

Yearbook Sports Writing

2011 KSPA Regional Competition

Description

You are a member of Ad Astra High School's yearbook staff. Your editor has assigned you to write the copy about the varsity volleyball team for the sports section of the book.

School Info

Name: Ad Astra High School

Location: Aspera, Kansas

Mascot: Box Turtles

Enrollment: 850 (grades 9-12)

School Colors: Green & Gold

Yearbook: The Honeybee

Newspaper: The Star

Contest Info

This is an **on-site** contest.

Please attach **your assigned contest number** in the upper right-hand corner of your entry.

Do not put your name on the entry. If you do, your entry will be disqualified.

Students are not to request help or advice from anyone other than the KSPA Executive Director. All work must be that of the contestant.

Assignment

You are to write a 200-word yearbook story on the varsity volleyball team. This is a copy writing contest only; no headline should be written. Background information and quotes have been provided for you below.

The writer should determine which information is relevant and important to the story. Students may write in pen or pencil. Students may use dictionary, thesaurus and A.P. style manuals. The use of personal listening devices (i.e. iPods), recording devices, electric typewriters and personal computers during the contest is prohibited.

Background

- The varsity volleyball team went 10-10 (10 wins, 10 losses) during the 2010 season.
- It was the team's best season since the 1993 Box Turtles went 15-7 and won the sub-state tournament.
- The team has had a losing record ever since. That string ran from 1994 to 2009.
- The 2009 team finished the season at 2-17.
- The low-point of the string came in 2008, when the Box Turtles failed to win a single match – going 0-18 – and won only one set during the entire season.
- AAHS went through eight different head coaches during that 1994-2009 string.
- The coach in 2008 and 2009 was Terri Petite.
- Coach Jon Cooke succeeded Petite as coach.
- Cooke came to AAHS from Goodland St. Barnabas school, where his teams won two state championships in Class 2A.
- Cooke installed a 6-2 rotation system, allowing for AAHS to use two setters in their rotation.
- Cooke also required the players to show up for "Volleyball Boot Camp" before the season.
- "Boot Camp" consisted of extra-long practices, much of the time spent on diving and sliding along the floor. Cooke hoped that would instill some toughness in the team, especially on defense.
- After the first week of "Boot Camp" practices, a parent called the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) and asked if such practices were allowed under KSHSAA rules.
- KSHSAA called Cooke and asked him about the camp. KSHSAA ruled that the camp practices were 30 minutes too long and violated KSHSAA rules.
- KSHSAA told Cooke that he couldn't hold practice on Mondays for the rest of the season as punishment for violating the rules.



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- The highlight of the season was a three-set thriller against archrival John Brown High School, which AAHS won 25-23, 24-26, 16-14. The match was held on homecoming weekend, Friday afternoon Oct. 7 at the Ad Astra gym. The football game against JBHS followed.
- In the victory against the JBHS Crusaders, AAHS rallied from a 14-9 deficit, winning the final seven points of the match.
- The final six points were all served by senior setter Nancy Metcalf. Four of the points, including the last two, came on aces by Metcalf, who has a jump serve that has been measured at 55 miles per hour. Metcalf has a scholarship offer from Kansas Wesleyan University.
- The other two points in that six-point run were kills by outside hitter Sarah Pavan, a junior who made the all-Buffalo League team. Metcalf also was named all-Buffalo.
- The fans stormed the court, singing the fight song, and waving green and gold flags.
- The season ended at the Sub-State tournament at McPherson HS. AAHS lost in the second round to Topeka East 25-18, 25-20. AAHS won its first round game against Great Bend Central, 25-23, 25-15.

Quotes

- Coach Jon Cooke: "We finished the season as the toughest team in Class 5A. We weren't that way at the beginning of the season, but we were at the end. We may not have been the best team, but we fought hard all year. Those girls definitely paid the price."
- Senior Nancy Metcalf: "Those were the most physically demanding practices I've ever been through. I started the season as a decent player, but I wasn't tough. Because of Coach Cooke's practices, I now have the attitude and ability to play college volleyball."
- Metcalf: "I got on a hot streak against John Brown. I think I had a little extra speed on those serves, and those poor little Crusader girls just couldn't dig it, you know."
- Junior Sarah Pavan: "Losing sucks. I'm so happy Coach Cooke moved here to help us win. Everybody was tired of being bad. Next year, we're going to state. I guarantee it."