

Williams named top coach

By DOUG TUCKER
AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—A disheartened Roy Williams came home one night and told his wife it was time to start thinking about getting out of college coaching.

He was tired of the recruiting rat race, weary of megalomaniacal high school stars, sick of greedy parents interested not so much in an education for their kids as getting them to the NBA.

"I got home one night and told Wanda maybe it was time to take another look at some of those other job offers," said the popular University of Kansas coach.

But then came salvation in the form of three kids named Drew Gooden, Kirk Hinrich and Nick Collison. Suddenly, his job fun again, Williams was reinvigorated and ready to give all his energy to the challenge.

Those three had reminded him that there really were loving parents and good kids out there, and some of them could even play lights-out basketball.

All three signed with the Jayhawks. Now three years later they are the key components of what's probably Williams' best team in his 14 years at Kansas.

The Jayhawks are ranked No. 1 in the nation, coming off the first unbeaten conference season in Big 12 history (16-0) and certain to be a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tourney.

And Williams is The Associated Press Big 12 coach of the year.

In balloting by 24 media representatives, he edged out Bob Knight, the former Indiana coach who in just one season has turned Texas Tech (21-7, 10-6 Big 12) from a loser into a winner.

"I'm extremely flattered," said Williams, whose Jayhawks are 27-2 overall heading into this week's Big 12 tournament.

"I'll be sure to thank my team." As announced earlier, the media panel also made Gooden, the league leader in both scoring and rebounding, a unanimous choice as Big 12 player of the year.

Texas point guard T.J. Ford drew all but one vote for freshman of the year and Oklahoma's Ebi Ere outpolled Ivan McFarlin of Oklahoma State for Big 12 newcomer of the year.

Williams' decision to stay at Kansas may turn out to be one of the best things ever to happen not only to the Jayhawks, but the profession as well. With a 14-year record of 382-91, he has the third-highest winning percentage of active Division I coaches with at least five years of experience.

rec results

City-County Recreation Volleyball Feb. 20
Pirate Electric/Frontier Equity over Briney Farms 15-7, 15-7
Golden Chiropractic over Sager Farms/Alex Radiator & Repair 15-12, 15-12
Marty's Electric over The Who 15-3, 15-6
Nobody's Business over Pirate Electric/Frontier Equity 15-9, 15-9
Rookies over The Who 15-12, 15-3
Nobody's Business over Golden Chiropractic 15-12, 15-5
S&T Communications over Briney Farms 15-7, 15-13
Rookies over S&T Communications 11-15, 15-6, 11-9

Basketball Feb. 21
Screwballs over Flanders Gutting 62-48
Dautel Furniture over Huskers 58-48

Getting ready for next year



Nicollete Clancy hit a volleyball to Alicia Studer on Tuesday at the Goodland Activities Center. Photo by Doug Stephens/The Goodland Daily News

'Dead arm' puts pitcher out of lineup

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—The Colorado Rockies will be without right-hander Scott Elarton for at least several days because of a shoulder injury.

Elarton, scratched from his scheduled start Monday with what was described as "dead arm," had an MRI Tuesday which disclosed inflammation and tendinitis in his rotator cuff.

Elarton, one of four candidates for the No. 5 job in the Rockies rotation, will rest his shoulder until the weekend, when he will play catch and be re-evaluated. In the meantime, he will be treated several times daily with ice,

ultrasound, stimulation and anti-inflammatories.

"We decided to get an MRI just to get a peek at what was going on in the shoulder," trainer Tom Probst said. "We saw inflammation and tendinitis of the rotator cuff."

"We are going to shut him down from throwing the rest of this week. We'll treat him with a variety of treatments to try to calm down the area. Probably Saturday or Sunday, we'll have him throw and see where he is."

Last season, Elarton spent six weeks on the disabled list with right biceps

tendinitis. Probst said the latest injury is in a different area of the shoulder.

