

Girl goes to Topeka

By Sharon Corcoran

The Goodland Daily News
A Goodland High School graduate will play in the Kansas Volleyball Association All Star Match on Wednesday in Topeka.

Ashley Hallagin is one of the 24 players selected from about 60 nominated from the class of 2001. A volunteer committee of Kansas Volleyball Association coaches chose the players they felt were the state's finest to showcase their talents in Topeka.

The 16th annual All Star Match will begin at 7 p.m. Central Time on Wednesday at Washburn Rural High School in Topeka.

Each player will play at least the equivalent of two full games during the five-game match.



Hallagin

McKee said, because she has already moved to Illinois where she will attend college this fall.

McKee said he nominated the girls based on their high school careers. Both participated in the U.S. Volleyball Association, the coach said, playing

Hallagin and Julia Darnauer, also of Goodland, were nominated by Goodland High School Volleyball Coach Jerry McKee. Both girls were selected for the All Star Match. Darnauer was unable to attend,

year-around to improve their skills.

While participating in the association, McKee said, the athletes played for Volley Tech in Great Bend and the Kansas Twisters in Goodland. Danauer also played for Match Point in Colorado Springs, he said.

Both players were All-State selections the past two years, the coach said, and were named All-Tournament at the Overland Classic Volleyball Tournament in Denver last September. The girls played for four years, he said, and were selected by the other coaches as two of the top 12 players in the tournament in 2000.

Hallagin was also named Class 4A Player of the Year last season by the Kansas Volleyball Coaches Association.

Chief lives the good life

RIVER FALLS, Wis. (AP) — Tony Gonzalez lives a life to die for.

In the past 12 months alone, Kansas City's handsome tight end has scaled the highest peak in his profession, drawing comparisons with the all-time greats. He has banked millions of dollars.

As the subject of a photo shoot for Sports Illustrated's swimsuit edition, he frolicked on the beach with some of the world's most gorgeous models.

He held his newborn son in his arms and tenderly kissed him.

There's probably more. But isn't that enough? How many blessings can one man stand?

Well, a supplemental career in the NBA would be nice, thank you very much. Muscle up against Glenn Robinson. Battle Shaq.

Realize just one more childhood dream.

"I grew up playing basketball. I love playing basketball," said the two-time All-Pro. "If the opportunity's there, I'm going to take advantage of it."

A standout basketball player at Cal, Gonzalez, 25, spends his off-season playing in a California summer league, butting heads with some of the best amateurs in the state and often going one-on-one with NBA starters.

This summer, he attracted more at-

tention than usual.

"I was doing my normal routine, getting ready for the season," Gonzalez said. "Then some scouts, some of the pro players were coming up to me and saying, 'Hey, man, you should give this a shot.'"

There is no denying his love of the sport. He's as proud of the 23 points he scored in an NCAA tournament victory over Villanova as he is of being the first tight end in NFL history with six 100-yard receiving games in a single season.

In fact, last year in his fourth season, Gonzalez went a long way toward establishing himself as the finest tight end of his era. Without benefit of a reliable rushing game to take pressure off the passer, he caught 93 balls for 1,203 yards — the fourth-highest total for a tight end in NFL history.

No wonder so many of his friends and relatives were horrified when he started talking about giving the NBA a serious try.

"A lot of people say, 'Why are you doing this? You can get hurt. You're a great football player. Why would you want to jeopardize the future?'"

"I say it's like a dream of mine."

But he also knows the odds would be long. Standing 6 feet 4 inches on a football field, he's tall. That same height

amid a forest of NBA veterans might make a non-guard feel short. And just imagine the mental and physical drain of playing both football and basketball at the highest level.

"I'm realistic about it. It's highly unlikely it will happen," Gonzalez said. "But hey, if it does, I'm going to be there and I'm going to try to take advantage of it."

In the meantime, he's happy concentrating on getting to know a new quarterback and a new coaching staff, headed by Dick Vermeil. To make full use of his speed and basketball-like quickness and footwork, the Chiefs are planning to split him out wide in certain formations. The idea excites him.

"Right now this is football season. I'm strictly into football," he said. "This is something I love doing. It's my livelihood and my bread-and-butter. So I've got to keep doing it as well as I can."

But basketball is never far from his mind. When asked about his informal workout this summer with the Los Angeles Lakers, a gleam comes into his eye.

"We went out there to the Lakers' facility in El Segundo," he said.

"Phil Jackson is standing there. Mitch Kupchak. Working out against Kurt Rambis. It was like a dream."

Quarterback shows his new style

GREELEY, Colo. (AP) — Jarious Jackson fades into the pocket and shows off his new style as his protection begins to break down.

The second-year quarterback holds the ball until the last possible second before delivering a perfect pass 25 yards down field to Chris Cole during the Monday morning practice.

"I'm a different man," Jackson said. "I am a confident man."

Different because during his first camp the Notre Dame alumnus wouldn't have been as patient. He would have panicked with the first sign of a collapsing pocket and taken off running, but no longer.

