



Dodge City's Brian Soza (right) reaches in to try and steal the ball from Salina Central's Mike Armster.

## Garden City hands SHHS two losses

By STEPHEN WHITE  
Sports Writer

HAYS — Sacred Heart spent all night just trying to keep up with Garden City, and just when it seemed the Knights were too far behind to pull it out, the Knight mustered one final rally.

And it was a dandy — but not quite quite good enough.

Garden City weathered the Knights' furious comeback to cling to a 62-60 victory in the losers' bracket semifinals of the third annual Hays City Shoot-Out.

Earlier Friday night, Garden City's girls handed Sacred Heart's girls their second 54-43 loss in as many nights.

The victories vaulted Garden City into today's fourth-place contests against Great Bend.

Sacred Heart will meet Russell for seventh place, with the girls' game scheduled for 10:30 a.m., followed by the boys' contest at 12:15 p.m.

Trailing by eight points (59-51) with less than 90 seconds to play, Sacred Heart's boys stole the ball twice in the next 60 seconds to pull within a field goal (60-58) of the Buffaloes, who had led almost the entire night.

Only 12 seconds remained after Darren Knipp converted an offensive rebound into a field goal to make the score 62-60.

The Knight then stole the inbounds pass, but Garden City swatted away not one, but two, field goal attempts before batting the ball toward a trio of Buffaloes near mid-court.

There, Sacred Heart intercepted the ball one more time, but when T.J. Bransfield turned and rifled a pass to Knipp, streaking toward the basket, the Knights' luck ran out.

Garden City guard Dwayne Drones stepped in front of the pass to preserve the victory.

"Those are tough for the kids. They played their hearts out. They didn't give up. They played hard down to the wire," said Sacred Heart coach Bob Mannebach.

"This is the second night in a row we didn't make our free throws," he said, referring to five straight charities the Knights missed in the second half.

Garden City, on the other hand, buried 11 of 15 fourth-quarter freebies.

David Fox, after sinking four of his five first-half field goal attempts, sank seven of eight free throws to pace the Buffaloes with 15 points.

Knipp, after tossing in 23 points Thursday night, fueled the Knights with 27 points Friday.

Pat Meares added nine points. And Matt Stamm came off the bench to tally nine points and a team-high six rebounds as Sacred matched the taller Buffaloes on the boards (27 rebounds each).

"We played a 6A school down to the wire. I do (feel good)," Mannebach said. "I think we're capable of playing with anybody."

### Tournament scoreboard

THURSDAY'S GAMES	
Quarterfinals	
BOYS	
Abilene 62, Great Bend 50	Hays 63, Russell 39
Colby 32, Garden City 29	TMP-Marian 54, Sacred Heart 43
GIRLS	
Abilene 46, Great Bend 43	Hays 49, Russell 37
Colby 47, Garden City 39	TMP-Marian 55, Sacred Heart 42
FRIDAY'S GAMES	
Semifinals	
BOYS	
Winners' Bracket	Colby 41, TMP-Marian 39
Abilene 71, Hays 61	
Losers' Bracket	Great Bend 91, Russell 42
Garden City 62, Sacred Heart 60	
GIRLS	
Winners' Bracket	Colby 67, TMP-Marian 57
Hays 47, Abilene 43 (ot)	
Losers' Bracket	Great Bend 57, Russell 52
Garden City 54, Sacred Heart 43	
SATURDAY'S GAMES	
BOYS	
At Hays High	12:15 p.m. — Russell vs. Sacred Heart
3:45 p.m. — Great Bend vs. Garden City	
At Felton Middle School	4:45 p.m. — TMP-Marian vs. Hays
8:30 p.m. — Colby vs. Abilene	
GIRLS	
At Hays High	10:30 a.m. — Russell vs. Sacred Heart
2 p.m. — Great Bend vs. Garden City	
At Felton Middle School	3 p.m. — Abilene vs. TMP-Marian
6:30 p.m. — Colby vs. Hays	

## Central boys bounce back with win

By KEN CORBITT  
Sports Writer

NEWTON — Salina Central's basketball team was looking for a place to hide Thursday night after absorbing a 15-point thumping from Newton in the first game of the season.

