

Looking for an open spot



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press  
Colby High sophomore quarterback Todd Kane kept the football and headed to the outside during practice Monday on the field behind the high school.

# Legendary Bulldogs' team voted into Hall of Fame

By Andy Heintz

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On Aug. 5, the "perfect" 1985 Golden Plains High School basketball team was inducted into the state basketball Hall of Fame by the Kansas Basketball Coaches Association.

A team has to have an undefeated season to get into the Hall-of-Fame, said Parker Christiansen, a post player on the 26-0 1985 team, who today is the coach of the Golden Plains girl's basketball team.

The squad was honored at a yearly reception held by the association at Washburn University in Topeka. Christiansen said most of the team attended, though three couldn't make it. The players also were introduced at halftime during the association's All-Star game at Lee Arena, which featured senior graduates.

Jody Rogers, a former teacher at Golden Plains Elementary School, helped get the team into the Hall of Fame, writing the association

about its record in September. Rogers said she received a letter from the association on March 29 saying the team had been selected.

Christiansen said he had a lot of memories about the championship season and he still keeps in contact with many of the players. He said the squad played well together and they didn't care who scored.

"We all went on the court with the same goal," he said, adding that the team was pretty balanced.

"We had good inside and outside game," he said. "We could score in a lot of ways. When someone on our team wasn't doing well, someone else would pick their game up."

Christiansen said two of the team's most memorable games were against Wheatland and Quinter.

He said in the game against Wheatland, Golden Plains was down by one with 25 seconds left. Then Bulldogs' guard Mike Miller got two steals and sank four straight free throws and the Bulldogs ended up winning by three.

Christiansen said Golden Plains had won their previous game against Wheatland in triple overtime. The Bulldogs beat Quinter 56-54 in overtime in the Class 1A regionals.

Rogers said the team averaged over 69 points a game and held opponents to about 49. The three teams Golden Plains beat in the state tournament were Madison, Ingles and Pretty Prairie. Ironically, the mascots of all three were the Bulldogs, said coach Jerry Livingston. The coach said Golden Plains and the other three teams at state - Axtel, Ingles and Pretty Prairie - had a combined record of 97-2.

Rogers said the team included senior guard Alan Spresser and junior guard Ronnie Albers, starting junior forwards Ronnie Albers and Donnie Delzeit and senior post player Christiansen, plus seniors Scott Bruggeman, Robert Korte and Lance Lunsaw, sophomores Ty Jennings, Jay Todd and Shane Bowman and freshman Rob Koerperich.

# Lady Trojans' coach confident about squad

By Trent Rose

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The Colby Community College volleyball team has a new look for the 2010 season, with 11 new players, a new assistant coach in Natalia Tomaszewska and, coaches say, a new attitude.

Second-year head coach Carey Jones brought in her first recruiting class for the Trojans, and she's confident her team will be more consistent and competitive than last season. Jones said she focused on improving the team by recruiting players that fit her style and who would mesh together on and off the court.

One of the focuses in recruiting for Jones was getting taller and more athletic in the hitter positions. Among the 11 newcomers are six players who stand 5-foot-9 or better.

"This is the first recruiting class I've brought in as a college coach," Jones said. "I'm confident in my ability to recruit, confident in the players I've brought in, and look forward to building a successful program here at Colby."

The Lady Trojans have five returning sophomores whom Jones expects to take leadership roles and set good examples for the newcomers.

"The girls are holding each other accountable, and our sophomores have been vocal over the first few weeks of practice," Jones said. "We've had a different atmosphere at practice, and our attitude has been positive."

Jones is optimistic about her team's chances this season, but said it's still too early to gauge exactly what her team is capable of.

"We're optimistic we can be in the top of the conference," Jones said. "Our goal is always to challenge to win the conference, and we'll always work toward that. We still need to work and improve in many areas in order to accomplish our goals. Our passing needs to be solid, and our setters need to be more consistent."

The conference has also seen a lot of change from last season. Cloud County moved up to Division I, giving the Jayhawk West Division eight teams. Hutchinson, Cloud County and Garden City also have first-year head coaches, and almost every team is going to be reliant on freshmen to contribute.

