

All-State basketballers recognized

Written by Holyoke Enterprise

Kyle Carper, John Baumgartner named Player/Coach of the Year

HHS senior forward Kyle Carper was recognized as Colorado 2A Player of the Year in the Sunday, April 11 Denver Post.

Other members of the HHS 2009-10 Dragon boys' basketball team, as well as the coach, were recognized in the All-State listings.

Coach John Baumgartner was named Coach of the Year in 2A, senior Ryan Baumgartner joined Carper on first team All-State, senior Evan Swanson made second team All-State and senior Logan Krueger was named to the Honorable Mention list.

Additionally, HHS senior Marissa Smith earned Honorable Mention honors on the 2A girls' basketball All-State list.

Carper headed to Denver last week for the photo shoot for Sunday's Mr. Basketball 2010 page.

The Post article touts 6'3" Carper's keen abilities on the basketball court, noting this year he just wanted to be a key team player.

"Because of that, and the 14.4 points and 8.1 rebounds per game he averaged, Carper not only led Holyoke to its first 2A state championship since 1984, he has been named 2A Mr. Basketball."

Talking about the extreme honor Sunday morning, Carper humbly acknowledged he was shocked to learn he'd been selected. He cited other good 2A players.

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Carper led Holyoke with 40 blocked shots, and averaged over 15 points per game in the state tournament to finish Holyoke's 25-2 season. He scored a game-high 19 points in the 55-38 championship game with Ignacio for the team's gold-ball win.

Winning this year's state tournament was a great comeback from the Dragon loss in the 2009 championship game.

"It's been a lot of fun, but kind of sad that it's over," admitted Carper, when reflecting on the four years he started varsity on the Dragon basketball team. "I'll always remember it," he added quickly.

"We went out on top, and that's what it's about," he said. "It's been great."

Carper intends to continue his basketball playing beyond high school. While he's close to making a decision, he hasn't quite settled on the team that will get to claim him next year.

Holyoke's only other basketball player who has earned Player of the Year honors was Rod Trumper. He was recognized in 1984 when the Dragons won the first state championship for HHS. At that time, Holyoke's Tom Kammer was named Coach of the Year.

2A Boys' All-State

In addition to Carper and Baumgartner, other boys named to the All-State first team are seniors DeLovell Earls of C.S. School, Alex Herrera of Ignacio and Matt Brown of Limon.

Second-teamers, in addition to Swanson, are seniors Brett Forster of Sanford and Patrick Phelan of Rangely, junior Andrew Bowers of Lutheran Parker and sophomore Johnny Foote of Lutheran Parker.

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Other area honorable mention All-Staters, in addition to Krueger, are junior Ben Jones of Wray and senior Junior Leon of Wiggins.

2A Girls' All-State

Girls' 2A first team All-Staters are seniors Grayson Pipher, Jordyn Rienks and Johanna Reed of Paonia; senior Kayla Gabehart of Kiowa; and junior Sydney Clarkson of Akron. Rienks was named Player of the Year, with Scott Rienks of Paonia as Coach of the Year.

Second-team All-Staters are senior Brianna Bard of Wray, senior Amber Lowther and junior Jessika Kienitz of Rocky Ford, senior Taylor Castillo of Kiowa and senior Megan Beiriger of Sangre de Cristo.

In addition to Smith, other honorable mention All-Staters from this area are junior Makenzie Ault and sophomore Ashley Campbell of Sedgwick County, freshman Sidney Merrill of Akron, sophomore Danielle Rinaldo and junior Carly Walder of Merino, senior C.J. Twiss of Wray and senior Brittany Weber of Burlington.