

Women end season with heartbreaker

By Paige Carswell
Sports editor

It's not the way anyone would want to go out, but for Kara Beal, senior guard, the 43-42 loss to Tabor College Feb. 26 was especially painful.

Beal led her team in scoring all season with an average of almost 17 points per game. However, she went 39 minutes in the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference quarterfinal against Tabor without making a single field goal.

The women were up 20-10 in the first half against Tabor before the Lady Jays went on a 6-0 run and cut the margin to four points going into halftime.

"We had a lot of opportunities to create space between us and them," said Dave Denly, head coach. "There were just a lot of different moments that we had a chance to extend the lead out, and we couldn't score in those opportunities."

Tabor and the Lady Builders continued to battle in the second half. The women had Tabor down by six points at two different times, but couldn't seem to put any points on the board to help their cause.

An unexpected spark came from Brooke Fairbank, freshman forward. Fairbank came off the bench to contribute five points, four rebounds and a block in eight minutes of play.

But the women still found themselves down by 39-37 with less than two minutes left. Andrea Smith, freshman forward, buried a three-point goal to put the women up by one, but Tabor scored the next time down the

floor.

Finally, with less than a minute left on the clock—her team down 41-40—Beal drove. Her only field goal of the game put the women up by one point.

That point wasn't enough. A defensive let-down by the team on the other side converted to an open lay-up for Tabor's Jordan Crosson with three seconds left. Southwestern made a long throw from Tabor's baseline in a desperate attempt to get the ball close enough to their own goal to get a shot off, but it fell into the hands of a Tabor opponent, and at that moment, the roaring crowd suddenly went silent.

It was over.

The women ended their season with an 18-10 overall record. They went 13-5 in the KCAC. Beal ended the game with six total points, the first game that she had been held to under 10 points since playing Tabor in the regular season Jan. 29.

Beal wasn't the only one who had trouble scoring. Jordyn Cossman, freshman guard, was the high scorer for the team with only eight points, and the women shot for only 20 percent from the floor.

"We may have held them to 43 points, but we held ourselves to 42 points," Catherine Haikin, freshman guard, said. "We didn't knock down our shots. That was definitely the main contributor to the loss—our offense."

Offense was also something Denly contributed to the few let-downs of the season.

"It was one of our Achilles' Heels," said Denly.

"We relied a lot on our defense, and this time we just weren't able to make two stops at the end. Offense is something that we're going to work on in the off-season, just getting the girls in the gym."

Tabor went on to lose 74-54 in the semifinal game against Kansas Wesleyan University Feb. 28. The championship final was March 3 between Kansas Wesleyan and Sterling College. Results weren't available at press time.

Both KW and Sterling will compete in the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics championship in Sioux City, Iowa.

The future isn't bleak for the Lady Builder basketball team. Freshmen played half of the total minutes for the team this season, making it arguably the youngest in the KCAC.

Denly said that with some work in the gym, the future could be bright for the 20 returning women next year. However, he said that Beal was a big part of why the team did so well, both this season and in years before.

"She did so many things to help us be successful," said Denly. "You're not going to replace her with one player. Some of the kids that we have now have to do some things to help us get back to where we were this year."

"This is a challenge for us to step up," said Haikin. "It's like Coach says, 'There won't ever be another Kara Beal,' but now one of us has to be that player. We need a couple of people to step into the role."

For Beal, her three years of Southwestern basketball have come to an end. She is third in Lady Builder bas-



Eddie Carmichael/Collegian photographer

Jordyn Cossman, freshman guard, puts up a shot against Tabor College on Feb. 26. Southwestern lost to Tabor in the KCAC quarter final game 43-42.

ketball scoring history, No. 1 in the nation in free throw percentage and a three-time KCAC first-team selection. It should help ease the pain.

But for Beal, it could take more than that to cope with the realization that her passion for the last 12 years has suddenly ended.

For those who played with her, including the 11 freshmen on the roster, they don't focus on how she went out of the program, but the way she helped them come into it.

"She wanted to be there every day," said Haikin. "When you saw her play the way she played, it motivated

you to play like her. She led us through the entire season, and we wouldn't have even been in the situation of playing in that game if she wouldn't have been on this team.

"It was just a huge honor to be able to play with Kara Beal," said Haikin.

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Box Scores Feb. 26

Southwestern College (42)
Beal 1-13 4-4 6, Maxwell 1-7 0-0 2, Jarnagin 1-4 2-2 5, Jackson

0-2 6-8 6, Cossman 2-7 2-2 8, G. Blattner 0-0 0-0 0, Pruitt 0-0 0-0 0, Haikin 0-2 0-2 0, Smith 2-4 0-0 6, E. Blattner 1-2 0-0 2, Laible 1-5 0-0 2, Fairbank 2-3 0-1 5.

