



Golden Plains gets sportsmanship award

By Judy Rogers
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Golden Plains High School received the Kansas High School Activities Association sportsmanship award following the Class 1A Division II state basketball tournament earlier this month.

The association defines sportsmanship behavior characterized by generosity and concern for others. An awareness is expected of the impact of an individual's actions on the behavior of others.

"The excitement of a basketball game can create concerns for fans, students and officials," the association says. "Citizenship/Sportsmanship Rule 52 addresses this challenge by stating: 'Win with character and lose with dignity.'"

Teams in the state tournaments are rated for sportsmanship.

"Schools whose teams did not advance to the semifinal rounds were eligible to receive a certificate if they met the qualifying standards of sportsmanship," the association says. "Schools participating all three days of the tour-

namment were eligible to receive a plaque for their school and medals for cheerleaders.

"A special sportsmanship committee appointed by the association evaluated and rated the cheerleaders, school cheering section, adult and non-high school followers, team and coach of each school."

Golden Plains set a goal of receiving this award prior to the tournament.

"We talked to the student body prior to the state games about the importance of sportsmanship," said Activity Director Travis Smith. "The staff reminded the students that they were representing the entire Golden Plains community, not just themselves."

"We wanted our students to exhibit character that the school and community could be proud of including responsibility, integrity and respect."

The Lady Bulldogs had a tremendous following throughout the season, which was evident in the number of fans attending all three days of the state tournament and those who tuned in online to watch the games.

The cheer squad normally consists of seven cheerleaders. However, with six of the girls playing on the basketball team, the responsibility of leading the crowd fell on senior Morgan Walz. Stepping up to help Morgan were freshmen Kade and Koi Wessel, who shared the job of "Boom Boom," the Bulldog mascot.

"The girls made our job easy, but I couldn't have done it without Kade, Koi, Mrs. Arnberger and the community's help," Walz said. "Our school and community showed great sportsmanship and support throughout the entire tournament. It was a huge honor to receive the sportsmanship award."

Cheer sponsor Ashley Arnberger added, "Morgan did a truly wonderful job. She entered this season knowing that she would be the sole cheerleader during the girls' basketball games, and she bravely and gracefully led the crowd during those games. She exhibited a great deal of leadership and commitment, and I am very proud of her."

The basketball girls expressed their appreciation.

"The success of this season would not have been possible without the support we had from our coaches, teammates, fans, staff and family," said Hailee Spreser. "It is so great to go to a school like Golden Plains because everyone in our community is so supportive of anything we do."

Kylie Jones added, "I would just like to add how much our community support meant to us. State wouldn't have been nearly as meaningful without the support of all our fans."

"I am as proud of our students and fans for earning the sportsmanship award as I am of the girls for placing third in the tournament," said Mary Ellen Welshon, district superintendent.

Baseball team defeats Lamar

With 16 games remaining in Region VI play, the Colby Community College baseball team is currently third in the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference Western Division.

The Trojans, coached by veteran coach Ryan Carter, are currently 9-7 in the region and 19-11 overall. Dodge City Community College and Seward Community College are tied for first with records of 10-6 in the Jayhawk West.

The Trojans added to their wins with a 3-2 victory over Lamar Community College Wednesday in Lamar.

According to Gamechanger.com, Trojan Bert Guzman drove in the go-ahead run to give the Trojans the lead in the seventh inning. With the score tied at 2 in the seventh, Guzman came to the plate and singled, plating Hunter Brown. Guzman was the jumpstart for the offense, reaching base four times. He scored 1 run and

had 1 RBI.

Colby's Matt Breen went 1-4, drove in 1 and scored 1 run. He also homered in the sixth inning.

Pitcher Nick Silva held Lamar hitless over one inning, allowed no earned runs, walked none and struck out 3. Jorge Cruz added to the win for the Trojans, allowing 1 run over two innings. He struck

out 1, walked 1 and gave up 2 hits. Closer Daniel Mackay put away the final three outs to record the save.

The Trojans will be at home today and Saturday against the Garden City Community College BroncoBusters. Game time is 1 p.m. both days.

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