

# Track team set for season

By Tom Koubek

The Golden Plains High School track and field season started out with 19 boys and 11 girls out for the team.

The first meet of the season will be the Triplains Invitational at Colby on Tuesday, April 10.

The team has two members who went to the state meet last year and hope to go again this season: Cole Christensen in the triple jump and high jump and Kalyn Weber in the 100-meter dash.

Coach Travis Betz said that he expects the two to qualify again, adding that a handful of others have the potential to qualify.

As a goal, said, he wants everyone to do the best they can, but still have fun and a good track season.

The schedule for the season includes:

- Tuesday, April 10, 10:30 a.m. –Triplains Invitational at Colby.

- Friday, April 13, 3 p.m. Northern Valley Invitational at Logan.

- Friday, April 20, 3 p.m. –Oakley Invitational at Oakley.

- Tuesday, April 24, 3 p.m. –at Dighton.

- Friday, April 27, 3 p.m. –at Quinter.

- Tuesday, May 1, 3 p.m. –at Logan.

- Friday, May 4, 3 p.m.–at Colby.

- Friday, May 11, 3 p.m. –Western Kansas Liberty League tournament at Scott City.

- Friday, May 18 – Class 1A Regionals at Fort Hays State University.

- Friday and Saturday, May 25 and 26 – Class 1A state at Wichita.



JUDY ROGERS/Golden Plains High School

Joseph Koerperich (left) and Domonic Luna stretched during track and field practice. Both boys are freshman and will be

competing in their first high school season.

# Kansas, Kentucky to meet in power-program final

By Eddie Pells

AP National Writer

NEW ORLEANS – Jayhawks or Wildcats, take your pick. Either can make a case for this being “their” year.

For Kansas, a season that started with low expectations keeps getting better, filled with high-wire comebacks and an inescapable feeling that this was simply meant to be.

For Kentucky, a cadre of NBA-caliber players have had the word “champion” practically imprinted on their chests since they gathered at Rupp Arena for the season’s first practice.

They meet tonight for the NCAA championship, a history-filled matchup between the two winningest programs in college basketball history. This is the one-and-dones at Kentucky vs. juniors and seniors at Kansas; Anthony Davis vs. Thomas Robinson in a front-court battle of All-Americans; a title-game coaching rematch between John Calipari and Bill Self; a high-stakes meeting between one team whose founder invented the game and another that likes to claim its legendary coach perfected it.

Kentucky (37-2), in search of

its eighth national title but its first since 1998, has five, maybe six, players who will be playing in the NBA soon. Most are freshmen and sophomores. None are better than Davis, the 6-foot-10 freshman who had 18 points, 14 rebounds and five blocks in Kentucky’s 69-61 win over Louisville in the semifinals.

“Anthony Davis is a great player, but he’s not Superman,” Self said, clearly ignoring the fact that, only moments earlier, Davis had been walking around the Superdome with his practice jersey slung across his shoulders like a cape.

As he has all year and all tournament, Calipari has not so much defended as explained his coaching philosophy, which is to go after the very best players and not demand they graduate, but only that they play team basketball for whatever amount of time they spend in the Commonwealth.

“I don’t like the rules,” Calipari said. “I want Anthony to come back and be my point guard next year. It’s really what I want. There’s only two solutions to it. Either I can recruit players who are not as good as the players I’m recruiting or I can try to convince guys who should leave to stay for

me.”

He won’t do either. By pulling no punches, the coach finds himself working with the most talent – Davis and Michael Kidd-Gilchrist are likely lottery picks, while Terrence Jones, Marquis Teague and Doron Lamb are among the others with first-round potential.

Calipari is a win away from the first national title of a stormy and controversial career, one that began as a volunteer assistant at Kansas. His first two trips to the Final Four have been vacated because of NCAA violations. Though his 2008 trip with Memphis is no longer in the record books, it’s clearly emblazoned in his memory.

That team, led by Derrick Rose, had one essential flaw – bad free-throw shooting – and the coach dismissed it every time he was asked about it in the days and weeks leading to his final against Self and the Jayhawks. The Tigers missed four free throws down the stretch and blew a nine-point lead in what turned into an overtime loss that gave Kansas its third NCAA title.

