

On the attack



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press

Emily Torson spiked the ball for the Colby Community College Lady Trojan volleyball team Wednesday at the Community Building. Colby lost in five sets to Dodge City Community College with scores of 25-22, 18-25, 25-16, 25-27 and 10-15. The Lady Trojans are 7-3 in the Jayhawk Conference and 22-12 overall. Colby will be on the road on Saturday with a conference match at Hutchinson Community College. Their next home match will be against Barton County Community College at 6:30 p.m. Thursday in the Community Building.

Lady Bulldogs play on September trip

By Judy Rogers
Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldog volleyball team started a multi-week road tour of matches on Sept. 20 in Cheylin where they struggled, losing all three matches.

The first match was lost to Colby's Heartland Christian School 23-25 and 21-25, then the ladies fell to Quinter 8-25 and 18-25 before taking on Cheylin's home town team, the Cougars. Although it was a close match, the Lady Bulldogs fell short in the end 20-25 and 21-25.

They then traveled to Weskan the following week on Sept. 27, playing some very close sets and coming away with wins over Healy, 25-19 and 25-12. The following match was a challenge by Heartland Christian; the Lady Bulldogs were able to take back the losses from the week before as they won the first set 28-26. However, the Heartland Crusaders fought back to win the second set 25-27. The Lady Bulldogs showed their determination as they won the third set and the match 25-18. Unable to maintain momentum they fell to Weskan in their third match of the day 18-25 and 9-25.

Three days later, the girls traveled back to Cheylin for a dual match prior to the high school football game. For this match, they played to see who could win the best three out of five sets. Having played each other multiple times earlier this season, each team knew they were going to have to give it their all. The Lady Bulldogs lost the first set 19-25 and the second 17-25. An exciting third set was finally won with a close 31-29 score. Energized, the Lady 'Dogs won the fourth set with a 25-18 score, sending the dual into a fifth set where the girls failed to



GOLDEN PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL YEARBOOK STAFF

Lady Bulldog Angela Ritter blocked at the net during a volleyball match at Cheylin. The Golden Plains High School girls played twice against the Cheylin Cougars in recent weeks while on the road for games.

play with the same intensity they had exhibited earlier in the match and they fell to the Lady Cougars 5-15.

"We've played all but two matches (one triangular) on the road this year and have struggled at times stepping onto the court prepared to play," Coach Orba Smith said. "We need to find a way, as a team, to fix this problem because as everyone knows, volleyball is a game of momentum. How prepared you are when you begin each match can mean the

difference between winning and losing.

"Like it or not, every match scheduled between now and sub-state is on the road," Smith continued. "Hopefully, with all the traveling we've done so far this season, we've gained experience and learned some valuable lessons that will help with our mental preparation for the road trips we have remaining before we play sub-state here at home."

Chiefs use locker room game to build team unity, strength

By Dave Skretta
AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Todd Haley's team was floundering. The Kansas City Chiefs hadn't won a game, and even though players insisted morale was fine, it was awfully hard to believe them.

Their head coach got to thinking about ways to loosen them up, something that might create some team unity. His mind drifted to summer vacations along the beach in Ocean City, Md., and a simple game played at just about every bar and honky-tonk along the boardwalk.

It's called "cornhole," or "bags," depending on where you live.

The premise is simple: Two pieces of lumber are situated exactly 33 feet apart, with a hole drilled in each, and players try to lob four bean bags through the hole. You get three points for making it and one for landing the bag on the board, and the player with the most points wins.

"We bought one at an auction this summer for a kid who was in an accident, and it was just painted up really nice, it had the name of the place we go to eat all the time," Haley said. "So when I started thinking about this, I called my wife. She called the people who owned the place and said, 'Can we get one that says Chiefs?' He had it here like, three days later.

"We've been trying to figure out ways to create some togetherness," Haley said. "It's been great, another way to keep guys hanging around and interacting with each other."

Must be working, too. Ever since the white playing boards with the Chiefs' logo showed up in the locker room, on the carpet right smack in the middle of it, Kansas City hasn't lost a game. True, the two wins were over struggling teams in Minnesota and Indianapolis, but that doesn't change the fact that the mood has changed dramatically the last couple of weeks as the Chiefs head into their bye week.

Tension is gone. Chins are held higher. Smiles flow a little more freely.

