating them by 16 in January but just slipping past them by 2 in February.

They also faced the Brewster-Triplains Lady Titans three times, winning the third time in the substate finals to earn their trip to state.

The girls' only senior, Angela Ritter, said that one of the team's challenges at the beginning of the season was "not coming out strong right away to start the game, which sometimes led to close games or us having to play catch up for our mistakes."

"As the season progressed, I think we gained more confidence as a whole, knew what we were capable of and began to go out with a bang from the very start of the tip off."

This year's 22-3 record was the best for a Golden Plains High School basketball team since the girls' 24-1 season in 1981, the boys' 26-0 state championship season in 1985 and a 23-4 season in 2006. The girls' strength and teamwork both on and off the court contributed to this success.

"I think defense and rebounding were two areas where we were able to excel at along with being able to play fast or slow on offense," said Coach Christensen. "Also, how well we were able to hang together as a team all season long is rewarding to me as a coach."

Junior Hailee Spresser added, "We were very consistent and we kept getting better throughout the season. We had an awesome bench that we could rely on to step up and play. All 18 girls on the team were a part of the team's unity."

"I think our main strength was defense and our ability to rely on our teammates,"

Kylie Jones agreed. "Unlike most teams, our team is unique in the fact that we don't have a couple of 'all-stars' with the other players just filling the spots. We have a full team of athletes, and when one person was having an off game, the rest picked up the slack."

As the girls rest up and prepare to work together into the track season, they also look forward to next year's basketball season. The team will be returning all players except Ritter.

Several of the players have set personal and team goals for next season.

"My personal goal for next year is to step up and follow in Angela's footsteps as an awesome team leader," said Spresser. (Ritter finished her senior season with 244 points, 111 assists and 25 steals for the Lady Bulldogs.) "Our team goals are to make it to state and go all the way."

Kami Miller said her goal is to "Be as good of a point guard as Angela. I would like to replace her without skipping a beat."

"We often talk to the girls about getting better as a player and as a team takes time and hard work," Coach Christensen said. "There are steps you have to go through and you can't skip the steps. This is what happened this season. We made it to state and knocked hard on that championship door."

"Our goal will be to get into that state title game next season and bring home a championship."

"Another goal will be for reserve players to keep improving their talent so we, as a team, can continue our success for many years to come."

"I wish nothing but the best for the girls and team next year," Ritter said. "If they keep up the hard work, I know I'll be making a special trip to Hays to support my Lady Bulldogs!"

# Wichita State upsets Gonzaga

By Lynn DeBruin  
AP Sports Writer

SALT LAKE CITY — The No. 1 got taken down by a bunch of 3s.

Gonzaga is out of the NCAA tournament thanks to Wichita State, a No. 9 seed that made five straight shots from behind the arc Saturday for a 76-70 victory that sent the West Region's top seed — and the nation's No. 1 team during the regular season — back home.

"This is incredible for our team," said freshman guard Ron Baker, who hit four of the Shockers' season-high 14 3-pointers.

Now Wichita State doesn't have to try and emulate fellow mid-major Gonzaga any more.

The Shockers (28-6) one-upped the Zags (32-3) on the NCAA tournament stage, and advanced to the Round of 16 for the first time since 2006. They are headed to Los Angeles to face the winner of Sunday's game between La Salle and Ole Miss.

Gonzaga became the first top seed to be eliminated, giving all the Zags' doubters an I-told-you-so moment. The Zags survived a scare in the second round against Southern but couldn't hold up

against a Shockers team whose motto is "play angry."

Call it the Marshall plan, by 50-year-old Shockers coach Gregg Marshall.

He pulled his team aside after Gonzaga had made its big second-half run to take an eight-point lead.

"You know what I asked them? On Oct. 15, down eight with eight minutes to go, would you take it for the right to go to Los Angeles in the Sweet 16?" Marshall asked. "And they did it from there."

Cleanthony Early and Baker scored 16 points apiece, freshman Fred VanVleet added 13, Carl Hall had 10 and Tekele Cotton eight.

While Baker hasn't been this deep in the tournament before, the Shockers are no stranger to the NCAAs, with Saturday's win evening their record at 10-10. They earned a trip to the Final Four in 1965, the regional finals three times and most recently made it to the Round of 16 in 2006 before losing to George Mason.

Marshall also led Winthrop to seven NCAA tournament appearances during his nine seasons there.

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- 1 out of every 5 homes will experience a break-in or home invasion.
- A home without a security system is 3 times more likely to be burglarized.
- 85% of Police Officials surveyed believe home alarms deter burglary attempts.

1. Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2008 National Crime Report [http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2009/june/ucr\\_stats06109](http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2009/june/ucr_stats06109) 2. <http://tjg.usdaj.gov/content/pub/press/vdhpgr.cfm> 3. FBI, 2008 National Crime Report [http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2009/june/ucr\\_stats06109](http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2009/june/ucr_stats06109) 4. <http://www.beyondidentitytheft.com/home-security-statistics.html>

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