

SPORTS

Primero student goes to U.S. Junior Nationals

Special to the Chronicle-News

After an outstanding performance in the USA Junior Nationals all-state high school basketball competition at Regis University in Denver, William Bryant, son of Carla Riggins who is currently a sophomore at Primero High School, has been invited based upon his performance, to participate in the prestigious USA Junior Nationals International Sports Festival at the University of Illinois in Champaign, IL from July 27 – August 2, 2009. Based in Madison, WI the USA Junior Nationals provides one of the top amateur competitions in the United States and offers its program to all athletes who have a high talent level in basketball

and want to develop their skills and techniques through statewide, national and international competition. This is a unique opportunity for all athletes to improve their basketball talent through highly organized competition. Information about our participating athletes is provided to educational institutions throughout the U.S. and Canada for possible scholarships opportunities.

The USA Junior Nationals offers competitions at approximately 42 sites in the spring with competitions scheduled throughout the South, Midwest, East, and West coasts. Athletes who demonstrate advanced skills, team leadership, competitive spirit, and good sportsman-



William Bryant

ship go on to the next level of play which is the USA Junior Nationals "International Sports Festival" at the University of Illinois in Champaign, IL.

Trojan baseball continues to shine

Special to the Chronicle-News

The Trinidad State baseball team continues to improve every season with this season's 43 wins and a National Ranking backing up that statement. The Trojans finished this year with a remarkable 43-19 record and Ranked 19th in the nation.

TSJC has been the most consistent team in Region IX over the past three seasons with three straight appearances in the championship series. Trinidad was the 2008 Region IX champs and claimed the regular season crown in 2009 with a 24-6 record.

2009 was the fourth consecutive winning season for Coach Scott Douglas' troops in a stretch that the team has a 145-99 record.

Each year a majority of the Trojan sophomores move on to play at higher levels with this season's sophomores being no exception. At Trinidad State's graduation last week almost every sophomore player was announced as having a scholarship, many with multiple choices, to play for four year schools as they continue their education.

Many of the Trinidad play-

ers were also honored by the Region this season. Named to the first team were catcher Andrew Kapple, third baseman Chris Gallegos, shortstop Jason Veyna, outfielder David Fox, pitchers Ryan Salt and Joel Rodriguez. Pitcher Loran Carosella was named second team.

Although TSJC will lose 14 sophomores to graduation they have a good core of experienced players returning. Joining them will be another outstanding recruiting class for the 2009-2010 year.

Look for TSJC baseball to continue to shine when they take the field in 2010.

Tapia and Apache represent Raton in state golf tourney

By **TIM KELLER**
The Chronicle-News

Raton High School qualified two golfers to the 2009 New Mexico State Golf Championships held in Albuquerque earlier this week. Sophomore Joe Apache placed 31st, shooting an 84 and an 87 Monday and Tuesday on the Albuquerque South Championship Course.

Senior Ricco Tapia, one week before his graduation, had a clear shot at winning the state championship. He shot a 74 Monday to hold second place to Jacob Jameson of Lovington, who shot a 73. Then everything went wrong.

RHS golf coach Bernie Trujillo explained that most teams played their best four players together. Because RHS sent only two golfers, Apache and Tapia were assigned to odd foursomes consisting mostly of fifth and sixth golfers from their teams.

On the second day, the leaders usually get to tee up last. "But I got paired up with guys that shot in the 90s," Tapia explains, "so I had to start early in the morning." It threw off his pace and slowed him down. The effect was immediate.

"I was pumped. I was excited



Photo by Tim Keller

Golfers Ricco Tapia and Joe Apache, from left, represented Raton in the New Mexico State Golf Championships in Albuquerque earlier this week.

for Tuesday, going into it with second place. The first hole, the nerves got to me and I hooked into weeds on the left. I shot a 10 on the first hole!" He recovered and played well the rest of the day, but he'd dug himself in too deep. "I spent the rest of the day trying to make up those strokes, but I couldn't do it."

His final tally for Tuesday was 82, still good enough to combine with Monday's 74 to earn Tapia a tie for 6th place.

Both Tapia and Apache enjoyed the opportunity to play. Coach Trujillo says the

Albuquerque South course is perhaps the best in New Mexico. Tapia agreed, "It's the best course we've played all year, and it was in really good shape. The weather was good, too."

Though Tapia was disappointed with Tuesday's outcome, he takes consolation in 6th place in the state golf tourney and his high school graduation next week. As for Apache, he still has two more years of high school golf and is likely to be a formidable force in the next two state golf championships.

