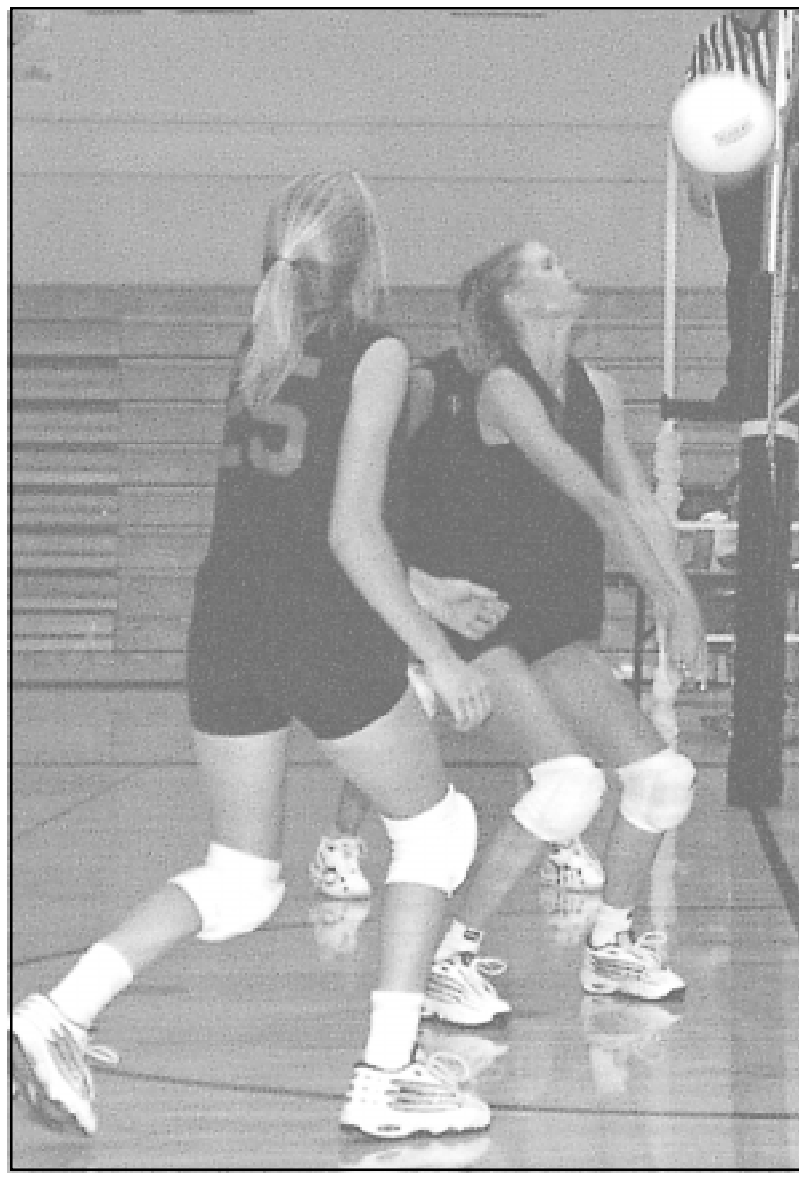


## A new season



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Colby High School volleyball and football teams used public scrimmages to fine-tune their games last weekend. **LEFT:** Jessica Bricker, a transfer student from Colorado, and Stephanie Wieland (left) made a play at the net for the Lady Eagles Friday night at the sports drink scrimmage. Coach Lesley Wagoner said she was "really pleased" with their performance. "This was the most relaxed scrimmage I've seen in a while," she said. **ABOVE:** Ryan Arensdorf (22) tried to turn a corner against pursuers Eric Seemann (55) and Cade Moses (2) at the video tape scrimmage on Saturday. Coach Mike Gottsch said the team's performance was very physical. "We had a few breakdowns in the defensive backfield, but the linebackers flowed to the ball well," he said. Overall, Gottsch said he was also pleased about the team's performance. "I have a good feeling about Friday," he said.

## Offense will feature rare pair for Broncos

By AARON J. LOPEZ

AP Sports Writer

They were among the final few players to emerge from the giant, inflatable horse's head as the Denver Broncos took the field for the first time in their glitzy new stadium.

Brian Griese and Terrell Davis, together again — but for how long?

Since Griese succeeded John Elway as Denver's quarterback in 1999, he and Davis have been in the starting lineup together just eight times, preventing the Broncos from seeing what kind of offensive electricity can be sparked by two talented but injury-prone players.

If Saturday night's 31-24 victory over the New Orleans Saints is any indication, the future is bright as the Broncos enter a new era at Invesco Field at Mile High.