The defending AFC West champions lost their first two games by a combined 89-10, one of the most dismal starts the league has ever seen. But despite losing a constellation of star players to season-ending injuries, the Chiefs are once again playing with some swagger.

It's the same swagger that's showing up in the locker room after ever practice.

That's when the competitive juices really start flowing.

"When you want to beat the best, you come see me," said defensive back Travis Daniels, who has quite the cornhole rivalry

going with wide receiver Steve Breaston.

"It's all in how you throw it. I sort of short-stroke it and it pops up there," rookie wide receiver Jon Baldwin said. "We've been playing a few weeks now and we're getting pretty good at it."

Just how seriously do the Chiefs take their cornhole? There's white athletic tape on the carpet to denote boundaries, the distance between the boards was measured exactly, and everything is done to the exact specifications of the American Cornhole Association — yes, it really does exist.

"We Googled it," Haley said.

The third-year head coach said he can hold his own, and Daniels admitted he's "pretty good."

"But he can't beat me," Daniels added.

The consensus is that long snapper Thomas Gafford or kicker Ryan Succop is the best.

Must be something about those special teams guys, always over on the adjacent practice field, with all that extra time to kill while the rest of the guys are hard at work.

"I don't know who's the best," linebacker Andy Studebaker said. "Don't give it to Gafford. That'll puff his head up too much. He'll see your article and think he's the best."

"Give it to Succop," Studebaker said. "He's pretty good."

According to Succop, it's all in the motion.

Safety Sabby Piscitelli throws the bags end-over-end, and they tend to hit hard and slide off the board. Others toss them like they're shooting a jumpshot in basketball, and that makes it difficult to find some consistency. Still others throw them underhanded with sideways spin.

Succop takes a small step forward, drawing his arm back breezily, and then lets the bag fly with a gentle follow-through. It floats through the air with hardly any spin, and it falls with a thump on the board, sticking right where it lands.

"We've got some guys who are pretty good at it," Haley said. "Gafford is good, Succop is pretty good. It's been a lot of fun. I'm actually going to get two more. The lines get too big."

Of course, the game won't be considered such a novel, team-building diversion if the Chiefs start losing. Then it'll be blamed for being a mindless distraction.

"Winning helps that," Haley said with a smile. "Had we not been winning, I think they might be being used as firewood already."

Trojan golfer takes 10th place

By Kayla Cornett
Colby Free Press
colby.sports@nwkans.com

Colby Community College golfer Jalyn McCauley took 10th place at the Trojan's home tournament Sunday and Monday at Meadow Lake Golf Course.

McCauley posted scores of 100 (18 holes) and 44 (9 holes) for a total individual score of 144. Taylor Gobin was the other Lady Trojan competing. She scored 103 and 51 for a total of 154.

Dodge City Community College took first place in the tournament with a team score of 556. The individual results for its golfers are Jacie Scheer, first place with scores of 84 and 43 for 127; Krystal Martinez, second place with 84 and 47 for 131; Maurica Smith with 103 and 51 for 154; Paige Bednorz with 101 and 43 for 144; and Shanell Hensley with 109 and 54 for 163.

Barton County Community College came in second place with a team score of 583. Its

golfers were Kaylee Rudolph, sixth place with scores of 95 and 47 for 142; Chelsea Dietz, fourth place with 89 and 50 for 139; Kalee Logan with 101 and 49 for 150; Allyssa Dickman, ninth place with 99 and 54 for 153; and Lindsey Wait with 101 and 51 for 152.

Coffeyville Community College followed in third place with a team score of 588. Its individual results are Taylor Smith, tie for seventh place with scores of 95 and 53 for 148; Melissa Ashenfelter, fifth place with 92 and 50 for 142; Meredith Renfro, tie for seventh place with 98 and 50 for 148; Jackie Cloyd with 103 and 47 for 150; and Lena Cruz with 117 and 63 for 180.

Medalists in the tournament were Paige Chaffin Reed of Coffeyville with scores of 113 and 59 for 172; Brittany Axman of Barton with 103 and 55 for 158; Amy Stegman of Dodge City, third place with 85 and 47 for 132; and Samantha Larrick of Dodge City with 106 and 53 for 159.

WOOFER PUMP & WELL INC.
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