"Our conference is always tough, and we need to develop the confidence that we can play with and beat anyone," said Jones. "Natalia and I both feel our team is capable of competing with anyone."

### Returners

The Lady Trojans return five sophomores, including three starters, from last season. Emily Lubbers, a sophomore setter from Yuma, Colo., and Jordyn White, a sophomore libero from Brighton, Colo., are the team captains. Jones said both players will see "significant" playing time, and will factor heavily on the team's success.

After an injury-riddled freshman season, Gabrielly Cardoso from Campo Maurao, Brazil, returns at outside hitter. Cardoso, who stands 5-foot-8, will also be counted to lead, Jones said.

"Gaby has been more vocal and enthusiastic this year," Jones said. "Teammates are looking to her for guidance and she has kind of fallen into a leadership

role. She has more pressure on her than anyone on our team, and we are counting on her to produce."

Kadee Arensdorf from Maywood, Neb., will return, but she's been sidelined by a knee injury for the past six weeks. Jones said Arensdorf will be counted on to contribute once she is healthy and back in shape. The other returning player is Tess Robben, a 5-foot-6 middle blocker from Sharon Springs. Jones said Robben plays an important role for the Lady Trojans with her work ethic and she makes her teammates better.

### Newcomers

Sophomore transfer Danqi Li from China joins the team after playing her freshman season at Iowa Lakes Community College. Li saw limited time last season playing for Iowa Lakes - a team that qualified for the middle tournament - but will be counted on in the middle this season. Jones said Li will improve the Lady Trojans' middle with her attacking and blocking ability.

Nichelle Erskine, a freshman from Brewster High School, headlines the freshman class. Assistant Coach Natalia Tomaszewska said Nichelle has well-rounded skills and the capability to play several positions.

"Nichelle's versatility of being able to play in the middle or hit from the outside will make a difference for this team," Tomaszewska said.

Other newcomers looking to make an impact at the hitter positions include Ashley McMullen from Burwell, Neb.; Nora Roth, Holyoke, Colo.; Vanessa Loya, El Paso, Texas; Kamee Benisch, Sharon Springs, and Ana Calito, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

McMullen, the first recruit signed by Jones, is making the transition from outside to middle hitter. Jones said that McMullen is a quick, aggressive hitter who has adjusted well to her new position, and will continue to improve with practice.

Roth and Loya will compete for playing time as right-side hitter with Erskine. Jones describes Roth as a strong blocker and a big presence on the court. Loya, also a strong blocker, is adapting to college play, said Jones.

Benisch and Calito will compete for time at the outside hitter position. Jones said both are adapting to college play and continue to improve every day in practice. Benisch is a good blocker and Calito, despite being undersized at 5-foot-8, places the ball well when attacking.

Jennie Watkins, a freshman from Houston, will compete with Jordyn White for playing time at libero. Jones said Watkins is consistent with her passing and has experience playing against high-level competition.

"Jennie has a quiet confidence about her. We know if we put her out there, she'll be competitive and get the job done," Jones said.

Rachel Montgomery from Boise, Idaho, is a setter from a successful high school program with a good coach. Jones said they expect a lot from Montgomery and she has adapted well to the Lady Trojans' offense.

The final newcomer is J'Nae Raynor, a 5-foot-5 defensive specialist from Sand Creek High School in Colorado Springs. Coach Jones said Raynor is strong on defense and continuing to improve.

# Kansas City slips by Cleveland

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) - Zack Greinke pitched six strong innings and Wilson Betemit and Yuniesky Betancourt homered as Kansas City beat Cleveland 2-1.

Greinke, who won the 2009 AL Cy Young Award, is 7-3 in his past 12 starts after starting the season

1-8. Greinke (8-11) held the Indians to one run and five hits over six innings, lowering his ERA to 3.90.

Betancourt homered in the fifth to tie the score at 1. Betemit put the Royals ahead to stay by leading off the sixth with his sixth

home run.

Indians rookie Jeanmar Gomez (3-1) was handed his first loss in five big league starts. Cleveland wasted several scoring opportunities, stranding 12 and going 1 for 9 with runners in scoring position.

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