"I owe it all to my stay in Europe," Jackson says of his stay with the Barcelona Dragons of the NFL Europe League. "I needed it more than anything and it paid off."

Jackson, the seventh round draft choice of the Broncos in the 2000 NFL Draft and 214th overall, had been used sparingly last season. He played in two games, but attempted only one pass and ran once for minus one yard.

"So I needed something to put con-

fidence in myself," Jackson said.

He was told by coach Mike Shanahan he needed to go to Europe to learn how to manage a team and work on his throwing skills and accuracy.

"Improving players is why we place players in Europe," Shanahan said.

Jackson admitted being a begrudging participant when the Broncos first approached him about an off-season in Europe.

"Once I got there, I knew it was something I needed — I needed to be there throwing constantly, having guys rush at me and having to throw under pressure," Jackson said. "Coach (offensive coordinator Gary) Kubiak had told me that those were the type of things I wasn't going to gain staying here and working out and now I totally agree with him."

And Jackson did more than just lay back and play tourist in Spain's Mediterranean coastal city. He was the league's second best passer, completing 56 percent (125 of 223) passes for 1,544 yards and 13 touchdowns.

He capped his success by getting the Dragons into the title game with the

Berlin Thunder. Jackson was 14-for-23 passing for 177 yards and a touchdown in a 24-17 loss.

"It made my whole season over there because we had been counted out," Jackson said. "Everyone expected two teams from Germany playing for the championship, but we developed good chemistry and competed game-in-game-out."

As for camp, Jackson has gained believers in his skills and progress with each session.

"You can see the improvement and increased confidence level," Cole said. "I like that he throws to the person."

The rest is up to Jackson. "I can't worry about outside factors and factors I can't control," Jackson said. "I have to go in, give it (my) best shot."



baseball scoreboard

American League				National League				
East Division				East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
New York	64	41	.609	—	Atlanta	60	45	.571
Boston	60	44	.577	3 1/2	Philadelphia	57	48	.543
Toronto	48	58	.453	16 1/2	Florida	52	52	.500
Baltimore	44	62	.415	20 1/2	New York	49	57	.462
Tampa Bay	34	71	.324	30	Montreal	45	61	.424
Central Division				Central Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
Cleveland	60	44	.577	—	Chicago	61	43	.586
Minnesota	60	45	.571	1/2	Houston	57	48	.543
Chicago	51	52	.495	8 1/2	St. Louis	52	51	.505
Detroit	45	58	.437	14 1/2	Milwaukee	45	58	.437
Kansas City	41	64	.391	19 1/2	Cincinnati	41	63	.394
					Pittsburgh	41	63	.394
West Division				West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	W	L	Pct	GB	
Seattle	76	29	.724	—	Los Angeles	61	45	.576
Oakland	56	49	.533	20	Arizona	59	46	.562
Anaheim	53	52	.505	23	San Francisco	57	49	.538
Texas	47	58	.448	29	San Diego	51	54	.486
					Colorado	44	61	.419
Monday's Game				Monday's Games				
Texas 6, Baltimore 4, 11 innings				No games scheduled				
Today's Games				Today's Games				
Anaheim (Ortiz 8-7) at Boston (Arrojo 2-3), 5:05 p.m.				N.Y. Mets (Rusch 6-6) at Houston (Micki 2-0), 6:05 p.m.				
Seattle (Sele 12-2) at Detroit (Lima 2-2), 5:05 p.m.				Florida (Dempster 11-9) at Milwaukee				
Minnesota (Mays 12-7) at Toronto (Loaiza 6-9), 5:05 p.m.								
Texas (Oliver 8-6) at N.Y. Yankees (Lilly 3-3), 5:05 p.m.								
Oakland (Lidle 4-5) at Cleveland (Westbrook 3-2), 5:05 p.m.								
Tampa Bay (Wilson 3-7) at Baltimore (Towers 6-5), 5:05 p.m.								
Kansas City (Byrd 2-4) at Chicago White Sox (Garland 4-4), 6:05 p.m.								
Wednesday's Games				Wednesday's Games				
Anaheim (Schoeneweis 7-8) at Boston (Nomo 11-4), 5:05 p.m.				Cincinnati (Davis 4-1) at Los Angeles (Adams 7-3), 8:10 p.m.				
Seattle (Abbott 10-2) at Detroit (Holt 7-8), 5:05 p.m.				Pittsburgh (Beimel 5-6) at San Francisco (Rueter 10-7), 8:15 p.m.				
Minnesota (Johnson 1-1) at Toronto (Halladay 0-1), 5:05 p.m.								
Texas (Bell 4-0) at N.Y. Yankees (Hitchcock 0-0), 5:05 p.m.								
Oakland (Hiljus 1-0) at Cleveland (Nagy 4-4), 5:05 p.m.								
Tampa Bay (Rupe 4-9) at Baltimore (Johnson 9-6), 5:05 p.m.								
Kansas City (George 0-1) at Chicago								

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