Tabor College (43)

Roth 1-2 2-6 4, Hullett 0-2 0-0 0, Watson 3-15 2-2 10, Malone 1-5 0-0 2, Silvas 2-8 0-0 4, Dick 0-0 2-2 2, Robinson 2-5 0-0 5, Wyckoff 2-3 2-2 7, Crosson 4-7 1-2 9, 3-Point Goals – Southwestern 6-32 (Beal 0-8, Maxwell 0-6, Jarnagin 1-4, Cossman 2-7, Haikin 0-1, Smith 2-4, Fairbank 1-2), Tabor 4-16 (Watson 2-8, Malone 0-1, Silvas 0-3, Robinson 1-3, Wyckoff 1-1). Fouled out – Hullett. Rebounds – Southwestern 35 (Jackson 7), Tabor 40 (Silvas 6). Assists Southwestern 10 (Jackson 3), Tabor 9 (Malone 4). Total Fouls Southwestern 18, Tabor 17.

Bumpy start turns into decent end for men's basketball

By DeLeon Freeman
Staff reporter

A rocky season ended Feb. 23 for the Builders with a 75-72 loss to Bethany College. The loss was during a play-in game for the Kansas Collegiate Athletic Conference tournament.

The Builders finished the season with a 15-14 overall record and 8-10 in conference. David King, junior center, scored 32 points and

made eight rebounds. Avery Richardson, junior guard, added 20 points and three assists.

Tim Moore, senior forward, earned another double double, scoring 10 points and making 14 rebounds.

Although the season didn't go the way the Builders expected, they had some success this season.

The team ended the regular season on a five-game winning streak. They defeated

Bethel College 75-67 Feb. 7, Sterling College 75-66 Feb. 12, Ottawa University 79-76 Feb. 14, Bethany College 71-69 Feb. 19, and McPherson College 72-61 Feb. 21.

Marcus Batiste, junior forward, said, "We started good and we finished great. God forbid we lost. We made a good comeback and got rolling toward the end."

There were ups and downs during the course of this season. Moore, said, "There was

a great deal of adversity we had to overcome with the injuries and so forth, I wouldn't wish it on anyone."

The season ended before it began for Justin Diggles, senior guard, because of a knee injury he suffered in November. Diggles was an All-Conference guard and a key player for the Builders. His presence on the court was desperately missed.

Alwyn Jordan, senior guard, injured his Achilles Dec. 6 in

the game against Tabor College. Jordan was first team All-Conference in his first season with the Builders.

Even though the Builders didn't get that conference championship that they set out for, they managed to pull out a winning season despite the obstacles they had to face early on. Doug Hall, head men's basketball coach, said, "I give credit to the seniors. They have really stepped up and responded well."

The Builders are now looking toward next season and continuing their quest for another KCAC championship.

Stuart Ballard, sophomore forward, said, "Our success next year depends on what we do during the summer, because that's when your game improves the most."

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Athletes must develop relationship with coaches to succeed

Colin Baker



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Forming a bond with their players is something that most coaches have on their to-do lists when it comes to recruiting, forming a team and igniting good team chemistry. It is part of the coaching role that makes players feel like they chose

the right path.

A coach-player connection sometimes creates clashes and disagreements. It has been my experience that these feuds have ended with me getting kicked off the team or put in the doghouse with the coach.

Let me tell you it is not fun at all. No matter what you do to try to get out of it, you will be there for awhile until you earn back the respect of the coach.

Feuds happen from high school sports all the way to the professional ranks. It has happened between Shaquille

O'Neal and Phil Jackson in Los Angeles with the Lakers to Terrell Owens and Andy Reid with the Philadelphia Eagles.

Egos get in the way of everything that matters. It should be team before ego. I have always been taught that the name on the front of the shirt is more important than the one on the back.

There are a lot of players who dismantle their relationships with coaches because they think the spotlight is on them more than anybody else on the team.

Many of us have had to

deal with a few of those egos in high school athletics. A teammate can let those recruiting letters get into their head as if they were God's gift to Earth.

A good coach will talk to athletes about handling the pressure and hype. High school athletes resist advice. Their heads can get the size of a hot air balloon.

One of the last things I have come to learn about the coaching bond is that most coaches like the saying, "My way or the highway." Some athletes will respect that motto. Others will bash it

and try to tell the coach how they would like to play. I personally like coaches who are tough and enforce the rules.

That is what makes a strong bond between a coach and player. Coaches who enforce rules and tell it like it is seem to know what they want. They have the will to win.

Who wants to play for a coach who doesn't want to win or get better day in and day out?

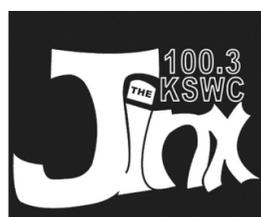
The coach and player bond is a 50-50 relationship. If coaches put their necks on the line for their players, the

players should do the same for their coach. That is what it takes to make a bond strong between the two.

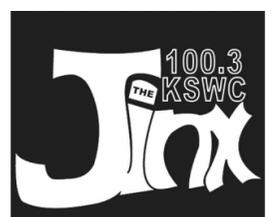
If a coach tells you to run extra or spend another hour in the weight room, they are not doing it because they hate you. They are doing it because they see potential in you.

They want you to get better and be at the top of your game to help them achieve both of your goals.

Being on the same page of respect and trust is what this coach and player bond is all about.



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