

Colby Eagle signs letter with Chadron

Colby High senior Shelby Gardner is one of two high school seniors signed to national letters of intent by Chadron State College interim volleyball coach Janel Baily.

Alia Brennan, a 5-foot-11 middle hitter from Chadron, and Gardner, a setter from Colby, share a Chadron State heritage.

Brennan will be the third generation from her family to attend the college and Gardner's father, Chris, played football for the Eagles.

Gardner, a four-year starter and three-time captain at Colby High, played on teams that compiled a record of 90-57.

She was a three-time all-league selection and the Liberal Tour-

nament Most Valuable Player in 2011.

She is a talented thrower for the Colby track and field team and has been the school's Female Thrower of the Year twice.

"Shelby is a well-trained setter capable of running a quick 5-1 offense," Baily said, "and will be fighting for playing time right away."

Also, a junior college transfer will be joining the Eagles, she said Tuesday. At the start of the spring semester, Hanna Flaming, a 5-foot-11 All-American outside hitter from Butler Community College, will join the team.

Baily said she expects to sign more student-athletes by April 17, the national signing date.



S. Gardner

Lady Bulldogs get 42-7 victory

By Hailee Spresser

Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains High School Lady Bulldogs basketball team played its first games of the season against the Western Plains Lady Bobcats on Nov. 30, with the varsity scoring a resounding 42-7 victory.

After three weeks of practice, the Lady Bulldogs were prepared to take on their first matchup.

The varsity girls came out strong on offense and defense, and that continued through the entire game. The Lady Bulldogs put up 13 points in the first quarter while tough defense kept the Lady Bobcats from scoring. In the second quarter, the Lady Bulldogs continued to run the floor and stop the Lady Bobcats, making the half-time score 23-1.

Golden Plains came out after the half and quickly put up 17 points in the third quarter to the Lady Bobcat's 6. All throughout the game, the junior varsity players were substituted in to gain more experience. The Lady Bulldogs gained their first win of the season, 42-7.

Junior Kylie Jones led the team with 10 points, followed by Angela Ritter with 9, Hailee Spresser 8, Jordan Christensen 5, Kami Miller and Macayla Easton each put up 4 and Peterson chipped in 2. As a team, the Lady Bulldogs pulled down 36 rebounds and 21 steals during the game.

"We played as a team and had

fun throughout the entire game," said Christensen. "Hopefully we can keep up the teamwork and improve on our game as a whole for our upcoming games in the Castle Rock Tournament."

The junior varsity played half of a game due to a player shortage on the Western Plains side. Tayler Peterson started the game off right, tipping the ball directly to Kynndra Rush. Rush scored the first basket, followed by Kami Miller.

Golden Plains let up on defense and allowed Western Plains to score 5. Lena Janke added a basket and Rush finished with a free throw to end the first quarter, but the girls allowed the Lady Bobcats to score 4 more. The Lady Bulldogs fell just short of the lead for the first half of the game, 9-7.

In the second quarter, Golden Plains played tough defense and was very aggressive at the basket. With 15 points by various Lady Bulldogs, Golden Plains easily defeated the Lady Bobcats, 22-12.

Rush and Maddy Walz both contributed 6 points, Peterson had 5, Miller 3 and Janke 2.

"It felt good to start the season off with a win," said Walz. "We played as a team on both the offensive and defensive ends of the floor. We are excited for our future JV games."

The Lady Bulldog varsity played in the Castle Rock Tournament in Quinter on Dec. 4, Friday and Saturday.

Charging foul



Colby senior Todd Kane was called for a charge last Thursday during the Colby High varsity boys basketball game at the Community Building. The Eagles lost their first home game 63-29 to the Hays High Indians.

KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press

Junior varsity hustles in first game

By Chantee Luna

Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains High School junior varsity boys played a tough game with the Western Plains Bobcats for their first match of the season Nov. 30 on the home floor in Rexford, building a big lead in the first half, but losing 53-49 at the last minute.

The boys started out with excitement and hustle in the first quarter, scoring 16 points by junior Chance Hoeting and freshmen brothers Kade and Koi Wessel. Their tough defense and aggressive play held the Bobcats to 8 points to give the Bulldogs a 16-8 lead.

