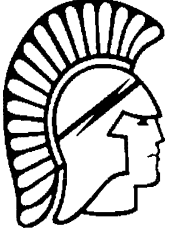


College links Hoxie speedster

James White, head track coach at Colby Community College, has announced that Clayton Hill, Hoxie, has signed a national letter of intent to run track for the Trojans.



Hill has been a standout runner for the Hoxie High School Indians. He also participated in football and wrestling and was an assistant football coach for the Colby High School middle school.

Hill plans to major in history and government at Colby.

Stephens announces decision

Amber Stephens, a recent graduate of Colby Community College, has signed a national letter of intent to run track and cross country at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, Okla.



A. Stephens

Stephens was a member of the 1999 National Junior College Athletic Association cross country championship team and the 2000 team which placed second at the national meet in Levelland, Tex.

She also placed third in the 1,000 meters at the National Indoor Meet held in Manhattan.

Stephens plans to major in nutritional science at OSU. She is the daughter of Paul and Joanne Stephens of Colby.

Coaches not happy with NCAA rules

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — Big 12 Conference basketball coaches upset with NCAA rules that limit the number of scholarships they can offer will try to change those rules, they decided Wednesday.

NCAA Division I rules limit men's basketball programs to offering five scholarships in one year or eight over two years.

Conference officials said the limit hurts teams when players leave school before graduation to play professionally and when players are removed from their teams for disciplinary reasons.

"We have some real problems academically with men's basketball graduation rates, early departures for pro drafts and other factors," Commissioner Kevin Weiberg said during the conference's seventh annual spring meeting. "There are summer recruiting issues and other items in this whole discussion that have to be addressed by the NCAA Council."

Area Briefs

The Second Annual Northwest Kansas Baseball Camp will be held May 30-June 1 from 1-2:30 p.m. for 7-8th grade and 2:45-4:15 p.m. for grades 9-12 at the Colby Recreation Fields. Cost is \$25 at the camp. For information call Kevin Cox at 462-7310.

Antelope hunting applications will be available at the Thomas County Clerk's office until June 8. Archery season will run from Sept. 22-30, muzzel loaders from Oct. 1-8 and firearms from Oct. 5-8. Call 462-4500 for information.

Area Schedule

Friday and Saturday, May 18-19 Kansas High School State Track Meet at Wichita State University. Saturday, May 19

Colby K-18 baseball hosts McCook in the season opener at the Colby Recreation Fields at 6 and 8 p.m.

The winner's circle



SHERRY BARRETT/Colby Free Press

Michael Wassen, Oberlin, received the first place trophy for the bomber class in Sunday's opening races at the Thomas County Speedway. Next races are scheduled for June 3 with hot laps beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Past and present collide in Avalanche-Devils match

DENVER (AP) — Chris Drury was a history major at Boston University, so the question seemed appropriate.

Hey, Chris, do you remember the Colorado Rockies?

"The baseball team? Sure," he said with a smile.

Drury was a newborn when hockey's Colorado Rockies opened their inaugural 1976-77 NHL season,

Vets prepare rookies for 'big zoo'

DENVER (AP) — The Western Conference trophy presentation had hardly ended when Colorado Avalanche defenseman Adam Foote began prepping his younger teammates for the chaos to come.

"It's a big zoo," Foote said after Colorado advanced to the Stanley Cup finals Monday night. "The finals are a circus, and as a player, you just have to remember all the things you do right and keep it as simple as possible."

Foote speaks from experience. He is one of six Avalanche players remaining from Colorado's 1996 title team that swept the Florida Panthers to capture Denver's first major professional sports championship.

Gone are key contributors such as Adam Deadmarsh, Valeri Kamensky, Mike Keane, Claude Lemieux, Sandis Ozolins and Mike Ricci. Their replacements include names such as Rob Blake, Ray Bourque, Chris Drury, Milan Hejduk, Shjon Podein and Alex Tanguay.

"This team and the team that made it to the Stanley Cup finals are both similar and different," said forward Stephane Yelle, who was a rookie in the 1996 playoffs. "Everyone has been playing well and the key to success is when all the lines chip in."

Perhaps most important for the Avs, captain Joe Sakic and goalie Patrick Roy have recaptured their form of five years ago, when Sakic won the Conn Smythe Trophy as the playoff MVP and Roy stopped all 63 shots in the Cup-clinching game.