Summer Hoops Camps

Special to the Chronicle-News

Trinidad State Junior College will offer its fifth annual "Hoops Camps" in June. There will be two camps offered. Both camps will focus primarily on the fundamentals to the game.

The first will be a co-ed camp starting on June 3rd and wrapping up on June 5th. The camp will run from 8:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. each day. It is for ages 9-12.

The second camp is for boys ages 13-18. It will run from June 10th to the 12th going from 8: a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day.

Trinidad State Junior College Basketball Coach Rich Holden brings twenty-eight years of coaching experience to the Camp. He is especially committed to helping youngsters who are serious about competitive basketball. He will help them develop individual fundamental skills that will allow them to be outstanding team players. Coach Holden will stress the importance of a positive and confident attitude, which he believes is created when a player understands, and perfects the games fundamental skills.

The number one goal of this year's camp is to reinforce skills taught to repeat campers and help them take their game and

attitude to another level. Coach Holden will also introduce these skills to new campers in order to enhance the development of team play. This begins with the correct mental approach toward desire, discipline and work ethic. The next step involves learning, repeating and executing the fundamentals required for each phase of the game. This process ends only when a player develops the ability to transfer these fundamentals into the game situation, using each at the appropriate time without much thought.

This camp is for the serious player; we will try to ensure a 1

to 6 coach to camper ratio so each camper will get plenty of individual attention throughout the week.

The cost of each camp is \$80.00. \$120.00 for two members of the same family. You get a Camp T-shirt, and certificate, some of the best instruction in Southern Colorado, at least 3 games to work on skills in game situations, a chance to win awards in shooting and 1 on 1 contests. Three lunches provided in the TSJC cafeteria, and hopefully more confidence in your basketball skills as you enter into next season.

For more information call Coach Holden at 846-5519 or visit our website at www.trinidad-state.edu.



Photo courtesy of TSCJ

TSCJ offers summer basketball camp

THS coaches honor their athletes' achievements at sports banquet

By **MICHAEL GARRETT**
The Chronicle-News

The theme of Wednesday night's annual Trinidad High School Sports Banquet was underachievers finding ways to overachieve, always observing the three p's and understanding the hidden meanings behind all those famous sports cliches.

The banquet in the THS cafeteria, keynote speaker and Trinidad State Junior College basketball coach and athletic director Rich Holden's enlightening speech and THS coaches expounding on the virtues and value of team play, hard work and perseverance, all kept the night flowing toward honoring those boy and girl Miners who almost always excelled in their classrooms and on the state's athletic fields.

Athletic Director Mike Vecchio announced Kayla Gagliardi and Casey Patterson the best of the best as Colorado High School Athletic Association Active Scholars while Kayla Gagliardi and Jude Hoffpauir were honored with the THS Principal Award as presented by THS Principal Jennifer Mason.

The coaches noted that some Trinidad High sports teams had better seasons than others in terms of wins and losses. But a common theme was that wins and losses and what the final score is on the scoreboard don't always reflect the players' efforts. As boys basketball coach Mark Macaluso pointed out, opposing coaches were more impressed with the effort, team play and overcoming adversity his young and rebuilding Miners exhibited on the court than their talent and ability levels.

Macaluso pointed to the three p's as something he always tries to teach his kids — be positive, be patient and keep

everything that happens on the court in perspective. Perseverance against mounting odds is another "p" word that THS coaches frequently use in their vocabularies and mentioned Wednesday night.

Football coach Randy Begano also echoed the night's theme that despite a 3-7 record in a rebuilding season filled with injuries to key players, his team never quit on him and played as hard as they could under their extenuating circumstances and developed character and toughness as a result.

But perhaps coach Holden best summed up what the night was all about in saying, "God gave us all an equal amount of time of 24 hours in a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year. It's what we do with our time that counts the most. If there is no pain, there is no gain."

Holden noted that some kids have great talent, some kids mediocre talent and some kids have undeveloped talent that just needs to be set on the right course with the right effort and again that word perseverance. The underachievers will always look for ways to overachieve and many athletes blessed with lots of talent can misuse that talent by putting "I" above team and as many coaches have always admonished their athletes, there is NO "I" in team.

"Some athletes have great years, some have mediocre years and some just quit and don't finish the season," said Holden. "But winners never quit and quitters never win."

He added that bad coaches can mix with bad players to produce bad results while talented teams can win a lot of games. "But it's teamwork and defense that win the championships almost every time." And those athletes who win the big awards

should never forget their lesser-known teammates who helped them achieve those awards as table-setters. "Always think of your teammates who didn't win any awards," he said. "They helped you get where you got."

