

SPORTS

Bradshaw players drawing interest

By Jon Gudel - Sports Editor



Guard Ashlee Jones is generating interest from the top college programs in the country, including the University of Tennessee. She is only a sophomore.

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Mike Ruble sat in his chair in the athletic director's office at Bradshaw Christian High School in awe after getting off the phone with a college recruiter last week.

It wasn't so much that a school had shown interest in one of his players as it was the name of the school and the program: University of Tennessee women's basketball.

Outside of maybe only the University of Connecticut, Tennessee is arguably the most recognizable program in women's basketball. The school called with questions regarding sophomore Ashlee Jones.

"I'm sitting here just in amazement because I just got off the phone with the University of Tennessee," said Ruble, also the school's boys and girls varsity basketball coach. "It's not that I'm surprised that schools are calling about her, but she's only a sophomore. She's obviously very good and I guess the word is getting out about her."

Jones was second on the team with 13.6 points per game as a freshman last season. She also averaged 5.4 rebounds, 4.9 steals and 2.8 assists.

Ruble said Jones has garnered even more attention while playing with her AAU team this summer. Colleges often call and show interest only to back off later, but for a program of Tennessee's caliber to be interested is an encouraging sign for Bradshaw's program and Jones.

Bradshaw is the three-time defending Sac-Joaquin Section champion.

Ruble also noted another Bradshaw athlete, senior Brady Dragmire, is also generating additional interest.

Baseball head coach Drew Rickert told Ruble that Long Beach State recently phoned him about Dragmire, a three-sport athlete. Ruble also said Cal State Fullerton, Arizona State and San Jose State have also inquired.

Dragmire played football, basketball and baseball as a junior last season.

He batted .588 with a team-high 32 RBIs in 24 games for the baseball team, which won its first-ever section title. He tied with Tyler Takahashi for the team lead with 37 runs scored.

Dragmire had 10 doubles, eight triples and two home runs.

On the mound, he went 8-2 with a 0.71 ERA in 11 starts. He threw nearly 40 more innings than his closest teammate, allowing just seven earned runs and 32 hits for the entire season.

The right-hander struck out 116 and walked only 19 in 69 innings.

He was fourth on the basketball team at 11.8 points per game. He also averaged 4.7 rebounds, 2.9 steals and 2.1 assists.

In football, Dragmire was second on the team with 1,796 yards rushing and scored a team-high 27 touchdowns. He averaged 149.7 rushing yards per game.

He caught nine passes for 191 yards and two touchdowns.

Defensively, he posted 63 tackles and had four interceptions.

In Bradshaw's 42-38 win over Brookside Christian in the section championship game, Dragmire ran for 238 yards and four total touchdowns and had a game-saving interception in the fourth quarter.

Despite the football program's recent success, the varsity team currently only has 35 players on its roster, a surprise to both Rickert and Ruble.

Bradshaw had envisioned possibly constructing its first-ever junior varsity team this season if the turnout exceeded 40 players.

That wasn't the case.

"Drew's been scratching his head about that one. We were surprised," said Ruble. "We thought with being the two-time defending section champs that we'd have more kids come out. But, for whatever reason, that didn't happen."

While Bradshaw, with an enrollment of more than 1,100 students from preschool through high school, waits for an increased turnout for the varsity team, that wasn't a problem for the Jr. Pride youth football program.

Now in its third season, the Jr. Pride increased from 50 players last season to already 130 signed up for 2010.

Ruble credited new registration fees where last year's price of \$300 was cut in half to \$150. Most youth football programs in Elk Grove have done the same.

"I talked to some of the guys with the (Sheldon) Jr. Huskies, (Monterey Trail) Jr. Mustangs and (Elk Grove) Jr. Herd to get an idea about the way they were doing things," Ruble said. "We are trying to emulate what some of those programs are doing with lower costs and some of those things."

Beginning in the fall, the high school's athletic programs will move to the Sierra Delta League for the section's new realignment. The current format runs through 2014.

Other members of the SDL include Vacaville Christian, Golden Sierra, San Juan, Rio Vista, Encina and Highlands.

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