

Two state qualifiers return to tennis squad

By Andy Heintz

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Colby High girls tennis players Caitlyn Wark and Kayla Hockersmith return for their senior season this fall.

Wark ran roughshod over her competition last season, winning the Class 4A state championship and finishing 36-0 without losing a single set. She recently was named the 2010 Catchy's female tennis athlete of the year award, given by CatchItKansas.com – a web site that covers high school sports in Kansas.

Wark teamed with Colby High graduate Lindsey Wilson to take first at state in No. 1 doubles action during her sophomore year. It was the first time someone from the girl's tennis team had won a state championship since a singles player did it in 1981. The duo went 39-2 that season.

Hockersmith and Colby High graduate Barbara Bickner took fifth in No. 1 doubles at state and finished 30-3 overall. They took first at meets in Garden City, Hays, Salina and at their home meet on the city courts at Fike Park and Colby Community College campus. Hockersmith had a solid freshman year as a well, qualifying for the state tournament and going

33-7 in No. 2 singles.

Hockersmith said she expects to switch back to singles competition this year, saying she prefers singles to doubles for some reason. Hockersmith said she thought the team would be really good this year because of all the returning seniors.

Senior Lauren Shoaff was the varsity No. 2 singles player last season. She finished first at a meet in Garden City with a 3-0 record.

Senior Megan Dougherty will also be returning. She was half of the Lady Eagles' No. 2 doubles team last season. Dougherty and then junior Kimberly Gerstner finished second in Hays meet and at home.

The Lady Eagles junior varsity team last season featured the No. 1 doubles team of senior Laura Juenemann and junior Paige Roopchan, No. 1 singles senior Katera Harter, No. 2 singles sophomore Janessa Williams and the No. 2 doubles team of juniors Madison Gawith and Hannah Matchell. The team finished first at a meet at Scott City and third out of 10 teams at Garden City.

The junior varsity team's first meet will be at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 28, at Trego Community High School in WaKeeney. The varsity squad's first meet will be at 3 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 2, at Hays. A meet in Salina on Aug. 28 has been cancelled.

Broncos' rookie makes debut

CINCINNATI (AP) – The clock hit zero. The middle of the field opened up. Tim Tebow took off. Everyone knew he wouldn't be stopped short of the end zone.

The rookie quarterback from Florida made his NFL debut on Sunday, scoring on the final play of Denver's 33-24 preseason loss to the Cincinnati Bengals.

Could it have ended any other way?

"It was one of those things where you knew he was going to score on the last play of the game, either run it in or throw it in there," Bengals quarterback Carson Palmer said. "He's such a competitor. I've been a big fan of his ever since he started at Florida. He's one of the greatest college football players."

In the only other NFL preseason game on Sunday, San Francisco topped Indianapolis 37-17.

In Ohio, they haven't forgotten Tebow.

He got onto the field late in the third quarter. Receiver Jabar Gaffney gave his fellow Gator a funky handshake on the sideline, and Tebow jogged onto the field to loud boos – those Ohio State and University of Cincinnati fans remember how he demolished their teams in bowl games.

"Yeah, I heard it," Tebow said, chuckling. "It got me more excited to go out there and play."

A lot of those booing fans also snapped some photos of the moment, too.

He didn't do much until the final drive, completing open dump-offs against a soft defense full of backups. Three seconds remained

when Tebow took a snap in the shotgun formation from the 7-yard line, looked around and reverted to a favorite college move. He ran 'em over.

"I saw an opening, so I went to go get it and thankfully got in there," Tebow said.

He bowled over Kyries Hebert to score, leaving the safety woozy with a mouth guard lying on the ground at his feet. Tebow was 8 of 13 for 105 yards overall, most of them on that final drive.

Tebow and former Browns quarterback Brady Quinn are competing to back up Kyle Orton, who was impressive in his preseason debut. Orton threw two touchdown passes in three series and reminded Broncos fans that he's the one running the offense if not selling the most jerseys.

The Broncos have set several attendance records at training camp – a measure of how quickly Tebowmania has caught on. His No. 15 jersey was already one of the NFL's top sellers before he appeared in his first game on Sunday. Eight fans clustered around the Broncos' entrance to the field before his debut, decked out in his No. 15.

Orton hasn't seemed to mind. Instead, Orton has showed a lot more comfort in his second season running coach Josh McDaniels' intricate offense.

It was evident in an opening touchdown drive – 4 of 5 for 55 yards, leading the Broncos 72 yards in only six plays. Orton played three series and threw a pair of touchdown passes, finish-

ing 8 of 13 for 84 yards.

"We wanted to start strong," Orton said. "This is big for us. We hope we can be a versatile team and turn it into a passing team when we want to."

Then, it was time to let Tebow and Quinn take over.

Quinn got the first chance and had some bad moments. The worst: Quinn locked onto receiver Britt Davis, allowing cornerback David Jones to read the play, pick off the sideline pass and return it 24 yards for a touchdown.

"I'm sure I'll hear about it tomorrow," Quinn said.

Cincinnati wanted to see more out of its starting offense, which went nowhere during a 16-7 loss to Dallas in the Hall of Fame game a week earlier. The second time around, it was much better.

Palmer got plenty of time to throw and went 12 of 15 for 105 yards in three series, leading the Bengals to one touchdown.

"It wasn't perfect, but it was better than last week and that's what we're looking to do – improve every week," Palmer said.

A nice day at the lake



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
Levi Jones, an employee for Hatchett Ranch Trucking in Colby, helped Tara Larson, 4, Colby, make a cast Sunday at Villa High Lake.

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