Lessons learned? Well, Calipari does make his team run more after bad free-throw shooting nights.

But regrets? Not many. “At the end of the day, we had a

nine-point lead,” he said. “I have to figure something out. Go shoot the free throws myself, do something to get us out of that gym and I didn’t.”

A year later, Cal was out of Memphis and putting the pieces in place for his run at Kentucky. It began with a trip to the Elite Eight, continued last year with a spot in the Final Four and oddsmakers have Kentucky as a 6.5-point favorite to seal the deal this year against Kansas.

“Doesn’t bother us,” Kansas guard Tyshawn Taylor said. “They’ve got high expectations, and they had a great year so the expectations should be high. What we think, though, is that we match up with them well. We feel confident going into this game.”

And why not? Though the talent level may not be as strong as Kentucky’s (from top to bottom, the Jayhawks (32-6) get more reinforcement every game that anything is possible.

On Saturday, they overcame a 13-point deficit against Ohio State for their latest escape act. Before that in the tournament, they won close ones against Purdue, North Carolina State and North Carolina. They were comeback kids in the regular season, as well – a season

that began with low expectations for a roster that got hit hard by graduation and other departures, then fell to 7-3 after an ugly, unexpected home loss to Davidson.

“I was a little frustrated because I thought that we were under-achieving, underperforming,” Self said. “I thought we were a stale team. I thought we were slow. I thought we didn’t play with great energy. I thought the things we had to do to be successful, we weren’t committing to doing them.”

Somewhere in that mess, however, he saw the potential.

Much of it shined through thanks to the development of Robinson, known for his first two years in college as a role player with NBA skills. He was allowed to blossom when he got regular playing time this season and is averaging 17.7 points and 11.7 rebounds a game. He was the only unanimous AP All-American and was in the conversation, along with Davis, in most of the player-of-the-year voting.

These teams met in November at Madison Square Garden, a 75-65 Kentucky victory in the second game of the season. There wasn’t much conversation about that one Sunday.

More noteworthy were all the

historical aspects of this game.

Basketball, of course, was invented by James Naismith, who later went on to establish the KU basketball program in 1898.

Adolph Rupp grew up in Kansas and learned the game under Naismith and the next KU coach, Phog Allen, then moved to Kentucky. Over four decades, “the man in the brown suit” won 876 games and four NCAA championships.

So many iconic names have followed at both places: Wilt Chamberlain, Larry Brown, Danny Manning at KU; Dan Issel, Wes Unseld, Rick Pitino at Kentucky.

Come Monday night, somebody else could get their name up in the rafters at Allen Fieldhouse or Rupp Arena.

“I dreamed about it as soon as I saw the brackets,” Self said. “I did look. I said, ‘How cool would it be to play Kentucky in the finals?’”

“You guys know better than me, but when do you have the two winningest programs in the history of ball playing each other? I don’t know when. From a historic standpoint, I think that’s really cool.”

# Fans burn couches after Kentucky win

By Bruce Schreiner

Associated Press

LEXINGTON, Ky. – Thousands of raucous fans swarmed streets near the University of Kentucky campus Saturday night, setting couches ablaze and overturning cars after the Wildcats beat cross-state rival Louisville in a Final Four matchup that had riveted the state.

The throngs of screaming fans took to the streets both on and off campus following the Wildcats’ 69-61 win in New Orleans. Many

streets had already been blocked off around Kentucky’s Lexington campus to make way for the crowds, but sirens blared and police shut down more streets when the blazes broke out.

Twitter feeds reported police in riot gear moved in to disperse crowds as some people on the streets were overturning, vandalizing vehicles, and smashing glass bottles.

Lexington city spokeswoman Susan Straub said police made fewer than 10 arrests, and a few injuries were reported.

## Colby Trap Club 2012 Summer League

Summer trap league begins Tuesday evening April 3<sup>rd</sup> then the first Tuesday each month following through October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Put together a 5 person team or show up Tuesday evening, there are teams that are in need of a shooter and are still looking for additional teammates.

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If you have questions call Paul 785-460-2839

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