Holden talked about athletes having mental toughness when the going got tough, displaying genuine humility when victory was achieved and always recognizing that preparation always equals opportunity.

Holden stressed that every athlete should have the same priority list in life of placing God first, then family, school and sports in that order. Underachievers become overachievers regardless of their ability and talent levels if they follow those rules of order, he said.

He summed up his talk with this play on words: "Be what you is if you be what you ain't if you ain't what you is."

Each respective sport's coach reflected "character" type anecdotes about their players that were recognized and honored at the sports banquet and who captured the essence of the night's theme of preparation always equals opportunity and

success is not always reflected on the scoreboard:

FOOTBALL: Coach Randy Begano
Honorable mention: Billy Gallegos, Luis Ochoa, Quade Lusk, Tyler Holland.
First team: Darian Dasko, Casey Patterson

VOLLEYBALL: Coach Geneva Gallegos
Honorable mention: Cara Mincic, Deserae Romero

First team: Kayla Gagliardi
BOYS GOLF: Mike Vecchio

First team: Jerrod Montoya and Brett Dixon. Coach Vecchio presented Chris Veltri with the Jimmy Adams Award as outstanding senior male golfer.

WRESTLING: Frank Begano
All-Conference Award to Kevin Cole, Gadge Cole

GIRLS BASKETBALL: George Dasko
Honorable mention: Justine Gallegos

First team: Cherrie Liu, Ashley La Fon

BOYS BASKETBALL: Mark Maculoso
Honorable mention: Jorge Padilla

First team: Cody Galasso
SOCCER: Victor Jimenez

Honorable mention: Randi Cordova, Justine Gallegos

First team: Catherine Jimenez
BASEBALL: Frank "Fletch" Falsetto

Honorable mention: Gramm Kephart, Ryan Reamy

First team: Darian Dasko, Casey Patterson, Quade Lusk, Dayton Romero

TRACK: Randy Begano, Geneva Vallegos

All-Conference: Luiz Ochoa, Jose Ramirez, Deidra Montoya

Four varsity letter winner: Justine Gallegos: football manager, basketball, soccer, girls golf.

Three varsity letter winners: Christa Fleshman: volleyball, cheerleading, soccer; Tyler

Holland, football, wrestling, track; Ashley LaFon: volleyball, basketball, soccer; Alexis Lopez: football, basketball, track; Deidra Montoya, volleyball, cheerleading, track.

Two letter senior athletes: Darian Dasko, football, baseball; Kayla Gagliardi, volleyball, girls golf; Kyle Maniscalco, football, track; Luis Ochoa, football, track; Casey Patterson, football, baseball.

Two letter underclassmen and women:

Richie Baca, football, wrestling; Stephen Bowman: wrestling, baseball; Kevin Cole, wrestling, track; Erik DeCristino, football, track; Phillip DiMino-Santistevan: football, wrestling; Brett Dixon: golf, baseball; Justis Dominquez, football, track; Brandon Espinoza, football, baseball; Cody Galasso: basketball, baseball; Trent Gomez, football, track; Megan Gonzales, basketball, manager; girls golf; Vanessa Gonzales, basketball, track; Tyler Hance, football, track; Jactinta Hoffpauir: volleyball, track; Janelle Lopez: basketball, track; Quade Lusk, football, baseball; Jared Maez,

football, basketball; Jeffrey Martinez, golf, baseball; Nick Mason, football, baseball; Jerrod Montoya, golf, track; Mellyni Murray, basketball, track; Jose Ramirez: football, track; Dayton Romero, football, baseball; Kayla Sanchez, volleyball, basketball; Kyle Shoop, football, wrestling; Justin Terry, football, wrestling; Kendra Torres, basketball, track; Dylan Trujillo, football, basketball; Josh Valdez, football, basketball; Jackie Vallejos, golf, track, B.J. Van Slyke, football, wrestling; Hilary Vigil, cheerleading, wrestling manager; Martin Waln, football, basketball.

SPECIAL COACHES AWARDS:

Football:
Outstanding Running Back: Casey Patterson
Ironman Award: Bryton Mangino
MVP: John Florenzi
Golf:
Harry Sayre Award: Chris Veltri
Baseball:
MVP: Casey Patterson
Girls Basketball:
MVP: Cherrie Liu
Soccer:
MVP: Catherine Jimenez
Volleyball:
MVP Edith Stancato Award: Kayla Gagliardi
Track:
MVP: Deidra Montoya



Photos by David Santistevan Jr.

Pictured are the Trinidad High School Senior girls who lettered and received their awards at a banquet Wednesday night.



Here are the Miner senior boys who lettered in varsity sports, they were honored at the annual Miner sports banquet.