

SPORTS

Lady Trojans sign four

By MIKE SALBATO
Special to the Chronicle

Trinidad State volleyball head coach Ellen Johnson recently announced the signing of four athletes for the 2009 Trojan volleyball team. New to the Lady Trojans will be Meghan Flaherty, Taylor Mosco, Jillian Wilkins and Erika Colborn.

Meghan Flaherty is from Platte Canyon High School in Bailey, Colorado. She played club volleyball for the Peak Performance Volleyball Club. She is a leader and is very dedicated. Flaherty's senior year she helped coach at Peak Performance because there was no 18's team. She is a 5'5 libero. In high school she had the honor of making First Team All Conference, Second Team All Conference, MVP, and Defensive Player of the year.

"I am excited that Meghan has decided to be a Trojan," commented Coach Johnson. "We can definitely use her quickness in the back row. She is a natural leader and very mature young lady. I expect her to impact Trojan Volleyball, both on and off the court."

Meghan is the daughter of Shawn Flaherty. She plans to study wildlife biology at TSJC.

Taylor Mosco is a 5'9 middle from Pueblo County High School in Pueblo, Colorado. During high school she served as a leader for her squad as team captain. Among her honors she was also a "Fall Athlete of the Week" nominee and the 2009 MVP.

"Taylor is a force to be reckoned with at the net," said Johnson. "She sees the floor well and puts up a good sized block. I expect Taylor to make her presence known on the court this year. I am thrilled that she has decided to become a Lady Trojan."

Taylor's parents are Gene and Jennifer Reno. She plans to study Psychology.

Jillian Wilkins is a 5'9 outside hitter from Falcon High School in Colorado Springs. She is a true outside with a tremendous work ethic. Wilkins was a leader at Falcon as the team captain and floor captain. She was also nominated to the All Conference 4A Metro League Volleyball team in 2008. She received a certificate for the most kills in 2008. She played for both the Pikes Peak Volleyball Club her senior year and Peak Accel Volleyball Club her junior year.

"I am excited that Jillian is coming to Trinidad State. She is very self motivated and is a very hard worker," commented Johnson. "She brings a lot of leadership experience to our squad. Jillian is a smart player and very consistent hitter. She has a go-getter attitude and I hope that it is contagious for the rest of the team."

Wilkins' educational goal is to receive a B.S. in Nursing.

Erika Colborn has decided to resign with the Trojans. She signed with TSJC last fall but left during preseason for medical reasons. Colborn is a 5'8 middle blocker from Ferguson High School in Windsor, Colorado. She also played club ball with the 5-Star Volleyball Club.

"I am glad that Erika will be rejoining the squad," said Coach Johnson. "She is very quick on her feet and has a great arm swing that is known to throw off blockers. She has a good attitude and is very coachable. I look forward to coaching Erika this fall."

Erica's parents are Kathy and Craig Colborn

These four girls will join the Trojans this August as they take the court in Region IX Volleyball.

Kareem: Magic's Howard 'kind of predictable'

ANTONIO GONZALEZ
Associated Press Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Kareem Abdul-Jabbar doesn't see much future for Dwight Howard in all those rim-rocking dunks and power moves from the Orlando Magic center.

The NBA's career scoring leader would like to see Howard not rely so much on his size and athleticism and make himself a player his team can turn to when it counts. Maybe even throw in a skyhook or two.

"He's still offensively kind of raw," Abdul-Jabbar said Wednesday. "He doesn't have a go-to move yet. Right now, he's kind of predictable."

The NBA finals have shown that Howard has a long way to go to be the dominant offensive center the Lakers' Hall of Famer was. The Magic trail Los Angeles 2-1, with Game 4 on Thursday night.

So far, Howard's Superman act has mostly been grounded.

"Kareem is right, and he understands that in order to be a good player you have to add different things to your game," Howard said. "I've tried to do the skyhook just like him, but he had more range and more touch. He was shooting skyhooks from the 3-point line, and I'm still working on it from the paint, so I've got a long way to go."

The Lakers have tested the 23-year-old Howard's skills perhaps more than any team in the playoffs and exposed Howard's still developing fundamentals. They've harassed him with double-teams, surrounded him with 7-footers and shrunk his passing lanes.

