

# Bulldog girls win opener

By Judy Rogers  
Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs started off their varsity basketball season with a 53-26 win over the Western Plains Lady Bobcats Friday night.

The Lady 'Dogs, who finished last season third in the state tournament, hit the floor with three returning starters and a dedicated group of teammates who are currently ranked No. 2 in Class 1A Division II by the Kansas Basketball Coaches Association.

"It was great to be back on the floor with all the returning players," sophomore Kynndra Rush said. "We are looking forward to another successful season."

The girls were ready to play as they stepped on the floor in Ransom and quickly gained a 20-2 lead in the first quarter.

They continued to play strong against the Lady Bobcats leading 35-9 at the half.

Western Plains didn't give up and put in eight third-quarter points to the Lady Bulldogs' 12, and outscored Golden Plains 9-6 in the fourth.

Yet the Lady Bulldogs held on for a 53-26 season-opening win.

Seniors Jordan Christensen's 13 points and 12 from classmate Hailee Spresser paced the Golden Plains attack. Madison Walz also reached double figures with 10



Golden Plains High School  
Golden Plains' Madison Walz didn't have too much trouble covering this Western Plains Bobcat in Friday varsity action.

points. Other Bulldogs to score were Kami Miller with seven points and Rush with five.

Gabrielle Schiltz, Ana Bermudez and Rachael Ritter tallied two points apiece.

The girls performed well beneath the boards with a total of 37 rebounds led by Spresser's nine, Christensen's eight, and Walz's

seven. MiKayla Lobato and Miller corralled three rebounds each.

With aggressive play, the girls also had 11 steals and 13 assists.

Golden Plains moved on to the Castle Rock tournament in Quinter and defeated Atwood, 50-39, Tuesday evening.

No other details were obtained, but watch for complete results in an upcoming *Free Press*.

# Colby wrestling trio conquers Goodland

Senior Austin Boehme and two other Colby Eagles won championships at Saturday's Goodland junior varsity wrestling invitational.

The complete rundown of all Colby High placers:

113 pounds: Tanner Reed placed second. He pinned K. Summers, Colby, in :33; lost 8-6 to D. Kent, Goodland; pinned A. Franco, Garden City, in :06; pinned F. Nasta, Atwood-Rawlins, in 1:01; and won 14-3 over C. Flores, Holcomb.

132A: Andrew Voss won the championship. He won 15-0 over G. DeLeon, Sterling (Colo.); pinned S. Bassett, Goodland, in 1:26; pinned D. Carvajal, Garden

City, in 1:08; and won 3-2 over K. Thompson, Liberal.

132B: Tyler Schritter placed second. He pinned T. Mason, Goodland, in :57; was pinned by E. Peralta, Liberal, in 2:58; pinned J. Hinde, Garden City, in 1:15; and won by injury default over R. Sater, Holcomb.

138B: Brett Schroeder won the championship. He pinned T. Pool, Holcomb, in 1:49; pinned P. White, St. Francis, in :19; pinned A. Ochoa, Ulysses, in 1:49; pinned J. Acosta, Liberal, in 2:15; and pinned L. Flores, Holcomb, in :19.

170C: Chase Holzmeister placed third. He lost 8-0 to C. Miller, Lamar (Colo.); was pinned

by H. Hoss, Goodland, in 3:23; pinned M. Thomas, Holcomb, in 3:55; and pinned D. Richards, Burlington (Colo.), in 4:49.

195A: Austin Boehme won the championship. He won 8-7 over L. Hickey, Hugoton; and pinned P. Grant, Liberal, in :16.

220A: Colyn Gugelman placed second. He won 2-1 over A. Hernandez, Holcomb; won 1-0 over L. Coulter, Colby; and was pinned by I. Rudzik, Ulysses, in 2:31.

220B: Brady Slinger placed second. He was pinned by L. Castaneda, Garden City, in 5:59; and pinned R. Glover, St. Francis, in 1:14.

Colby hosts the annual Eagle Invitational Friday and Saturday.

# Golden Plains JV takes two

By Shania Finlay  
Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains Middle School basketball teams traveled to Winona recently to play the Triplains/Brewster Lady Titans.

They played two full games, B team and A team, and each game ended with a win for the Bulldogs.

The A team game started out with a layup from Kaycee Miller and a basket from Triplains in the first. Golden Plains scored six points in the second quarter, but the Lady Titans put in 11 for a halftime lead of 13-8.

The girls came into the second

half with a renewed sense of determination and put in 21 points during the third quarter.

Seventh grader Kaycee Miller scored 16 of those points.

Also scoring were Sierra Finlay and Jennifer Esparza.

In the last quarter of the game, the Lady Bulldogs extended their lead to win the game 40-31.

Contributing to the Bulldogs' win were Kaylie Schaben, Amanda Cheney and Taylor Lobato.

"We played a really rough first half," eighth grader Sierra Finlay said. "But we came back after halftime with a better attitude and overall more determination, I am very proud of how we worked together to add another win to our record."

In the first quarter of the B team

game, sixth grader Karri Schaben scored the only basket for the Bulldogs but they still came out above the Titans who did not score in the first quarter.

The Titans put in two points in the second quarter, yet another basket from Taryn Fleckenstein gave the Bulldogs a 4-2 halftime lead.

