

Highland CC Sports Recap (Track, Basketball, Softball & Baseball)

Highland Players Earn Conference Honors

Two members of the Highland Community College women's basketball team and one on the men's team have been recognized by the Conference for their contributions in the the 2011-12 season. Kathryn Thomas and Sharniece Lewis from the Scottie women's team and De'Andre Upchurch from the men earned Jayhawk East honors.

After having the most successful season in the history of the College, freshman Kathryn Thomas (Flint, MI) is the Jayhawk East Conference Player of the Year and Freshman of the Year. Sophomore Sharniece Lewis (Warrensburg, MO) made Honorable Mention.

The Scotties finished the regular season 27-3 and in second place in the Jayhawk East, both school records as they prepare for post-season play. "It's great for both of these young ladies to be recognized for their work, and even better, I think it's great for our team and our program. Our team has overcome many hurdles, and players never get there without great teammates," said Scottie head coach B.J. Smith.

Sophomore De'Andre Upchurch (Flint, MI) has been named an All-Jayhawk Eastern Conference First Team selection.

Upchurch led both Jayhawk Conferences in scoring with 25.9 points per game average and three point shots made at 4.03 per game. He was twice named the Jayhawk Conference Player of the Week and once the NJCAA Division II Player of the Week. He is the all-time leading scorer in Highland Community College men's basketball history with 1,516 career points.

Scottie Men Fall to Cavaliers in Overtime

The Highland Community College men's basketball team ended their season with an overtime loss at home to the Johnson County Cavaliers on Tuesday night by the final of 79-77.

The Scotties jumped out to a 10-2 early lead but the Cavaliers responded with a 12-0 run to take a 14-10 lead. Johnson County would lead the rest of the first half and took a 30-28 halftime advantage. In the second half, the Cavaliers led by as many as seven points before the Scotties responded with a rally that would give them a late lead. Highland was able to tie the game with 12 seconds to play but a Scottie foul with just .1 seconds to play that gave Johnson County two free throw attempts. The Scottie crowd responded and almost lifted the roof off Allen Field House as the Cavalier player shot and missed both free throw attempts. In overtime, the Scotties led by four points with just one minute to play but a lack of defensive discipline would ultimately

cost them their season as the Cavaliers finished the game and advanced to the Region VI Division II championship game against Brown Mackie College.

Sophomore Roderick Camphor (Baltimore, MD) led all scorers with 29 points. Sophomore De'Andre Upchurch (Flint, MI) finished with 18 points. Sophomore Brandon Stacker (Overland Park) had 12 rebounds and four points.

"It was disappointing that we did not play with more urgency in such a big game," said head coach Jerre Cole. "The little things that have hurt us all year got us again. I appreciate all the effort this group of sophomores gave us the past two years. It is too bad it had to end this way."

The Scotties ended the year with a 15-16 overall record.

Highland Baseball Downs Minnesota West

Alex Head (Topeka, KS) had three hits and three RBIs, and five Scottie pitchers combined to allow just one run on two hits as Highland defeated Minnesota West 10-1. Vance Gorman (Osawatomie, KS) had two hits and two RBIs, while Craig Hill (Morris, OK) and Josh Reynolds (Gretna, NE) had two hits each. Craig Hill (Morris, OK), Nick Middleton (Olathe, KS), and Bryce Eberly (Clarinda, IA) also had RBIs. Tyler Parsons (Lansing, KS) added a solo home run in the sixth inning; his second of the season. Tyler Hinkle (Omaha, NE) pitched two scoreless innings to pick-up the win.

Scottie Softball Splits With Johnson County

The Highland Community College softball team traveled to Overland Park to face Johnson County in their first Conference action of the 2012 season. In the first game of the double-header, multiple mistakes would prove very costly for the Scotties. Highland committed five errors in the game, giving the Cavaliers all the momentum they would need for a 2-0 victory. Despite seven strong innings, Zuzana Kudernatschova (Czech Republic) would take the loss for the Scotties.

In the nightcap, the Scotties were out to prove that they were a much better team than they had shown in the first game. Highland scored early and often, and solved the defensive problems from game one, scoring nine runs on thirteen hits in the 9-2 victory. Kudernatschova was once again on the mound, pitching all seven innings and allowing one earned run on six hits. Leading hitters for Highland were Baylee Dillon (Grapevine, TX) who was 3-4 with one RBI, Kudernatschova and Skyler Gentry (Fort Worth, TX) were 2-3 with one RBI each.

Highland Women Compete at National Track and Field Championships

Highland Community College was represented at the NJCAA Indoor Track and Field

Championships held at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston, IL on March 2-3 by Cassie Waggoner and Mary Kate Taylor. Waggoner, a sophomore from Horton, made her third appearance at a national event on the medal stand with a 7th place finish in the high jump. That surpassed her 8th place finish last year at the same meet. Her jump of 5'3" tied her career best jump. She has already qualified for the outdoor national event. Mary Kate Taylor (Chillicothe, MO), in her first year at Highland, made it to the championships in the 5,000 meter. After having an outstanding season in cross country with a national appearance, Taylor finished 12th at the indoor event. Her 19:32 career best time during indoor season will see her run in the 5,000 meter or 10,000 meter at the outdoor championships. Overall, the Scotties placed 31st. They are now preparing for the start of the outdoor season, which will start with the first meet at Emporia State University on March 15.