

Athletes Recognized for Efforts By Judy Rogers

The Western Kansas Liberty League met last week and selected their all-league athletes for the fall sports season. In order to be selected, athletes must be nominated by their coaches at the league meeting. Coaches then vote based on the players stats and from what they observed during competitions throughout the season. Coaches cannot vote for their own players.

Golden Plains had several students recognized for their efforts this past season. Kami Miller and Kynndra Rush, both juniors at GPHS, were named to the All-League Volleyball team. "I am extremely proud of Kami and Kynndra and believe they are both very deserving of all-league honors. I honestly can't say enough good things about these two girls, as athletes, students, and individuals," said Coach Orba Smith. "They are both very involved in all aspects of school life at Golden Plains, and are active in a number of clubs and functions outside of school."

"Kami has been a varsity starter since mid-way through her Freshman year, and was our most experienced player this season," added Smith. As our number one setter, we expected Kami to run the floor and set the tone for the rest of the team. She did so, without question. She is a natural leader and brought an amazing level of competitiveness to the gym every single day. I would easily call Kami our "go to" player in any situation. Kami is one of the hardest working athletes I have ever coached. She strives to improve, and is never satisfied with 'good enough'."

"Kynndra is a very athletic player, and being a lefty was very effective for us in the middle and outside hitter positions this year," continued Smith. "Kynndra's athleticism and her desire to perform at a higher level allowed us to use her in every rotation. Kynndra is an extremely competitive player, with a great work ethic. She demonstrated a level of enthusiasm, dedication, and desire unequalled by most players."

The football team had three players named to the all-league teams. Domonic Luna, senior, was named to the second team as a running back. "Domonic has been a 2 year starter and was our work horse in the backfield," said Coach Travis Smith. "He led us with 652 yards and 6 touchdowns. If our line would have been more experienced, his totals would have been much higher. He has had a great 4-year career at GP."

Braden Korte, also a senior, was named to the second team as linebacker. "I was happy to see Braden make all league this year," added Smith. "Braden has torn both ACL's throughout high school and had not yet played a full season. He led us with 105 tackles and 4 fumble recoveries. I told him after our last game that, if he hadn't been hurt throughout high school, I believed he would be playing college football next year."

Cole Ziegelmeier, junior, received honorable mention for the offensive line. "Cole was by far our best offensive lineman this year," continued Smith. "Cole is a hard worker and plays as hard as he can each play. His goal should be to make first team all league next year."