

All-Star basketball game set for Sunday

The Northwest Kansas All-Star Basketball Classic will be Sunday at the Colby Community Building.

Colby High seniors Karly Kriss, McKenna Ortner, Lauren Bell, Kenzie Curry, Zane Winger and Todd Kane will be playing in the classic.

The girls game will be held at 5 p.m. with the three-point contest for both girls

and boys to follow at 6:30 p.m. The All-Star boys will then play at 7 p.m.

Other northwest Kansas girls playing in the game are Danel Stithem and Sarah Farber, Hoxie; Karlie Steinle, Wilson; Angela Ritter, Golden Plains; Brooke Flax, Missy Reed and Kylie Werth, Quinter; Brittany Kirchhoff, Thunder Ridge; Breanna Teraat, Oakley; Danica

Casey, Natoma; Monica Veleta and Hannah Whitaker, Greeley County; Tatum Elder, Wallace County; Brooke Ostmeyer, Wheatland-Grinnell; and Abby Russ, Heartland Christian.

Other boys participating in the game are Stephen Llewellyn, Oakley; Jacob Brooks, Norton; Tyler Walters, Ellis; Jared McKinney and Samuel McKinney,

Weskan; Colin Foos and Tucker VonLehe, Ness City; Luis Hernandez, Healy; Joshua Keltz, Cheylin; Gavin Mote and Eli Kuhlman, Wallace County; Austin Habiger and Joey Meyer, Scott City; Phillip Murphy, Natoma; Nolan Weiser, Platteville; Zach May and Tyler Bruggeman, Decatur Community; and Ryan Kuhlman, Dighton.

The players will be play on either the Dark Team or the Light Team.

The event will be broadcast live on openspacesports.com. For information, call college men's basketball Coach Rusty Grafel at 460-5470.

Blazin' Saddles team looking for more riders

The Blazin' Saddles Equestrian Drill Team is beginning its reorganization after having the winter off, said team Instructor Ashley Moser.

"The teams, consisting of 10 to 12 riders, have a blast learning new exercises and drills to do with their horses," she said.

The Blazin' Saddles Drill Team performs at several rodeos in northwest Kansas during the summer.

Drill team is a sport that requires riders to perform choreographed routines on horseback, set to music, Moser said.

"It allows the participants to learn valuable teamwork and lead-

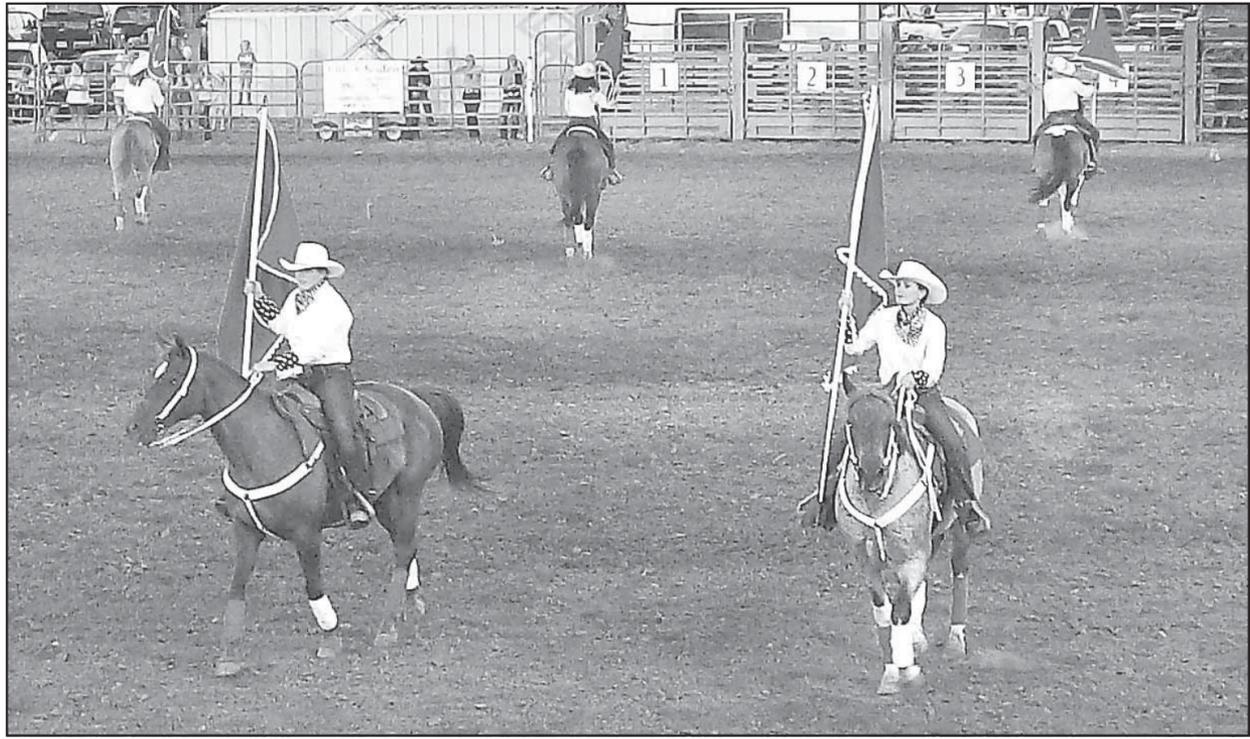
ership skills, make new friends and develop a lifelong love of horses," she added.

