

Stars, champion teams emerge in 2009

2009 was a good year for sports in Thomas County, with grand champions, state champions and star players from every school. Here are just a few of the year's highlights:

1In March, the Colby High wrestling team took first place at the Class 4A state tournament. Coach Matt Simms praised his team, saying they were the hardest-working group he had ever coached. The boys had won the regional competition the week before, sending 11 wrestlers to the state meet in Salina.

It was a season with big accomplishments for the seniors. Tanner Kriss and Breck Arnberger both won all their matches during the season and both finished first in their weight classes at state. Treat Bugbee won a decision over the defending champion in his weight, a victory which Simms credits with giving the team the momentum it needed to snare the trophy. Bugbee went on to win second place.

The Eagles also took home awards for coaching. Simms was voted Class 4A Wrestling Coach of the Year and his assistants, Ed Schmitt, Rick Williams and Mike Kersenbrock were all named As-

stant Coaches of the Year. **2**Junior tennis sensation Caitlyn Wark finished her 2009 season undefeated. She didn't lose a single match the entire year, posting a 36-0 record.

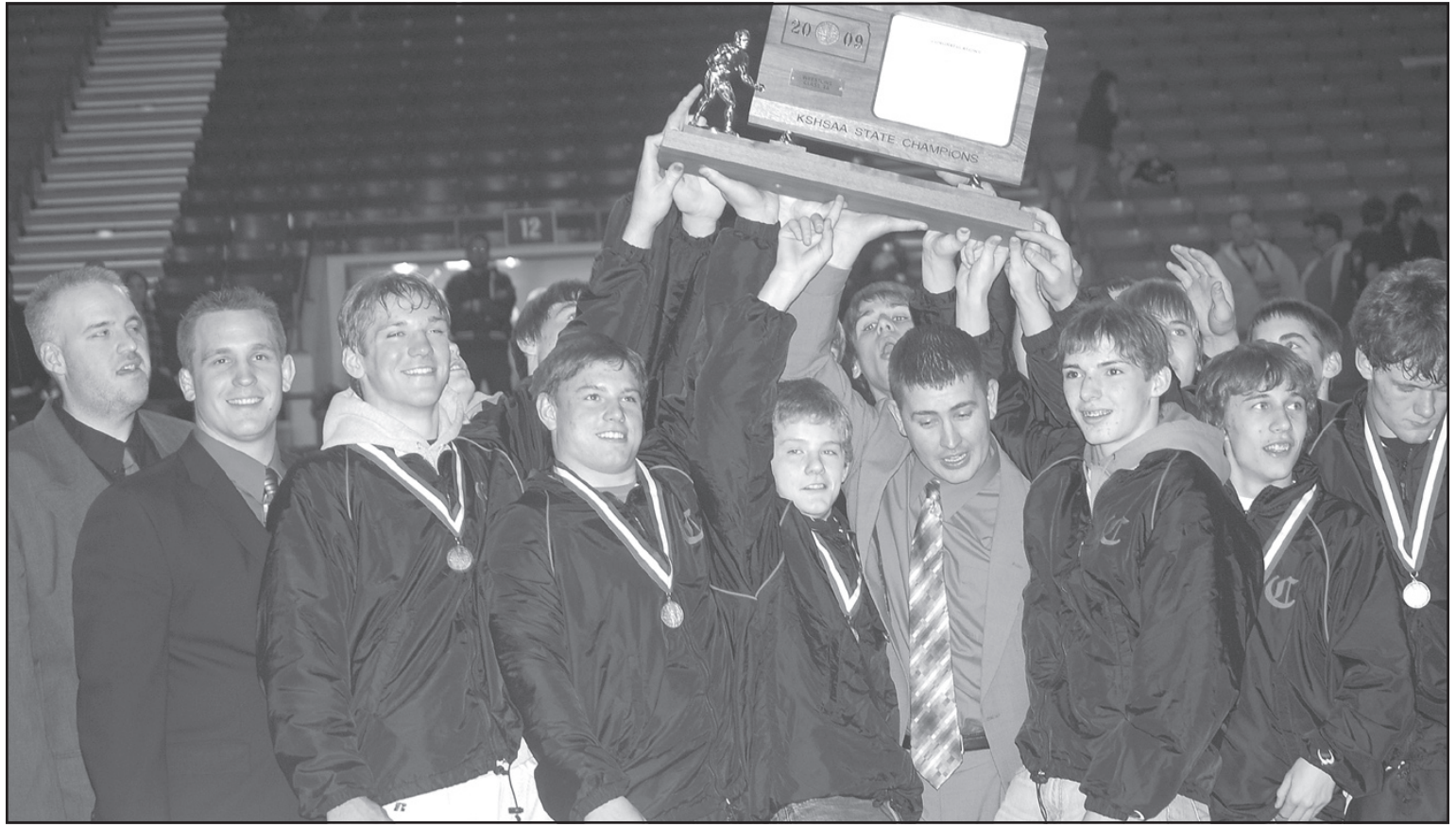
Wark won the 4A state championship in Topeka in October, beating players from Abilene, Hesston, Independence and Topeka Hayden to claim top honors. Even more impressive was that Wark didn't lose a set all year, a streak she continued at the championship.