Asked if the injury could hamper Elarton's ability to compete for the last spot in the rotation, Probst said, "It's a brief setback at this time. We'll know more as time progresses."

Elarton, 17-7 with Houston in 2000, went 4-10 with Houston and Colorado last season. He was traded to the Rockies on July 31 for Pedro Astacio.

Elarton, a native of Lamar, Colo., is competing with Pete Harnisch, Jason Jennings and Denny Stark for the No. 5 starting job.

Kansas' Gooden named Player of the Year

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Kansas' Drew Gooden, an All-Big 12 first-team member on the nation's top-ranked team, is the unanimous choice as The Associated Press Big 12 Player of the Year.

It would be a scandal if he weren't. The 6-10 junior — widely expected to depart Kansas a year early for the NBA — topped all other Big 12 play-

ers in points (20.6 per game) and rebounds (11.1).

With Gooden leading what is perhaps the best team in Roy Williams' 14 years as coach, the top-ranked Jayhawks tore unbeaten through the 16-game conference, making history for a program already drenched in it.

His quick hands and long arms even gave opponents fits on defense. Only

one Big 12 player exceeded his 58 steals.

One who came close was sensational Texas freshman T.J. Ford, with 57. Even more impressively, the 5-11 point guard became the first freshman to lead the nation in assists, leading the 24-member media panel to give Ford every vote but one as AP Big 12 Freshman of the Year.

Mustangs get third

The Grant Junior High eighth grade girls finished third in the Northwest Kansas League basketball tournament on Thursday, losing a close one to Hoxie 32-30 and beating Quinter 28-16.

The tournament ended the girls' season with a record of 8-5.

"We had a great season," Coach Andy Scheopner said. "This is a great group of girls."

In the first game, the Mustangs trailed at the half 23-14. They came back, and missed a buzzer-beater which would have sent the game to overtime.

Justeen Koehler and Melissa Swager led scoring with 14 points. Koehler had 17 rebounds, no assists and three

steals, and Swager had four rebounds, no assists and two steals.

Jordan Frazier had two points, five rebounds, no assists and one steal. Chelsea Gray was 0, 6, 2, 4; Lisha Tedford 0, 5, 3, 2; Courtney Deines 0, 2, 2, 1; Megan Rubio 0, 1, 1, 1; Tatum Schultz 0, 0, 3, 1; and Katrina Cotter 0, 1, 0, 0.

Against Quinter, the Mustangs led 16-9 at the half.

Frazier led scoring with 12 points, six rebounds, one assist and two steals. Koehler had 9, 12, 2, 3; Tedford 2, 4, 0, 1; Rubio 2, 1, 1, 1; Swager 2, 6, 1, 1; Megan Stefan 1, 0, 1, 0; Gray 0, 3, 3, 1; Rietcheck 0, 2, 0, 1; May Davis 0, 1, 0, 0; Morgan Titus 0, 3, 0, 0; Cotter 0, 1, 0, 0; and Schultz 0, 0, 0, 1.

Kid wrestlers compete

The Goodland wrestling club competed in four tournaments in February, with at least seven wrestlers taking first in their age/weight divisions.

Ten and under: Eric Roeder, first, 73 pounds; Chance Davis, third, 79 pounds; Paul Starr, fourth, 82 pounds; Nathan Deeds, fourth, 82 pounds.

Twelve and under: A.J. Stephens, first, 84 pounds; Phillip Bullington, first, 92 pounds; Aaron Deeds, first, 96 pounds; T.J. Hawkins, first, 115 pounds; Michael Klinge, second, 68 pounds; Casey Henderson, second, 120 pounds; Ben Davis, second, 92 pounds; Bobby Doxon, second, 165 pounds; Preston Dautel, third, 76 pounds; Michael Ledesma, fourth, 84 pounds; Nick Smith, fourth, 130 pounds.

Topeka Feb. 23
Michael Ledesma, participated, 80 pounds, 12 and under

Royals' Randa recalls bad year

HAINES CITY, Fla. (AP) — The Kansas City Royals were counting on another .300 average from Joe Randa last year.

