



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Bulldogs topple Healy

By Judy Rogers
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The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs beat Healy 48-38 in the first round of the Western Kansas Liberty League Basketball Tournament at Sharon Springs.

The Golden Plains girls got off to a slow start, scoring only 4 points in the first quarter. Healy came out strong and put in 9, giving the team a five-point lead going into the second quarter.

Golden Plains senior Melissa Ritter started off the quarter with a basket. That opened things up for freshman Kylie Jones, who posted nine consecutive points for the Lady Bulldogs, tying the game at 15. With just three seconds left, Ritter put in a basket to make it 19-19.

After a short break and some encouraging words from coaches Parker Christensen and Steve Shaw, the girls came out in the second half motivated to push the ball and put some points on the board. They added 15 to their total and their defense held the Lady Eagles to a mere 2 in the third, giving the Lady Bulldogs a 33-21 lead.

The Lady Eagles were not about to give up, however, as they continued playing aggressively and added another 17 to their score in the fourth. The Lady Bulldogs added 14 and picked up a 48-38 victory.

Kylie Jones led the Lady Bulldogs in scoring with 20 points, her highest of the season. She also had 4 steals and 21 rebounds.

"We came out with too much confidence and it showed in the first half," Jones said. "By half-time, we realized we were being outworked. We came out after the half knowing we needed to pick up our effort and work on our attitudes, and that's just what we did."

Freshman Jordan Christensen contributed 10 points and pulled down 10 rebounds, Melissa Ritter added 8 points and Angela Ritter had 9 assists. Hailee Spresser had 4 points; Jacy Moss, 2; and Paulita Ramirez, 1 rebound.

Kansas great dies at age 91

LAWRENCE (AP) — Howard Engleman, a consensus All-American in 1941 who led Kansas to its first appearance in basketball's Final Four and coached the Jayhawks for half a season, has died. He was 91.

The university says Engleman died Wednesday in his hometown of Salina. The cause was not immediately available.

Engleman, who played from 1939 to 1941, was a member of the 1940 NCAA Final Four all-tournament team after helping Kansas get to the championship game.

Nicknamed "Rope" for his curly blond hair, the 6-foot native of Arkansas (ahr-KAN'-zuhs) City coached Kansas for 14 games in the 1946-47 season when Phog Allen suffered a concussion. He posted an 8-6 record.

He graduated from the University of Kansas law school and practiced law in Salina.

Ambassadors rule court

Rusty Grafel, Colby Community College assistant basketball coach (above) and a former Fort Hays State player, tried to dribble by a defender during a fund-raising game between the Harlem Ambassadors and Thomas County Chamber Challenger All-Stars on Thursday at the Com-

munity Building. The Ambassadors' Nigel Hale-Bryant (left) finished a fast break with a monster dunk during the first half. The team drew a crowd of about a 1,000 people with a mix of fancy ball handling, dazzling dunks and hilarious antics on its way to beating the locals.

C-team loses game

The Colby High boys basketball C team got whipped 63-25 at Holcomb on Friday.

Freshman Reed Stephens led the team with 13 points, freshman Connor Schwanke and Spencer Barnes each added 4 and freshmen Adam Giersch and Michael Schiferl both had 2.

Coach Brent Brooks said Stephens is a good outside shooter.

He said Giersch plays great on-ball defense and Barnes has a soft touch. The coach said Marc Bremenkamp, who didn't play in the game, moves really well without the ball and gets in good rebounding position.

With the loss, the team dropped to 0-5. They were to play Ulysses today at 4:45 p.m. at the high school gym.

Denver Broncos hire veteran coach

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) — John Fox turned around a floundering franchise once before. The Denver Broncos are counting on him to do it again.

Fox was picked over four other candidates to replace Josh McDaniels, who was fired Dec. 6 amid the Broncos' worst slide in four decades and the embarrassing Spygate II videotaping scandal.

The lost season led to a restructuring of the front office and the return of Hall of Famer John Elway as chief football executive. On Thursday, Elway hired Fox, the 55-year-old former Carolina Panthers coach, to a four-year contract.

"For what this building needed, John Fox was the perfect fit for us," Elway said outside team headquarters before zipping off in his Bentley on Thursday evening.

