

Lady Eagles pair wins state championship

Senior Lindsey Wilson and sophomore Caitlyn Wark became the first players to win a state tennis championship for Colby High School since a singles player won the title in 1981.

"It was a moment of glory for them," Coach Jennifer Rall said. "They worked so hard and really proved they were deserving of the state champion title. I was very proud of them."

It was a fitting way for the dominate duo to end their season. They steamrolled through their competition this year, compiling a 39-2 record. And at the state tournament on Saturday in Lawrence, they had to earn every bit of that championship.

"Caitlyn Wark and Lindsey Wilson kept us all on the edge of our seats all weekend," Rall said.

Wilson and Wark breezed through their first match, hammering a team from Ulysses, 6-2, 6-0.

There second match was not so easy. The DeSoto girls were able to get the better of the tandem, defeating the Colby team 6-3 in the first set. Wilson and Wark were able to recover from this setback and went on to win the next two sets 6-3, 6-4.

The girls faced adversity again in the next match, against Wichita Independent, when they lost their first set 6-2. But once again they were able to regain their composure and win their next two, 6-3, 6-2. This win propelled the team to the finals, where they faced girls from St. James Academy.

After dropping the first set 6-2 once again, the team came back and won a tiebreaker 7-5 to tie the match.

In the third and final game, the



C. Wark and L. Wilson

Lady Eagles came out on top 6-4. "(They) remained mentally and physically tough the entire set," Rall said.

Junior Barbara Bickner won her first-round match at state in two sets, 6-3, 6-4, against Topeka Hayden. She couldn't keep the momentum going, though, and she lost her second match against Independence 7-5, 6-1. After the loss, Bickner moved to the backside of the singles bracket.

The scorekeeping style on the back side of the bracket is different. While the first round is the same as the scoring style used in the front side, the second round play in the backside bracket is scored differently. In the second round, the games are only one set and they are played to nine points.

Athletes become part of the back side bracket after suffering their first loss. This meant Bickner entered the bracket in the second round, because she had been victorious in her first match. Bickner dominated her next match against St. James Academy, 9-0.

She went on to lose her next match against Hesston 9-3 as well as her final match against St. James 9-4.

Bickner finished the season with a record of 27-13 overall in No. 1 singles.

Sophomore Kayla Hockersmith lost her first match against St. James Academy in two sets, 6-0, 6-2. Hockersmith refocused and was able to defeat Wellington in two sets 7-5, 6-1, in the first round of the back bracket.

She dropped her third match to Hesston 9-2. That dropped Hockersmith down in the bracket, and she would have to win her first match on Saturday to play for 9th or tenth place.

She easily won the first match, defeating St. James Academy 9-1. In her last match, Hockersmith lost to Topeka Hayden. That won her the 10th-place medal.

Hockersmith ended up with a record of 33-7 overall in No. 2 singles competition.



Senior Lindsey Wilson and sophomore Caitlyn Wark won the state championship in doubles play on Saturday in Lawrence.

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Anthony solid in win

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) Carmelo Anthony scored 15 points, and the Denver Nuggets beat the Toronto Raptors 105-94 in the first NBA game played in the Alberta capital in nine years. Anthony shot 5-for-9 from the field and grabbed six rebounds in 28:25 before 17,534 fans at Rexall Place.

The last time the NBA played in Edmonton, the Raptors defeated the then-Vancouver — now Memphis — Grizzlies 110-84 in 1999. The Raptors struggled without

center Jermaine O'Neal. The six-time All-Star got into foul trouble early and played just 13:25 before sitting out the second half because of tightness in his back.

He said he'll be ready for practice Friday.

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