Randa had hit .302 or higher in four of his previous five seasons and owned a career .293 average in the majors.

Randa, who hit .304 in 2000, could not duplicate his previous seasons as his average tumbled to a career-worst .253 in 2001 and the Royals finished in last place in the American League Central with 97 defeats.

He could not escape the nightmarish season even after the season closed.

"I could have went to Australia and still would have been thinking about last year," Randa said. "I don't think I could have done anything to get last year out of my mind. There's a lot of painful memories still inside me."

"It's one of those things where it was hard to swallow, the way everything played out. It gives me that much more motivation not to let that happen again."

Randa could not wait for spring training to start.

"I had a nice time with my family in

the off-season, but I was also very anxious to get back on the field and erase those memories of last year," Randa said.

Randa, who was bothered by nagging back and leg injuries last season, worked out religiously with Royals strength and conditioning coordinator Tim Maxey during the off-season. His workouts increased from about one hour to 2 1/2 hours.

"It's an adjustment you have to make," said Randa, who turned 32 in December. "You just can't sit there and maintain as you get older. You have to make adjustments because your body just doesn't respond."

Randa said it's important to have a good spring. He hit .237 in 20 exhibition games last March and only .186 in April.

"My first two weeks last spring, I hit good and then really tailed off," Randa said. "That was a very good sign of why I had a slow April. I attribute a lot of it to spring training."

"Last spring I peaked too early. I wasn't able to get back to feeling comfortable leaving spring training."

LIMOUSIN BULLS

PRIVATE TREATY SALES
YEARLINGS AND TWOS

• Calving ease • New born vigor • Calm disposition

HUNT LIMOUSIN RANCH

Oxford, NE

308-473-8521

Everyone's Invited to Join Our Bigger Faster Stronger Clinic

Coaches and Athletes: Learn the success secrets from the best male and female athletes in the world.



"Be an 11" Sports Seminar

On a scale of 1 to 10, if 10 is best, be an 11

Date: Friday, March 15

Time: 7:00 PM MST

"BE AN 11" SEMINAR - \$10-00 PER FAMILY

Location: Goodland High School Auditorium

All Day Weight Training Seminar
WEIGHT TRAINING SEMINAR - FREE

Date: Saturday, March 16, Time: 9:00 a.m. MST

Location: Goodland High School Weight Room

NEW LISTING



1522 Caldwell

You've got to take a look inside this new listing! You'll be delighted with what you'll find. Nice living room, formal dining room, kitchen with new cabinets & breakfast bar, three bedrooms and 2 baths.

Some of the extras include new central air, new privacy fence and sprinkler system, neutral carpets, large closets, new interior paint, storm windows, 14+ inches of insulation in attic. All the remodeling & updating has been done for you...just move in! Priced right at \$59,500! Call Donna Moore today for your private tour.

Cynthia Butts 785-899-3944 / Donna Moore 785-899-6159

RICHARDSON'S HOMESTEAD REALTY, INC.

1023 Main • Goodland, KS 67735
785-899-2328 or 1-800-974-2426



OR E-MAIL US AT: homestead@goodland.ixks.com

Visit our website: www.goodlandksrealestate.com

Rumors Lounge

inside Howard Johnson

Nightly Specials - Fun Atmosphere

Sunday \$2.50 Shots

Monday \$2.00 Bottles Beer

Tuesday \$1.00 off Mixed Drinks

Wednesday \$1.00 Draws

Thursday 50¢ off Well Drinks

Friday 1 free drink w/Rest. meal

Saturday 1 free drink w/3 drinks

Hours: 5 p.m. - midnite 365 days a year

Whispers

inside Howard Johnson

Friday

Steak & Shrimp \$8.95

Saturday

Prime Rib \$1.25 oz

(minimum 5 oz.)



I-70 & K-27 • 785-899-3644
Goodland, KS