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CENTRAL HEIGHTS VOLLEYBALL

Vikings expect more success after state finish

By GREG MAST
Herald Sports Editor

The Central Heights High School volleyball players and coaches feel there is a lot of success to follow now that the Vikings have a taste of state competition.

The Viking spikers finished fourth this past weekend in the 3A State Volleyball Tournament in Salina.

"It did a lot for their confidence," Central Heights coach Kelli Brown said. "They can play with the best."

Senior Shelby Drodody said the girls now expect more.

"It definitely will help in our

other sports," she said. "We will want [to go to state]. It will carry over to the other sports."

The Vikings, who won their pool Friday with a 3-0 mark, fell to Phillipsburg in the semifinals, 25-23, 25-16.

Central Heights then had a rematch with Southwestern Heights in the consolation match. The Vikings lost 25-19, 26-28, 26-24.

Drodody said it was a tough match Saturday in the rematch as both went three games.

Brown said the girls picked themselves up after the disappointing loss to Phillipsburg.

"They showed such character," Brown said. "They played

hard."

Drodody said teamwork pulled the Vikings through the tough points.

"We helped each other out," she said. "Talking throughout the game is important. We kept our drive alive. It is mental as much as it is physical."

Senior Casey Drodody said the Vikings' schedule prepared them for state. The Vikings played bigger schools in tournament play.

"We knew we could do it," she said.

Brown said the players played up to their capabilities.

"They were fulfilling their roles perfectly," Brown said.

"That is what it takes. It is a whole team thing."

Junior Marissa Cox, who was selected to the all-state tournament team, said the Vikings did a good job of moving the ball around at the net.

That made the opponents have to defend the whole court.

"We played our game," Cox said. "We [set] it our outsides and they put the ball down. We responded to everything."

The Vikings did not play like state rookies.

"It was a good atmosphere," Cox said. "There was a lot of people there."

Shelby Drodody said some of the players had played in such

places as the Bicentennial Center during club ball.

"We were excited to be there," she said. "We did not want to settle for being there."

The players said the Viking crowd helped spur them through some rough patches.

"It was fun to see our fans react," Cox said. "Our fans helped us a lot."

Cox said it was neat to see the fans get behind a girls sports team like they have in the past for the boys.

And the players rewarded them.

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OU FOOTBALL



Photo by Elliot J. Sutherland/The Ottawa Herald

Ottawa University senior Andy Otto attempts to slip through the tackle of Kansas Wesleyan University sophomore linebacker Adrian Thomas in Saturday's game at Peoples Bank Field. Ottawa defeated Kansas Wesleyan 42-10. For more photos, go to www.ottawaherald.com.

OU SACKS COYOTES

Braves' defense ties QB sack mark

By GREG MAST
Herald Sports Editor

The Ottawa University defensive players and coaches had a rough week.

The Braves surrendered more than 500 yards of offense to Saint Mary a week ago. That was unacceptable.

The defense went to work to iron out the problems — returned to the basics.

Ottawa came out with a defensive focus not seen since early in the season. The Braves were all over the field, keeping the Kansas Wesleyan offense from doing much of anything Saturday at Peoples Bank Field.

Ottawa limited the Coyotes to 201 yards and recorded a school-record single-game 11 quarterback sacks in the 42-10 victory.

"We came out with a [hard-nosed] mindset," linebacker Ross Diehl said. "We knew we had to bring it. We wanted to show what kind of defense we can play. We were pretty embarrassed [about last

week]."

Ottawa limited the Coyotes to three of 17 on third down. Kansas Wesleyan did not convert a third down on its first 10 attempts. Ottawa forced 12 punts.

"Our defense was the strength of our team," Ottawa assistant coach Wendell Smith said. "They had a lot of questions thrown at them. All of those sacks were huge. Hats off to our defense."

Kansas Wesleyan, one of the top rushing teams in the conference, finished with minus-11 yards on the ground.

Coyote coach Dave Dallas said the difference was how the Ottawa defense came to play.

"Their defense took our run game away," Dallas said.

Kansas Wesleyan was forced to pass and Ottawa came from everywhere. Eight Braves had sacks.

"Everybody seemed to get a sack," Diehl, who had one sack, said.

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COLLEGE BASKETBALL

KU duo picked preseason All-American

By JIM O'CONNELL
AP Basketball Writer

Luke Harangody should get used to being on top of lists.

The senior forward from Notre Dame was the leading vote-getter Monday on The Associated Press' preseason All-America team, and if he has the type of season he usually does, he will become the leader for his school and conference in scoring and rebounding.

The 6-foot-8 Harangody received 57 votes from the 65-member national media panel and was followed in the balloting by Kansas teammates Cole Aldrich and Sherron Collins. They are the sixth set of teammates selected for the preseason team, which began in 1986-87, and the second from Kansas, joining Raef LaFrentz and Paul Pierce in 1997-98.

Aldrich, a 6-11 junior who recorded a triple-double in the NCAA tournament, received 49 votes, 10 more than Collins, a senior point guard.

Junior forwards Patrick Patterson of Kentucky, who had 35 votes, and Kyle Singler of Duke, who had 30, rounded out the team announced Monday.

Harangody averaged 23.3 points

and 11.8 rebounds last season, the only player to rank in the top 10 nationally in both categories. He was a preseason All-American in 2008-09 and was selected to the second team after the season.

He enters this season with 1,823 points — 738 away from Austin Carr as Notre Dame's career leader. He needs 370 rebounds to pass Tom Hawkins as the Fighting Irish's career rebound leader, and averaging 20.6 points and 9.0 rebounds this season would make him the Big East's career leader in both categories, passing Syracuse's Lawrence Moten and Derrick Coleman, respectively.

Harangody decided to return to Notre Dame for his senior season after exploring his options for entering the NBA draft.

"It was a good experience for Luke to go through the process he did last summer," Notre Dame coach Brey said. "He's even more confident at moving around to different spots on the floor. We're going to have him open up in transition much like he did at the end of last season and run him off a screen for 15- and 18-foot jump shots."

"He'll be our main threat in the low post because that is his bread

and butter, but we're going to have him step out along the perimeter which should add another dimension to his game."

Aldrich's stock rose all last season and it culminated with the first official triple-double in Kansas history when he had 13 points, 20 rebounds and 10 blocks in a second-round NCAA win over Dayton.

He averaged 14.9 points and 11.1 rebounds, joining national player of the year Blake Griffin of Oklahoma as the only players in the Big 12 to average a double-double last season.

Collins didn't become a full-time starter until last season when he averaged 18.9 points and 5.0 assists in earning third-team All-American honors. He and Aldrich are the stars of a deep Kansas team picked No. 1 in the preseason Top 25.

"I do think we return the best guard in the country and the best big man in the country," Kansas coach Bill Self said. "I think if you're going to start a team, why not have an anchor and why not have a guard?"

Aldrich and Cole are the first teammates chosen to the preseason team since J.J. Redick and Shelden Williams of Duke in 2005-06.