http://www.KSCBNews.net/news/index.cfm?nk=1928

KSCB's Top 12 Sports Stories of 2009

1. Hargrove Returns to Liberal. The former Major League manager and Perryton native returned to the BJ's for a second season. ESPN cameras greeted the former 16 year big league manager and his team during their home opener. The feature ran on Sportscenter this summer. The Bee Jays were 34-20 winning 17 of their last 20 games to place third in the NBC World Series. Hargrove was inducted into the NBC Hall of Fame in July after BJ general manager Bob Carlile was inducted into the Kansas Baseball Hall of Fame in January.

2. Southwestern Heights Cans Collegiate. The Lady Mustangs won the 3A state basketball title 65-59 over Wichita Collegiate. Barry Mellen's team finished 25-1. They tore through a tough stretch which included Goodland, Norton, Thomas Moore Prep, Hillsboro, Cherryvale, and Wichita Collegiate. Vivian Olvera was named all state. It is the school's third girls state basketball championship.

3. Lady Red, Enough Said. Liberal's girls basketball team returned to the state tournament for the first time since 1998. The Lady Skins won a school record 21-2 under coach Shane Stout. Liberal's Hannah Rotolo was named all state. Liberal was 8-0 in the WAC for their first conference crown since 1999.

4. LHS Soccer Assumes their Position. The Liberal soccer team went back to the final four for the sixth time in seven years. Despite returning just two starters from 2008, the Redskins went 17-4 and placed third after a 4-1 win over Emporia. The Skins lost the semifinal game to Bishop Miege 1-0 in four overtimes. The blanked Bishop Carroll, McPherson, and Hutchinson by a combined 7-0 the first three rounds at Redskin Field. Lori Navarro's Redskins shared the WAC title making that nine in a row. Eduardo Moreno

was named all state.

5. Sublette and Turpin Celebrate Spring. Both teams won 2A state track titles this spring. Turpin won the 400, 1600, and 3200 relays and Ty Blakely won the 400. Sublette won the 400 and 1600 relay while Manny Acevedo won the 200 and Brice Peters took the javelin title.

6. Moscow Mows Way to State title Game. The Moscow Wildcats returned to the state tournament for the third consecutive year. Pittsburg Colgan topped the Cats in the title game 10-1 ending 25-1 season for the school. Jace Moore was recognized as one of the Faces in the Crowd in Sports Illustrated. Moscow's seniors played eight state tournament games in Emporia in three years.

7. Trailblazers. The Seward softball team became the first in school history to qualify for the NJCAA Tournament. Andrea Gustafson's Saints went 40-16 and went 2-2 at nationals for a seventh place finish in St. George, Utah. Courtney Auger was named an all American. Seward won the region over Garden City in Pratt and also won the Jayhawk West title.

8. An Ascent for Saints Spikers. Seward's volleyball team won their first Jayhawk West title since 2003. The Saints won at Hutchinson and swept Barton and Pratt, Garden City, Dodge City, and Colby during the regular season.

9. The Darlings of Plains and Kismet. The Southwestern Heights volleyball team went 44-3 and placed third at state. The Mustangs even defeated Liberal in the opener at Heights.

10. Redskin Roundballers Return to State. The Redskin basketball team went 17-6 and returned to their second straight state tournament. LHS won at Dodge City for the first time since 1997. Kevin Livingston was named all state while Alex Gilmore was a McDonald's All American nominee. Both were four year starters for LHS. Liberal also won the Colby Orange and Black Classic title.

11. Narrow Miss for Redskin Wrestlers. The LHS wrestling team placed sixth at state but just missed and even better finish. Tyler Sutherland and Nate Davis both made it to the finals but lost while Adrian Salas finished third. Mike Pewthers Redskins won their fourth straight WAC title.

12. Redskin Boys Place Fifth at State. The LHS cross country boys finished fifth in the state. It was the second straight fifth place finish at state. Morgan Riggs placed 10th at state. The Redskins won WAC for the second straight year.

Copyright KSCB News