This was her first year as a Colby singles player. She played doubles in 2008 with senior Lindsey Wilson. The duo was 39-2 and won the state championship, the first for Colby since 1981.

When asked about her winning streak, Wark replied simply, "I hate to lose."

3Another Eagles team nearly took the state championship this year. The Colby High boys did take second place at the 4A state baseball tournament in Salina in June.

The team lost a hard-fought game against Topeka's Hayden to close out an outstanding season. Both teams were scoreless until the top of the fourth, when the Wildcats got a run in on a series



The Colby High School wrestling team crowded around coach Matt Simms to hoist the Class 4A state championship trophy

high above their heads. The team won the state tournament in March, with several wrestlers ending up undefeated.

of sacrifice plays. The Eagles held their opponents to a one-run lead until the sixth, but the Wildcats ended up winning 4-0.

The boys finished the season with a 24-2 record.

Even though they didn't come home with the championship trophy, their efforts did not go unrecognized. Senior Levi Schlick was named Class 4A Player of the Year. Coach Kevin Cox was Coach of the Year. Four Eagles players, including Schlick and seniors Cade Carter, Stephen Dinkel and Corey Sager, were named to the 4A All-State Team.

4The Golden Plains Bulldogs football team capped its season by winning District 8 and Western Kansas Liberty League championships.

The team won six straight games at the end of the season, ending the regular season with a dominating win over Cheylin during a blizzard in October. The Bulldogs were ranked 13th in the state for eight-man football teams.

They lost to the Victoria Knights in the bidistrict round of the November playoffs. The loss was disappointing for the team, but not without its little victories. The 48-12 game marked the first time Golden Plains had ever scored on Victoria. It was also the first time

they had ever had back-to-back bidistrict playoff appearances.

5The Colby Community College wrestling team took fourth at the junior college Division I national competition in Rochester, Minn., in March and propelled one of its stars to first place in his weight.

Ganbayaar Sanjaa won his match against Bobby Ward of Nassau in overtime for the national championship. Sanjaa had only one loss during the tournament.

Bekzod Abdurakhmonov finished second, also ending his season with only one loss. Ronnie Tetreault finished third and Jernalto Harris seventh. All four were named as Junior College All-Americans.

62009 was a year for breaking records. Not only did the Colby High golf team win the Oberlin Invitation in April by a 34-shot margin, they also set tournament records for low individual score by junior Ryley Haas and low team score.

Not one but two Eagles baseball players broke the school record for home runs in a single season in May. Senior Eric Blanton hit three three-run homers during a doubleheader in Liberal, tying senior Levi Schlick, who had already broken the record with six

home runs in a season.

Not to be outdone by the boys, freshman Emilea Finley broke the school record for the pole vault less than two weeks later at Rawlins County. Finley vaulted 8 feet, 6 inches for a second-place finish. She also placed first in the 1,600-meter run that day.

7The Trojans baseball team took second place in the league playoffs in April.

The team split a doubleheader against Hutchinson, tying with their opponents for second place in the Kansas Jayhawk Community Conference West. They had a 19-11 record in the league and a 35-18 record for the season.

The team had an excellent run in the playoffs, finishing 39-22. Their season ended in a nail-biter loss to Cowley County at the regional tournament in Wichita. The Trojans finished third overall.

Pitcher Mark Phillips tied a team record with 12 wins and only one loss. He was named Most Valuable Player in the West Division. Several other Trojans were named to All-Conference teams.

8Not every team wins its home tournament, but the 2008-2009 Lady Eagles kept the Orange and Black trophy at home this year, beating Pine Creek High in overtime.