"The one thing I saw in John he had great football wisdom," Elway said, "and I think that comes with the experience that he has. But not only does he have it on the defensive side, but overall his football wisdom is what won us over."

Elway broke the news of Fox's hiring on Twitter in keeping with the organization's new emphasis on transparency as it tries to reconnect with a disenchanted fan base.

Fox went 78-74 including playoffs in nine seasons with the Panthers, who didn't renew his contract following an NFL-worst

2-14 season last year.

"I'm very competitive," Fox said as he left the team's Dove Valley headquarters Thursday night. "Last year was obviously a very disappointing and very hard season, but that's all the more reason to jump back in and get things turned around here."

Fox and general manager Brian Xanders spent much of the day putting together a coaching staff. Speculation centered on Fox keeping Mike McCoy as Denver's offensive coordinator and hiring former Seahawks head coach Jim Mora Jr. as his defensive coordinator.

Fox's task in turning around this team seems as high and steep as the biggest peaks in the Rocky Mountains.

The Broncos are coming off a franchise-worst 4-12 season.

Young squads win home games

By Judy Rogers
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The Golden Plains Middle School girls teams both picked up wins over Brewster in Rexford.

The B team hammered Brewster 23-9 in a game that lasted two quarters while the A team overwhelmed its opponent 33-14 on Jan. 6.

The B team played first, putting up 15 points in the first quarter, 11 by Madison Walz. Gabrielle Schiltz and Brianna Stoll added one bucket each in the quarter.

Kyndra Rush scored all 7 of Brewster's points.

In the second quarter, Rachel Friess scored Brewster's only two

points, while Golden Plains added 8 with buckets from Kaycie Clapp, Carman Sepulveda, Walz and Taylor Petersen.

"We hustled and shot more shots than usual," sixth grader Jessica Koerperich said.

The A team led 3-2 after the first quarter despite getting off to a slow start on offense. Kami Miller scored all Golden Plains' points.

Taylor Todd got two buckets to fall in the second quarter along with a basket by Brooke Wark to give Golden Plains a 9-6 lead at halftime.

The girls pushed the ball harder in the second half. Todd scored 10 points and Miller and Ana Bermudez had 2 each. The defense held the Brewster girls to only two in

the quarter and Golden Plains led 23-8 at the end of the third.

Golden Plains added 10 more in the fourth, including a two-point shot at the buzzer by sixth grader Gabrielle Schiltz. The girls went on to win 33-14.

"It was exciting to get a shot to go in at the buzzer," Schiltz said.

Todd finished with 14 points and Miller added 9. Other scorers include Schiltz with 4 and Bermudez, Petersen and Ritter, all with 2.

Dara Rouiler of Brewster finished with 12 points and Rush had 2.

The girls will play a Western Kansas Liberty League game against Tribune at 4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 20, at Rexford.

Brewster teams win at Rexford

By Judy Rogers
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The Golden Plains Middle School boys teams dropped both their A team and B team games to Brewster in Rexford.

The B team struggled to get in any points in the first half, as they went to the locker room trailing the Brewster Bulldogs 18-0 on Jan. 6.

They finally found the basket in the third quarter, as Cole Ziegelmeier, Kade Wessel, and Feliciano Bermudez each scored two. Koi Wessel scored the only basket in the fourth quarter and the young Bulldogs lost 34-8.

Scoring for Brewster were Cade Mayer with 10, Carl Mayer, 8; Jaden Schmidt, 8; J.B. Felzien, 4; and Tad Holm and Takoda Turner, 2.

The A team did a better job of finding the basket, but Golden Plains still couldn't gain a win. The boys got 2 points in the first quarter from Joseph Koerperich while allowing Brewster to score six.

The second quarter saw both teams playing hard, each scoring 4 points. Brewster led 10-6 at the half. All four of Golden Plains' second-quarter points came from Kade Wessel.

The Bulldogs slumped again in the third quarter, only making one

bucket, again from Koerperich. Golden Plains trailed by 9 going into the fourth. The two teams scored 9 points in the final quarter and Brewster picked up a 26-17 win. Koerperich put in 7 of Golden Plains' 9 fourth-quarter points to finish the game with 11.

The boys will play Greeley County at 4 p.m. next Friday in Rexford.

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