The constant different looks have eased the pressure on the Lakers' frontcourt.

"So far, it hasn't been all that bad," Lakers forward Pau Gasol said about guarding Howard.

The Magic big man has averaged 16.6 points per game in the series, made just 11 shots from the field and even fewer dunks. That's down from his 20.9 points in the regular season.

If not for Orlando's shooting a finals record 62.5 percent from the field in its Game 3 win, the pressure would have elevated even more on Howard, who jumped straight from his Atlanta high school to the No. 1 overall pick in the NBA.

Howard is working to improve his offensive skills.

He often spends nights at the Magic's practice facility with friends, shooting hooks and as many as 300 free throws with music blaring at the highest decibels. As a kid, too, he used to emulate Abdul-Jabbar on the playground with the skyhook.

The running hook, not quite the towering shot Abdul-Jabbar perfected, is a move Howard has begun to develop over his first five seasons in the NBA. If he can make it consistently, he said it would take his game to the level of the all-time greats.

His teammates often laugh at criticism of Howard's offensive talents.

After all, they say when you're nearly 7 feet, weigh more than 265 pounds with some of the broadest shoulders and leaping ability in the league, why shouldn't you just dunk? That off-the-charts athleticism has been showcased in the last two All-Star dunk contests, when he's donned



AP Photo/Reinhold Matay

Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard (12) throws down a dunk in front of Cleveland Cavaliers guard Mo Williams in the second half of Game 3 of the NBA Eastern Conference basketball finals in Orlando, Fla., Sunday, May 24, 2009. Orlando won 99-89.

Superman regalia and soared seemingly above the backboard.

"If I was that big, I wouldn't ever shoot a jump shot," Magic guard Courtney Lee joked.

Working closely with Magic assistant coach and former New York Knicks center Patrick Ewing, Howard has said that he's still reaching his potential, often saying it's only around 20 percent. Only time will tell if that holds true.

Abdul-Jabbar, who's currently working as a special assistant with the Lakers, agrees. If there's one thing he loves about

Howard's game, it's his defense.

Howard is the NBA defensive player of the year after leading the league in blocks and rebounds this season. Leading those two categories in the same season is something the Lakers great — and only three others — have accomplished.

But Abdul-Jabbar is waiting for the offense to catch up.

"Dwight is kind of limited offensively," he said. "He does great right under the basket, you force him to do other things, he doesn't have an answer for it yet. But I think that's his challenge."

Trinidad Youth League Baseball Schedules

Coach Pitch

Thursday June 11

Central Park
5:15 pm Field by the lake
Cardinals vs. Cubs
Central Park
6:20 pm Field by the lake
Yankees vs. D&W Concrete (Rockies)

Tuesday June 16

Central Park
5:15 pm Field by the lake
A's vs. D&W Concrete (Rockies)
6:20 pm Field by the lake
Cardinals vs. Yankees

Thursday June 18

Central Park
5:15 pm Field by the lake
A's vs. Yankees
6:20 pm Field by the lake
D&W Concrete (Rockies) vs. Cubs

Machine Pitch

Thursday June 11

Southside Park
5:15 pm Field D
Wal-Mart (Diamondbacks) vs.

Skateland (A's)

7:00 pm Field D
Lock Tight Insulation (Yankees) vs. Comcast (Orioles)

Friday June 12

Southside Park
5:15 pm Field D
N V Design (Dodgers) vs. First National Bank (Rockies)
7:00 pm Field D
Lock Tight Insulation (Yankees) vs. Skateland (A's)

Tuesday June 16

Southside Park
5:15 pm Field D
N V Design (Dodgers) vs. Lock Tight Insulation (Yankees)
7:00 pm Field D
Skateland (A's) vs. First National Bank (Rockies)

Thursday June 18

Southside Park
5:15 pm Field D
First National Bank (Rockies) vs. Comcast (Orioles)
7:00 pm Field D
Wal-Mart (Diamondbacks) vs. Lock Tight Insulation (Yankees)

Stevens starts pursuit of 3 NCAA titles

NOAH TRISTER
AP Sports Writer

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP) — Sarah Stevens qualified for the finals in the hammer throw and shot put, beginning her pursuit of three titles at the NCAA track and field championships.