The girls dominated Flint Hills High them 79-9 in the first game. In a display of good sportsmanship, the Colby fans gave Flint Hills a cheer each time they made a basket. The Lady Eagles went on to beat Pine Creek 49-38.

The girls lost in the first round of substate competition, finishing 15-6 for the season.

9The Golden Plains Middle School girls basketball team won first place in the Freedom League championship.

The girls beat Lane County 37-28 in the first game. The team mounted a third quarter comeback in the next game, outscoring its opponents to win the game.

They played a tight game against Wheatland/Grinnell in the championship. The Lady Bulldogs won by just one point.

10As a Colby High School senior, Quinlynn Woofter placed first in the cutting event at the Kansas High School Rodeo finals in Topeka in June. Woofter scored 78 points, just 2 shy of perfect.

Woofter did well over course of the event, leading in average points by the final day, and won grand champion by three points.

She went on to ride in the National High School Rodeo finals in July.



Colby High tennis star Caitlyn Wark capped an undefeated season by winning first place at the Class 4A state championships in October.

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STRIKE ZONE

~ League Bowling Results ~

December 15, 2009 - Pinbusters League

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Bargos	221.5	98.5	1
Subway	186.5	133.5	2
Al's Painting	181	139	3
Colby Automotive	162.5	157.5	4
Colby Bowl	155	165	6
Cummins Central Power	125	195	7
Roofmasters	123.5	176.5	8
Corona Kids	119	201	9

First high Individual game: Vernon Schwanke, 2253
First high Individual series: Jason Hoppe, 650

December 9, 2009 - Ladies Nite Out League

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Swartz Veterinary Clinic	15	5	1
Bop Shop Betties	14.5	5.5	2
Susies's Circus	14	6	3
Don's Electric	13.5	6.5	4
Twisters	13	7	5
Straightline	11	9	6
Minds in the Gutter	10	10	7
Twisters II	9	11	8
Service Oil	8	12	9
Assist-Ur-Sale	6	14	10
Strike-Outs	4	16	11

First high Individual game: Jennifer Phillips, 225
First high Individual series: Missy Lippelmann, 601

December 21, 2009 - First Nighters League

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Wild Ride	195.5	124.5	1
McKee	188	132	2
Woofter Well & Pump	184	136	3
Frontier Ag Inc.	177	143	4
Spark's Firework	171	149	5
Discount Repair of	163	157	6
Grinnell Furniture	159.5	160.5	7
Kansas Quicklube	159	161	8
Pepsi	152	169	9
Parking Lot Maintenance	144	176	10
NW Refrigeration	113	207	11
Fire Xtrikers	101	199	12

First high Men Individual game: Jeff Wagoner, 290
First high Men Individual series: Johnnie Williams, 779

November 20, 2009 - Ten Pin League

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Once Upon a Sign	26.5	17.5	1
Colby Bowl	22	22	2
Cal William	20.5	23.5	3

First high Individual game: Alberta Cameron, 220
First high Individual series: Alberta Cameron, 542

December 10, 2009 - King Pin League


Team	Won	Lost	Place
T.J. Tire	170.5	109.5	1
www.visitcolby.com	169.5	110.5	2
Kurts Pro	141	139	3
Morgan Construction	138.5	121.5	4
Drinkin Mates	135.5	144.5	5
Colby Automotive	129	151	6
Balls Deep	112.5	167.5	7
5 Pony Men	112.5	167.5	8

First high Individual game: Marc Pearce, 276
First high Individual series: Brent Menges, 708


November 22, 2009 - King and Queen Non-smoking

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Norman-Mackley	23	5	1
Benson-Schmidtbe	20	8	2
Team RB	19	9	3
Niermeier-McCarty	15	13	4
Schissler-Wolf	14.5	13.5	5
Prochazka-Jacobs	14	14	6
Cook-Lanning	14	14	7
Pancake-Unruh	12	16	8
Swartz-Barnett	11	17	9
Schroeder-Schroeder	10.5	17.5	10
Kreutzer-Garrett	9	19	11

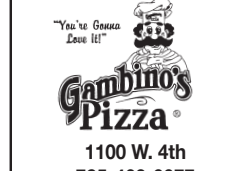
First high Men Individual game: Tom Benson, 289
First high Men individual series: Gary Pancake, 660
First high Women individual game: Amber Barton, 201
First high Women individual series: Amber Barton, 549




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