But the Mustangs returned here Friday for their second game in the Newton Classic and redeemed themselves, turning in a solid performance in all phases of the game for a 45-38 victory over Dodge City.

"The kids really felt embarrassed (Thursday) that they played so poorly," Central coach Dennis Wahlgren said. "We even joked about it after the game. I asked, 'Who was that team that showed up?' All the players said they didn't know, either."

"The kids are determined to be a better ballclub than what they showed (Thursday) night. This was a step in the right direction."

Trailing 6-4, Central reeled off 10 unanswered points over the final two minutes of the first quarter and first five minutes of the second quarter.

### Tournament scoreboard

Thursday's Games	
Dodge City 51, Buhler 37	Newton 46, Salina Central 31
Friday's Games	
Salina Central 45, Dodge City 38	Newton 54, Buhler 46
Saturday's Games	
6:15 p.m. — Salina Central (1-1) vs. Buhler (0-2)	
8 p.m. — Dodge City (1-1) vs. Newton (2-0)	

The surge was capped when Tim Deines intercepted a pass at mid-court as Central pressed and broke away for a slam dunk to make it 16-6 at 5:18 of the second quarter.

The Mustangs held a 23-16 lead at halftime and retained that seven-point margin with a 33-26 cushion heading into the fourth quarter. Dodge City got within three points of Central, 29-26, with 3:37 left in the third quarter as Scott Vogel got all 10 of the Demons' points in the period.

Central regained the momentum early in the final period as Bill Grammer scored off an offensive rebound and Mike Armster scored inside the lane for a 37-28 Mustang

SALINA CENTRAL (45)	
Veal 2-6 0-0-4	Darin Brummett 1-2 0-0-2
Fink 3-7 1-2-7	David Brummett 0-3 2-2-2
Deines 3-10	1-2 7
Jones 3-6 0-0-6	Grammer 1-4 2-2-4
Armster 5-11 3-4 13	TOTALS 18-49 9-12 45
DODGE CITY (38)	
Lenz 0-0 0-0-0	Clare 2-8 0-2-4
Brown 4-7 0-0	8
Arnold 0-3 0-0-0	Vogel 9-15 0-0-18
VanIningham 1-3 0-0-2	Soza 3-13 0-0-6
Keeley 0-0	TOTALS 19-53 0-2-38
Salina Central	10 13 10 12 — 45
Dodge City	6 10 10 12 — 38
TOTAL FOULS — Salina Central 8, Dodge City 14	FOULED OUT — None
TOTAL REBOUNDS — Salina Central 25 (Armster 7), Dodge City 38 (Brown 9)	TURNOVERS — Salina Central 13, Dodge City 20

lead. But the Demons scored the game's next six points and were within three, 39-36, with 1:03 remaining when Vogel scored after grabbing the rebound from teammate Larry Clare's missed free throw.

Dodge City pressed full court, but Mustang guard James Veal spotted Armster alone under the basket and fired a pass from the halfcourt stripe. Armster, a 6-5 senior, got the bucket and was fouled. He completed the three-point play to make it 42-36 with 47 seconds left.

Instead of laying back, Central continued to press fullcourt and

forced the Demons into a turnover, one of 20 on the night. David Brummett sank a pair of free throws for Central for a 44-36 lead with 30 seconds left.

After a Dodge City timeout, the Demons again turned the ball over against the press, but Central gave back on a traveling violation. This time, John Brown broke through the press for a layup and Dodge City stopped the clock with 12 seconds left, trailing 44-38.

But Armster closed the scoring with three ticks on the clock, making one free throw to complete a 13-point, 7-rebound game.

Despite leading by six and eight points with less than a minute left, Central continued to press fullcourt.

"We wanted to take some time off the clock so they couldn't just run the ball upcourt and get off an easy shot," Wahlgren said.

Free throws proved to be the decisive factor. Central was 9-for-12, including a 4-for-5 showing over the final 47 seconds, while the Demons were 0-for-2 from the line.

