Every year is a rebuilding project for the community college level.

Still, we have seen our fair share of two-year stars flow through Seward: Tegan Cunningham, Kim Ortega, Jamal Brown and many, many more.

Each year brings a different level of anticipation, and the beginning of this season was no different. But what we thought might have happened to this point may have changed for many of us.

So here there are, the first semester grades based on wins and losses, strength of schedule, and the manner in which the games were played.

Lady SAINTS

The Lady Saints made some eyebrows rise across the nation with their near-perfect start to the season.

While many will be impressed with the 11-1 record, Lady Saints coach Toby Wynn is probably still smarting over the way the Lady Saints dropped the final game to Labette at home on a controversial call.

Seward was not intimidated by any opponent and knocked off three top 20 teams in the early going.

In addition to playing with some of the best teams in the nation, the Lady Saints also started the conference season off with a 2-0 record, something that will help lay the groundwork for the 2010 schedule.

Rachel Barnes has put herself on the watch list as an All American, leading the Lady Saints to the 11-1 start.

She has been supported with the Mozambique tandem of Nadia Rosario and Vaneza Junior.

Megan Lassley has handled the point, and the Lady Saints have been impressive with their defense.

While the margins of victory have been strong, and the loss to Labette a nail-biter, the Lady Saints could have done little better in the first 12 games of the season. One whistle more, and the Lady Saints would be a perfect 12-0.

First semester grade: A

SAINTS

Seward did not plan on padding its early season with a bunch of gimmes.

Instead, the Saints wanted a schedule that would make them a better team when conference play rolled around.

They took some early lumps, finding out where they needed improvement.

Grade report in for Seward County

Wednesday, 23 December 2009 12:04

Seward dropped road games to No. 19 Odessa, Texas, the College of Southern Idaho and West Texas, and those losses might have caused some doubt among the Saint faithful.

Normally, a return to the conference schedule after facing some tough out of conference games is a recipe for disaster.

But the games that counted most — games against Jayhawk West opponents, were the games the Saints needed to win.

When they faced then No. 8 Hutchinson in the Green House, Seward proved that those early games were worth the price. The Saints knocked off the Blue Dragons by 19 points, and then traveled to Barton County to score an 83-73 win.

While the losses were hurtful at the time, Seward is on a run to start the Jayhawk West, and in the end, conference play determines seeding in the Region 6 tournament, which determines who goes to the national tournament. The losses can't be ignored, but the Saints are trending the right direction to be the team to beat in 2010.

First semester grade: B+