In the second quarter, the boys continued to work hard and gained another 18 with points

coming from each team member. The Bobcats hustled up 11 points but the Bulldogs held a solid 34-19 lead at the half.

"We played a good first half," said Kade Wessel.

The Bobcats were not about to give up, and they came out of the locker room determined to play a tighter game. They poured in 18 points and held the Bulldogs to just 7 to close the Bulldogs' lead to 41-37 by the end of the third quarter.

The fourth quarter saw both teams working hard to as they traded baskets throughout most of the period. The Bobcats tied the score at 45 with just under five minutes to play.

A couple of free throws by Hoeting and freshman Cole Ziegelmeier gave the lead back

to the Bulldogs. The Bobcats answered with two baskets to recapture the lead as the clock hit the two-minute mark. The Bobcats pulled ahead by 6, but a last-second shot by Koi Wessel ended the game with a 53-49 loss for the Bulldogs.

"We had good teamwork, but we need to improve on effort throughout the whole game," Kade Wessel said.

Hoeting led the Bulldogs' offense, putting in 16 points, including 80 percent free-throw shooting. Kade Wessel added 11 points while Koi Wessel had 8, Benny Martinez and Braden Korte 5 each, and Zach Spresser and Ziegelmeier 2 each.

The next game for the junior varsity boys will be Friday at Weskan.

Middle school girls blow away Damar

By Hailee Spresser

Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains Middle School Lady Bulldogs played their second games at home against Damar, and both teams posted victories.

The B team played half a game and the A team played a whole game on Nov. 29. With wins from the previous week, the Lady Bulldogs were prepared to keep up the success of the season.

The B team's record going into these games was 4-0. In this matchup, Golden Plains started off slowly, but little by little gained momentum in the second quarter. The Lady Bulldogs outscored Damar in the first quarter 3-2 and in the second 6-4, giving Golden Plains the win 9-6.

Sierra Finlay and KayCee Mill-

er led the team with 4 points each with Kaylie Schaben adding 1.

"Getting another win made me feel proud to be a part of the team. It encouraged us to work hard to keep up our 5-0 winning streak," said seventh grader Finlay. "We still need to work on all parts of our game, but mostly on boxing out and ... our two-foot shots."

Next, the A team took on Damar. The A team started off rusty, scoring 4 points in the first quarter to Palco's 6. The Lady Bulldogs scored 5 in the second quarter, but Damar was on top at halftime, 12-9.

Golden Plains came out refreshed and determined in the third quarter, and with phenomenal defense shut down Damar, which scored only 2 points in the third quarter compared to the Lady Bulldogs' 8. Golden Plains

put away Damar in the fourth quarter, scoring 12 points and leaving Damar in the dust for the win, 29-14.

Leading the A team in scoring were Miller with 10, Morgan Ritter 10, Gabrielle Schiltz 8 and Schaben 1. The A team will go into their next matchup with a record of 3-2.

"It felt great to win," said Ritter. "At the beginning, we weren't playing like a team, but we made up for it in the second half. We need to work on our easy shots, which seem to be our weak point."

The Lady Bulldogs will have had a week to prepare for games on Thursday against the Northern Valley Lady Huskies.

Lawmaker accuses union of backing out on testing

By Howard Fendrich

AP Pro Football Writer

WASHINGTON — Accusing the NFL players' union of "trying to back out" of an August 2011 agreement to start checking for human growth hormone, a congressman worried aloud Wednesday that the league will head into next season without a test for the banned drug.

The panel held a hearing to examine the science behind the testing, and heard from experts that it is reliable.

While the latest 10-year labor contract paved the way for HGH

testing in professional football once certain parameters were set, the NFL Players Association wants a new study before it will agree to the validity of a test used by Olympic sports and Major League Baseball. The sides haven't been able to agree on a scientist to help resolve that impasse.

HGH is a banned substance that is hard to detect and used by athletes for what are believed to be a variety of benefits, whether real or only perceived — such as increasing speed or improving vision. Among the health problems connected to HGH are diabetes, cardiac dysfunction and arthritis.

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