"The drill team is a great program for all the riders," Moser continued. "They learn so much about being a part of a team and working together."

It takes a great level of commitment from every team member, she said, to have a successful performance.

The Blazin' Saddles team is looking for good riders to join this year. If you are interested in riding, contact Moser at 462-0261.

"Come out and watch us perform at the local fair rodeos," Moser said.



The Blazin' Saddles Equestrian Drill Team was announced to the crowd by Instructor Ashley Moser before the team's first performance last year in Oakley. AUSTEN MOSER

Denver Nuggets on cusp of franchise record for wins

By Arnie Stapleton

AP Sports Writer

DENVER — Ty Lawson goes down with a torn right heel, the Denver Nuggets keep right on winning. Danilo Gallinari tears an ACL, they don't miss a beat.

The starless but selfless Nuggets have four chances left to set a franchise record with their 55th win, starting at Dallas tonight, before they try to parlay their deep roster into a deep playoff run.

Although Gallinari is out for the season after injuring his left knee last week, Lawson hopes to return this weekend to test out his pain threshold and knock off some rust before the playoffs begin.

The Nuggets hardly missed their top two scorers Wednesday night when they set a franchise record with their 21st straight home win with a 96-86 thumping of the West-leading San Antonio Spurs.

The Nuggets are heading to the playoff party for the 10th straight season, but this time they're going there without a headliner.

That's not a bad thing. After all, they were first-round fodder in all but one of those previous nine trips.

In 2008-09, they took the Lakers to the brink before bowing in the Western Conference finals. That was a star-studded team that finished a franchise-best 54-28 and featured Carmelo Anthony, Chauncey Billups, Kenyon Martin, Nene and J.R. Smith.

That roster was blown up two years later when Anthony engineered a blockbuster trade to the New York Knicks, a deal that's unfolded as a win-win for both teams.

Without a go-to superstar, this year's Nuggets have none of that same star power that they once had but much more moxie built around unselfish

ball movement and a philosophy of racing up and down the court to capitalize on young legs and high altitude.

Denver's deep bench allows coach George Karl to mimic the NHL by sending waves of fresh players into competition to keep up a frenetic pace as opponents heave their chests, gasping for air and shaking their heads.

"They play well together," Spurs guard Cory Joseph said. "They play as a team. All the guys, they move the ball. They get out and run."

Especially at the Pepsi Center, where they haven't lost since Jan. 18.

"We've proven that we can win at home," Corey Brewer said. "When people come in here they should be afraid. I feel like we're going to push the pace, we're going to make them play in altitude. They've got to play Nuggets basketball."

It's a winning formula.

Denver is an NBA-best 36-3 at home and hosts Portland on Sunday and Phoenix next week as the Nuggets seek yet another franchise mark for most home wins in a season since joining the NBA 37 years ago.

Denver went 36-5 at home under coach Larry Brown in 1976-77.

Rick Carlisle, whose Dallas Mavericks lost to the Nuggets in the second round in the 2009 playoffs, said the transformation in Denver has been extraordinary.

The Nuggets are clinging to the third seed in the West at 54-24, a game ahead of the Grizzlies and two ahead of the Clippers.

"That's the main goal, to get the No. 3 seed and get the homecourt advantage going into the playoffs," said Wilson Chandler, who has blossomed offensively over the last two months and scored 29 points against the Spurs on Wednesday night.

Forensics team wins the league

The Great West Activities Conference was held last month at Ulysses and the Colby High forensics team took home the league trophy.

The league champion had 381 points, Scott City was second with 316 and Holcomb third with 259.

For the individual performances, Madison Tubbs grabbed first place in Poetry. Rachel Browne was third in Prose; Sterling Miller was the champion in Impromptu Speaking with Cameron McLaughlin following in second, Sarah Lamm third and Ashley Coleman fourth.

In Humorous Solo, Tubbs again took first and Andrea Browne third. Suzanna Huang came in second in Oration (Persuasive

Speaking) and Miller was sixth.

Gabby Browne was the league champion in Serious Solo with McLaughlin second and Ally O'Neal third. In Informative Speaking, Walter Vacik finished second and Brooke Wark third. Kurt Sloan and Eric Lowe were third in Duet Acting.

In Extemporaneous Speaking, Miller was the champion with Vacik second, Lamm fourth and Eric Schuette sixth. Coleman and Desi Schippers landed in sixth for Improvised Duet Acting.

Colby also finished in sixth place out of 19 teams last month at the Silver Lake Invitational, rack-

ing up 138 points.

Shawnee Heights was first with 218 points, Manhattan second with 207, Topeka Seaman third with 207, Salina Central fourth with 158 and Garden City fifth with 139.

"Overall, we were pleased with the students' effort and it was great prep for league and state," Coach Nancy Rundel said. "Cameron McLaughlin was first place in Dramatic Solo Acting out of 51 entrants; Madison Tubbs was fifth in Humorous Solo out of 51 entrants. We had several others who were just out of finals by a few points."

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