Sakic's game-winning goal in

Colorado's 2-1 overtime victory against the St. Louis Blues was his ninth goal of the playoffs, while Roy



lowered his goals-against average to a career-best 1.74.

Since Game 1 of the Western Conference semifinals, Roy has given up 17 goals in 11 games.

"I don't have enough fingers and toes to talk about Patrick's great saves in this round," coach Bob Hartley said after Colorado beat the Blues in five games. "Patrick always came up with the big save at the key time."

Roy has received plenty of help from defensemen Foote, Blake and Bourque, who rarely share the bench simultaneously.

Blake, acquired in a late-season trade for Deadmarsh, has been spectacular in the playoffs, punishing opposing forwards with well-timed hip checks and terrorizing goalies with high-velocity slap shots from the blue line.

He set up Yelle for the deciding goal in overtime in Game 4 against St. Louis and his shot led to Sakic's rebound score on Monday night. Blake's only

finals appearance came in 1993, when he and the Los Angeles Kings were defeated by Roy and the Montreal Canadiens.

"You look to guys like Joe and Patrick and Ray for guidance and advice going into the Stanley Cup finals," Blake said. "They are the guys that all of us are following, there's no doubt about it."

Colorado also will draw inspiration from forward Peter Forsberg, out for the season after having his ruptured spleen removed May 10. Forsberg returned to the arena as a spectator Monday night and watched the Avalanche improve to 4-1 since he was injured.

The Avs have home ice Saturday night when they face the defending champion New Jersey Devils in the Stanley Cup finals.

Boxing championships might be settled in court

NEW YORK (AP) — A fight between Mike Tyson and Lennox Lewis without a title at stake is possible.

Such a fight is being considered by Showtime, contracted with Tyson, and HBO, which has a deal with Lewis.

"Yes, he would consider fighting Lewis without a title at stake," Shelly Finkel, Tyson's adviser, said Wednesday.

As for negotiations between the two cable networks, Finkel said, "They have discussed it, but everything depends on June 11. On June 11 a trial on two separate lawsuits is scheduled to begin before Judge Miriam Sedarbaum in U.S. District Court in Manhattan.

Promoter Don King and WBC and IBF heavyweight champion Hasim Rahman are being sued for tortious interference and breach of contract by Cedrick Kushner, who contends he has a contract with Rahman, who won the titles by knocking out Lewis on April 22 in South Africa.

Rahman signed a contract with King on May 10 because, "he gave me the best deal," the fighter said.

Lewis has sued King, Rahman and the champion's managers for tortious interference. There was a rematch

clause in the Lewis-Rahman fight contracts, and Lewis contends he should get an immediate rematch.

Meanwhile, the WBC agreed in a stipulation filed in U.S. District Court on May 10 not to give championship sanction to an immediate Rahman-Lewis rematch. In turn, Tyson dropped a suit against the WBC.

In other litigation, David Tua, the IBF's No. 1 contender filed an application on Monday for an injunction against any defense of the IBF title until his suit against the organization is heard in U.S. District Court at Newark, N.J.

Tua wants the IBF to enforce a rule that championship recognition must be withdrawn from any fighter who agrees to a rematch.

If King gets his way, Rahman could fight Brian Nielsen of Denmark as part of a heavyweight championship doubleheader with John Ruiz's IBF title defense against Evander Holyfield Aug. 5 at Beijing.

Further clouding matters is the fact that the WBC champion is due to make a mandatory defense in November, and as No. 1 challenger, Tyson is in line for that fight.

and he was nearing his sixth birthday when the founding team was sold and moved to New Jersey in 1982.

Nineteen years later, Denver's forgettable hockey past will collide with its vibrant hockey present as the New Jersey Devils face the Colorado Avalanche in the Stanley Cup finals. Game 1 is Saturday at the Pepsi Center.

"It's kind of fitting that it would be that way, considering the war we're

about to participate in," Colorado

rookie Dan Hinote said Wednesday. Like Drury, Hinote was too young to remember "Rocky Hockey." They are among the lucky ones.

After moving from Kansas City to Denver in 1976, the Rockies never won more than 22 games in a season, and struggled financially because of lagging attendance and an unfavorable lease at McNichols Sports Arena.

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