## Seniors grab 20 of 22 spots on Class 4-5A All-Area Team

By TIM HOSTETTER  
Sports Writer

A solid senior class comprises The Salina Journal's 1985 All-Area Class 4-5A football team.

Just two juniors — Norton defensive lineman Jerry Sonntag and Salina Central defensive back Charles Veal — are on this year's first team.

Norton — the only 11-man team to record a perfect record this season — has the most spots with five.

Three Blue Jays — quarterback J.D. Hand, running back Eric Farber and lineman Todd Herman — are on the offensive unit.

Hand, a 5-8, 165-pounder, was very versatile the last three years in quarterbacking Norton to the 3A state championship game.

As an option quarterback, Hand rushed for 323 yards in 1985 and 869 yards and 16 touchdowns in his career. As a passer, Hand threw for over 1,000 yards in each of the last two seasons and finished with 2,630 yards and 28 TDs in his career. He threw just three interceptions in 135 attempts in '85.

"I've coached option football for the last 15 years and J.D. is the best option quarterback I've coached," said Norton head coach Neil Melillo. "He worked hard the last couple of years to improve his passing and it has paid off. He's not a drop-back quarterback, but does an excellent job of sprinting out and setting up."

"He's a straight A student and a tremendous leader on the field. We couldn't have won all the games we did without him."



quarterbacks in the central and northwest Kansas area. Colby's Jason Squibb threw for 1,488 yards and 15 TDs. David Wiemers of Clay Center threw for 976 yards in leading the Tigers to the regional playoffs for the second straight season. Todd Windholz completed 92-of-176 passes and 16 TDs at Hays and Salina Central's Eric Zeeman ran for over 600 yards out of the wishbone.

Hand is joined the first-team backfield by teammate Eric Farber, McPherson's Ron Biehler and Ellsworth's Bryon Bigham.

Farber, who also made the first-team defensive unit as a back, rushed for a school-record 1,308 yards on just 185 carries this past season. He scored 19 TDs, 15 by rushing, one each by kickoff and punt return and two by interception return.

At 6-3, 185 pounds, and possessing good speed, Biehler is a fine looking running back. Playing in the tough Ark Valley League, Biehler earned first-team all-league honors after rushing for more than 700 yards and nine TDs.

"Ron has been our leading rusher and receiver the last two seasons," said McPherson head coach Tim Wesselowski. "He's a hard runner who picks up the tough yards."

Ellsworth was an inconsistent football team this season, but Bigham was steady at running back, rushing for 1,127 yards on 170 carries (6.6 per carry) and 15 TDs.

Bigham's rushing total led the North Central Activities Association and his 92 points scored was 34 more than runner-up Kyle Gunnerson of Southeast of Salina.

This year's wide receivers are Colby's Todd Lowe and Russell's Craig Norris.

Colby head coach Keith Cochran utilized an exciting passing game this season (Squibb threw 222 times) and Lowe was the main target. He caught 30 passes for 522 yards and seven touchdowns.

Russell head coach Joe Ross discovered a promising sophomore quarterback in Kurt Nuss and used the his arm extensively this season. Norris caught 37 of Nuss's 60 completions this season for 737 yards and nine TDs.

The offensive line consists of Darrel Loder of Salina Central, Todd Herman of Norton, Brad Befort of Thomas More Prep-Marian, Jon Lucas of Chapman, and Garth Bloom of Clay Center.

Loder also made the first-team at linebacker. He moved to center from running back his junior season and proved to be an outstanding blocker in Central's potent wishbone attack. He earned first-team center honors in the tough I-70 League.

Melillo calls Herman the best offensive lineman he's had at Norton. That statement says something, considering the outstanding linemen the Blue Jays have had in the last four years.