Stevens, who will also com-

pete in the discus, needed only one toss to qualify in the shot put. The Arizona State senior used three attempts in the hammer throw earlier in the day but had no problem reaching the finals.

Stevens is the defending national champion in the discus, and she won the 2007 indoor title in the shot put.

Pens' Sykora expected to miss Game 7 with injury

PITTSBURGH (AP) — Pittsburgh Penguins forward Petr Sykora could miss Game 7 of the Stanley Cup finals with a right foot injury sustained during his first playing time in more than a month.

The Penguins did not practice Wednesday, but Sykora was seen leaving Mellon Arena on crutches, with a brace on his right foot and ankle, after he was treated by the team's medical staff.

Sykora apparently was hurt

while blocking a shot Tuesday during the second period of Pittsburgh's 2-1 victory in Game 6 against Detroit.

The Penguins did not comment about Sykora's status. Miroslav Satan, who was held out of Game 6, likely replace Sykora.

Sykora scored 25 goals during the regular season, but had not played since Game 2 of the second round against Washington.

Beckham starts for England for 1st time in 2 years

FRANK GRIFFITHS
Associated Press Writer

WEMBLEY, England (AP) — David Beckham was closer to achieving his dream of playing in another World Cup by starting and finishing his first competitive match for England since 2007 in Wednesday's 6-0 rout of Andorra in a qualifier.

A 112th England appearance at the age of 34 will raise Beckham's hopes of making the finals in South Africa next year, assuming his team qualifies, and of potentially breaking the national all-time record of 125 caps held by retired goalkeeper Peter Shilton.

Beckham has 17 goals in his 13-year England career, but he is yet to score at England's national stadium — the old or the rebuilt Wembley. The crowd shouted "shoot, shoot!" in the dying moments on Wednesday, hoping to be there for his first Wembley goal.

"It's obviously missing, but I don't care," Beckham said. "At the end of the day, I'm happy with being in this team. I'm happy with performing in this team and playing with these players because it's a great team and a great squad to be around at the moment. Whether I score or not at Wembley, we'll see. As long as we carry on winning, I don't care."



AP Photo/Matt Dunham

England's Wayne Rooney, center no. 10, celebrates scoring against Andorra with teammates, including David Beckham, right, during their World Cup 2010 qualifying soccer match at Wembley Stadium in London, Wednesday, June, 10, 2009.

Manager Fabio Capello selected Beckham in central midfield because Gareth Barry was suspended and Michael Carrick was injured.

"Being in the center of midfield gave me more time on the ball and definitely more touch with the ball," Beckham said. "I enjoyed the role, I enjoyed playing."

The midfielder, who already holds the national record for an outfield player, owes his enduring international career to the loan move to AC Milan in January from the Los Angeles Galaxy, ensuring he continued to play top-level club football.

Beckham is to rejoin the Galaxy for its July 16 match at New York, but intends to rejoin Milan in January.

He warned England followers against becoming too confident and complacent, as the team was still haunted by the failure to qualify for the 2008 European Championship.

"That was a really disappointing time for us," Beckham said. "But the support that the fans have shown us tonight on a difficult night of getting here and getting home (because of a strike by subway workers) shows the passion that they've got for the team and it shows

the loyalty that they show for us."

Beckham also urged caution about growing expectations from their success in the qualifiers, with some saying England is a strong contender to the win the World Cup.

"There is always going to be high expectation because of the players we've got," Beckham said. "We've got to be careful. We've won seven games, we've put in seven good performances but we're not a team that gets carried away and we're not a squad that gets carried away. We can't afford to. At the end of the day, we want to qualify. That's the goal. Once we qualify, then we see what happens in the competition, but the main objective is to qualify."

Beckham had started friendlies for England, but not a competitive match since a European Championship qualifier in Estonia in June 2007 after being recalled to the squad.

He had been dropped by then-manager Steve McClaren after losing to Portugal in the World Cup quarterfinals in June 2006.

Beckham made his international debut in 1996 and surpassed former captain Bobby Moore (1962-73) for outfield appearances in March.