



JAN KATZACKERMAN/Colby Free Press

Golden Plains Junior High School track team members walked from the track where they had been practicing Tuesday. High school spring sports preseason practices have begun. Games and track meets begin next week.

Coach's first year raises hopes

MANHATTAN (AP) — Bob Huggins' first season at Kansas State put the Wildcats back on the national map. And despite the disappointment of being left out of the NCAA tournament, fans already have a lot to look forward to in Huggins' second season.

The Wildcats went 23-12, just two wins shy of the school single-season record, finished fourth in the Big 12 with a 10-6 conference mark and broke a six-year postseason drought by reaching the second round of the NIT.

"We're going to win, man," Huggins said Tuesday night, after a season-ending 70-65 loss to DePaul. "That's what I told you when I came in."

For all of the buzz that surrounded Huggins' first recruiting class, assembled during his year away from the NCAA and its restrictions, the Wildcats' success

rested largely with players left over from Jim Woodriddle's last team.

Freshman forward Bill Walker looked like a star in the making when he joined the team near midseason, but he sustained a season-ending knee injury in just his sixth game. Seven-foot-3 center Jason Bennett's hands proved great for blocking shots.

Center Luis Colon and guard Blake Young, both in the starting mix early on, also saw their roles decrease late in the season.

Even the coach of the team that ended the Wildcats' season noticed what Huggins did with his inherited players.

"What he has done here at the end of the year is truly remarkable," DePaul coach Jerry Wainwright said. "I think they are the most improved team, from day one to the end of the year. Watching their tape early and watching their tape late —

how he has embedded his philosophy in kids that he didn't recruit is a true testament to him."

That's not to say that the returning players had it easy.

"I knew things were going to be different from the moment he walked in the door," senior guard Cartier Martin said.

K-18 Baseball Sign-up

**Sun. March 25th
3:00 p.m.**

Colby Community Building



Jayhawks better than 2004 team?

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Every college basketball coach whose team is still playing this time of year likes his chances.

How much Bill Self likes his Jayhawks could mean trouble for Southern Illinois.

As top-seeded Kansas prepares for Thursday night's NCAA West Regional semifinal against the fourth-seed Salukis, Self said he thinks this year's team is better than the one he took to the round of eight in 2004.

"This is a totally different team," said Self, whose Jayhawks were to leave for San Jose, Calif., Tuesday afternoon. "It's young, it's a little green, a little naive."

Not at all like the squad he inherited in 2003, when Roy Williams left for North Carolina.

That battle-tested team, led by Wayne Simien and Aaron Miles, had been to consecutive Final Fours. It ran roughshod through the tournament's opening weekend, then trounced Alabama-Birmingham in the St. Louis Regional semifinal. An overtime loss to Georgia Tech kept Kansas from a third-straight Final Four.

"It was a talented team," said Self, who has also taken Tulsa and Illinois to regional finals. "I loved coaching that team, and we were a possession away from going to the Final Four that year."

"That team was great," Self said. "This is a better team. Regardless of their age or experience level, this is a better basketball team than that

one."

For one thing, Self likes the way this mix of freshmen, sophomores and juniors plays together. Nobody averages more than 14 points per game, but four score in double figures.

"I love coaching this team because they're so unselfish," Self said.

GOOD LUCK AT STATE

Andrew & Luke

We are proud of you!

Love, Mom, Dad & Anna

GOOD LUCK AT STATE!!

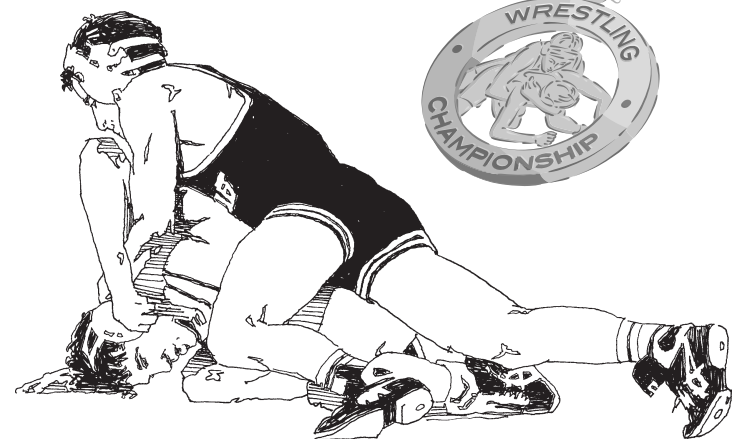


Colby Wrestling Club

31 Wrestlers...

Qualified to go on to State Competition at Topeka, KS

**Saturday & Sunday
March 24 & 25**



Tate Carney	8U/Weight 55	Dalton Snyder	12U/Weight 115	Ethan Stickel	14U/Weight 150
Travis Finley	8U/Weight 67	Zell Bieberle	12U/Weight 150	Nathan Reed	16U/Weight 105
Bryce Arnberger	8U/Weight 88	Devon Schlageck	14U/Weight 80	Brandon Harlow	16U/Weight 110
Lucas Taylor	8U/Weight 88	Chase Harlow	14U/Weight 85	Cody Wark	16U/Weight 115
Brady Slinger	8U/Weight 110	Taylor Moeder	14U/Weight 90	Bryan Brewer	16U/Weight 125
Austin Hart	8U/Weight 110	Michael Tubbs	14U/Weight 90	Heath Stephens	16U/Weight 140
Connor Edmundson	10U/Weight 76	Kale Arnberger	14U/Weight 105	Garrett Zwegardt	16U/Weight 145
Andrew Taylor	10U/Weight 110	Bob Schroeder	14U/Weight 110	Breck Arnberger	16U/Weight 160
Mason Slinger	10U/Weight 170	Torey Taylor	14U/Weight 135	Tanner Kriss	16U/Weight 185
Dustin Reed	12U/Weight 64	Brandon Long	14U/Weight 140		
Konnor Kriss	12U/Weight 88	Andrew Flanagan	14U/Weight 145		

Go get'em boys!!!