### Class 4-5A All-Area Team

FIRST TEAM		OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
Player, School	Hgt.	Wgt.	Yr.	Position	
Todd Lowe, Colby	6-0	170	Sr.	End	
Craig Norris, Russell	6-4	175	Sr.	End	
Darrel Loder, Salina Central	5-11	185	Sr.	Linebacker	
Todd Herman, Norton	5-11	195	Sr.	Linebacker	
Jon Lucas, Chapman	5-10	175	Sr.	Linebacker	
Brad Befort, TMP-Marian	6-0	195	Sr.	Linebacker	
Garth Bloom, Clay Center	5-10	170	Sr.	Linebacker	
J.D. Hand, Norton	5-8	165	Sr.	Quarterback	
Eric Farber, Norton	5-9	165	Sr.	Running back	
Ron Biehler, McPherson	6-3	185	Sr.	Running back	
Bryon Bigham, Ellsworth	6-0	175	Sr.	Running back	
DEFENSE		OFFENSE		DEFENSE	
Troy Weber, Beloit	6-3	212	Jr.	Linebacker	
Jerry Sonntag, Norton	6-1	185	Jr.	Linebacker	
Karl Langvardt, Chapman	6-4	190	Sr.	Linebacker	
Garth Bloom, Clay Center	5-11	175	Sr.	Linebacker	
John Jimenez, Norton	6-1	203	Sr.	Linebacker	
Darrel Loder, Salina Central	5-11	185	Sr.	Linebacker	
Mark Deets, Beloit	5-10	185	Sr.	Linebacker	
Rich Manor, McPherson	5-10	160	Sr.	Back	
Eric Farber, Norton	5-9	165	Sr.	Back	
Eric Zeeman, Salina Central	5-10	175	Sr.	Back	
Charles Veal, Salina Central	5-9	145	Jr.	Back	

Quarterback — Dave Cash, Chapman; David Christensen, Concordia; Mike Maxwell, Beloit; Kurt Nuss, Russell; Jason Squibb, Colby; David Wiemers, Clay Center; Todd Windholz, Hays; Eric Zeeman, Salina Central.

Running back — Bret Darr, Phillipsburg; David Berven, Abilene; Mike Dickerson, Goodland; James Desch, TMP-Marian; Chad Meyers, Beloit; Jason Vetter, Beloit; Ronnie Wright, Clay Center.

End — Kurt Long, Chapman; Rod Blecho, Hays; Mark Griffey, Norton; Kevin Marozas, Beloit; Barry Warner, Salina South; Cliff Williams, Clay Center; Kurt Kason, Norton.

Linebacker — Todd Baker, Beloit; Jeff Long, Salina Central; Tim Sammons, Phillipsburg; Fred Wolfe, Salina Central.

Linebacker — Scott Davis, McPherson; Jeff Gross, Hays; Gordon Ludlow, Russell; Rob Schmutz, Abilene; Shawn Siruta, Colby.

Linebacker — Luke Burger, Clay Center; Mark Carter, Norton; Kelly Flax, TMP-Marian; Troy Stiles, Phillipsburg; Kirk Venables, Salina South; Delbert Wheeler, Ellsworth.

backer on defense. Deets was solid all year for Beloit and led the NCAA in tackles with 156 (70 solo).

Jimenez — a three-year starter — was the heart of Norton's defense, which didn't allow a rushing touchdown all season. Melillo doesn't keep defensive statistics, but Jimenez would've been at or near the top of the defensive points' list if the 'Jays would've had such stats.

"John had a great year for us," Melillo said. "He's been a great linebacker for us since he started as a sophomore."

Jimenez also ran a tough fullback for Norton. He gained over 700 yards and scored 11 TDs this season. He saved his best rushing game of the season for last when he rushed for 109 yards in Norton's 14-0 state championship game win over Shawnee Aquinas.

Joining Sonntag and Bloom on the defensive line are Troy Weber of Beloit and Karl Langvardt of Chapman.

Weber led Beloit in tackles behind the line of scrimmage the last two seasons. He's 6-3, 212, and has outstanding quickness. Most of Beloit's opponents ran away from Weber's end spot, but he still had 75 tackles.

Langvardt was also a two-way all-leaguer in the NCKL at ends. He recorded 92 tackles and led the league with 15 tackles behind the line.

Melillo expects Sonntag to be highly recruited next season because of his outstanding tackling ability and desire to be the best player around.

(See Hays, Page 14)