Fleckenstein achieved two more points in the third quarter as the defense held the Titans scoreless once again.

The girls from Triplains-Brewster finished the game with four points in the fourth.

Bulldog points from Malilah Green, Mabel Lugo, Paris Bailey and Sable Finlay was still able to give Golden Plains the 12-6 victory.

# Trojan women, men drop road tilts

Their quest to trounce Tabor College's junior varsity team again uncovered a far more difficult opponent for the Colby Community College women Monday.

"Only a few of those girls played any many minutes at all," coach Antowin Edwards said after his Trojans lost 74-51 to a Tabor team they defeated 81-62 last month. "They were a lot better team Monday, and I'm not sure our players expected that."

Guard Tori Biddle's 19 points, nine rebounds and five steals helped the visiting Trojans (2-11 record) stay within nine through one half.

However, the Tabor JV team piled on 38 more points after halftime to pull away.

Bailey Clark was a lethal weapon for Taylor, going three-

for-three from beyond the arc and hitting all four of her free throws while tallying 13 points.

Another two Tabor players scored 14 apiece as the Trojans couldn't make enough stops.

"We just don't have the intestinal fortitude right now to defend for 40 minutes," Edwards observed. "We don't really want to bear down and play defense. We can do it, but it takes a lot of work. We don't want to do it every possession."

An eight-for-21 effort at the foul line and 26 turnovers are other areas where the Trojans need improvement. They'll return to action at a Garden City tournament this weekend, opening against Northeast Oklahoma A&M (1:30 p.m.).

The complete rundown of Tro-

jan leaders Monday evening:

**Colby (51)** — Tori Biddle 19 points, Siera Green 6, Loren Evans 6, Amanda Miller 5, McKenna Ortner 4, Deja Cato 4, Ariel Hutchinson 3, Cordae McKelvey 2, Semaj Blanton 2. Three-point goals: Biddle 4, Ortner, Miller, Green. Rebound leaders: Biddle 9. Assists: Cato 3, Biddle 3. Steals: Biddle 5. Blocked shots: Miller, Cato, Hutchinson and Blanton swatted one apiece.

**Tabor JV (74)** — Kayla Wilgers and Kaleigh Troxell tallied 14 points apiece.

Trojan men's update

A tough 96-89 overtime defeat to Northeast (Neb.) Community College capped the Colby Community College men's weekend at an Iowa Western tournament in Council Bluffs, Iowa.

The Trojans (8-6 record) were set to play at KSU-Salina Tuesday evening, but no details were available by today's press deadline.

Sophomore Branden Williams hit nine of 10 field goals (21 points) to highlight Colby's effort on Saturday. Williams went three for four from three-point distance. The Trojans shot 53 percent overall with Jeremiah Ingram (23 points) shooting eight for 13.

**Colby (89)** — Jeremiah Ingram 23 points, Branden Williams 21, Terry Starks 17, Ramon Johnson 16, Gage Deis 6, Justin Talley 2, Joey Meyer 2, David Tait 2. Three-point goals: Williams 3, Ingram 2, Starks. Rebound leaders: Ingram 8. Assists: Starks 7. Steals: Deis 2. Blocked shots: Williams 2.

**Northeast (96)** — No individual stats were available.

# Gators keep Kansas Jayhawks in slump

By The Wichita Eagle

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — The question marks continue for another day.

On a night when Kansas coach Bill Self started four freshmen for the first time in KU's long and storied history, the young Jayhawks took their lumps against a veteran Florida team.

After nearly getting run out of the building in the first half, Kansas' late comeback effort came up a few possessions short in a 67-61 loss to No. 19 Florida at the O'Connell Center in the inaugural year of the Big 12-SEC Challenge.

In the span of 12 days, No. 13 Kansas has now suffered three losses in four games — the first time KU has recorded three losses

es on or before Dec. 10 since the 2005-06 season. That, of course, was the last time Self attempted such a dramatic program reload. And in those uncertain days, a young core of Mario Chalmers, Brandon Rush and Julian Wright needed a couple of months to find themselves.

All three of Kansas' losses have come away from Allen Fieldhouse, with the string starting in a loss to Villanova on Nov. 29 in the Battle 4 Atlantis. But aside from the location, there are some other common themes.

For another night, the Jayhawks (6-3) struggled to attack a zone defense, crumbling under the weight of a 21-0 Florida run during the first half. For another night, the Jayhawks' two point

guards Frank Mason and Naadir Tharpe struggled to keep the offense in a rhythm or flow. By the end of the night, the Jayhawks had recorded 24 turnovers.

The defense gave Kansas a chance, holding Florida to just 37 percent shooting. But the rash of turnovers and offensive problems gave Kansas its second straight road loss.

After falling behind 36-21 in the first half, the Jayhawks cut the lead to 47-39 on a three-pointer from Mason with 11:55 left. But Florida would push the lead back

to double-digits on a trey from Dorian Finney-Smith, his fourth of the game. And moments later, Andrew Wiggins would turn the ball over in the lane, the Jayhawks' 21st turnover on the night.

Even when Wiggins hit a three-pointer to trim the Gators' lead to 58-52 with 1:20 left, it didn't quite seem like the Jayhawks were really within striking distance.

Wiggins finished with a career-high 26 points on 7-of-15 shooting, including 4 of 9 from the three-point line. He was more assertive than recent games.

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