Griese threw for 228 yards and three touchdowns in his last significant test before the regular season opens in two weeks, and Davis ran for 34 yards in his first game in nine months.

"To be able to leave the game and say, 'I'll live to fight another day,' I did that," Davis said.

While Davis gradually works his way back into shape after missing the second half of the 2000 season with a stress fracture in his left leg, Griese shows no sign of having reconstructive shoulder surgery in January.

Griese, the NFL's top-rated quarterback last year, threw a 58-yard touchdown pass to Ed McCaffrey in the second quarter. The strong throw said much more than words.

"My arm has felt great. I continue to answer these questions," Griese said as he joked with reporters. "Maybe that will answer some of your questions, because obviously my answers don't."

Griese and most of Denver's starters are expected to play one or two series in the team's final preseason game Friday against the San Francisco 49ers.

Davis will be among the exceptions as he tries to improve his stamina before the Sept. 10 regular-season opener. He came out briefly after carrying the ball five times in seven plays

on Denver's opening drive.

"My legs were heavy before the game," Davis said. "I tried to stay in the game as long as I could, but I just got a little winded. I think you exert too much energy sometimes. You have to know how to use it. That just comes with playing games."

With Davis and the Denver offense headed in the right direction, the defense had mixed results against the Saints.

The Broncos managed to sack New Orleans quarterback Aaron Brooks twice, but often surrendered extra yards because of missed tackles that proved destructive last season.

Two of the Saints' touchdowns came as a result of special teams mistakes.

Kevin Kasper muffed a punt at his own 10-yard line, setting up a 6-yard touchdown run by Brooks in the first quarter, and Michael Lewis returned a punt 74 yards for a touchdown early in the third.

Lewis' return was the second-worst moment of the night for rookie punter Nick Harris, who is trying to unseat veteran Tom Rouen. Harris, Denver's fourth-round pick in the April draft, later missed a chance to pin New Orleans deep when he shanked a punt 22 yards.

"I scraped the ground for some reason," Harris said. "I don't know if the snap took me right and I was off-balance. For some reason, I just scraped it."

Rouen has not punted since the first preseason game and could end up winning the competition by default if Harris does not bounce back Friday.

"Nick Harris didn't take advantage of his opportunities," coach Mike Shanahan said. "He'll have another opportunity next week, and then we'll make our decision."

Kasper, another rookie fighting for a roster spot, fumbled his second punt of the night in the second quarter and was later replaced by cornerback Deltha O'Neal, who handled punts for the Broncos last year.

"Kevin still shows promise," said Shanahan.



## Season opener closer than expected for Huskers

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Season openers at Nebraska are traditionally one-sided affairs.

The Cornhuskers usually spend the first Saturday of the fall moving up and down the field at will against an over-matched opponent, running up scores like 76-14 and 64-21.

Saturday against TCU, Nebraska actually needed its defense. "They kept us in the ballgame,"

coach Frank Solich said after the No. 4 Huskers got by the Horned Frogs 21-7 in the Pigskin Classic.



Nebraska's "Blackshirts" limited TCU to just 186 total yards and six first downs. The Frogs had the ball in Nebraska territory just once in the second half, and that was only because the Huskers fumbled a punt return.

The performance was encouraging for the Husker defense, coming off one

of its worst seasons in decades.

"I think first games you never know quite how you're going to respond," defensive coordinator Craig Bohl said. "While we're not saying 'Hey, we've arrived,' I think we're making moves in the right direction."

"I was really pleased with the effort and our focus."

The game was a lot closer than any-

one expected, including the Cornhuskers.

Since shutting out Baylor 13-0 to start the 1990 season, the Huskers had scored at least six touchdowns in every opener except 1994, when they beat West Virginia 31-0.

Last year it was a 49-13 win over San Jose State. The year before Nebraska beat Iowa 42-7.

### Area Schedule

**Tuesday, Aug 28**  
Golden Plains High School volleyball vs. Hoxie and St. Francis in Rexford at 4 p.m.

**Thursday, Aug. 30**  
Colby High School varsity and junior varsity cross country at Goodland at 5 p.m..

## Fresno State capitalizes on Colorado turnovers

BOULDER, Colo. (AP) — David Carr passed for one touchdown and ran for another, and Fresno State converted three Colorado turnovers into 17 points en route to a 24-22 victory on Sunday night.

Fresno State cornerback Devon Banks made an interception in the end zone with 3:32 left, thwarting a Colorado drive that had reached the Bulldogs' 2-yard line.

On the final play of the game, safety Cameron Worrell intercepted a desperation pass at the Bulldogs 14 — Colorado's fifth turnover of the game.



Craig Ochs threw two touchdown passes to John Minardi for Colorado, which lost for the first time in five meetings with Fresno State.

Carr was 21-of-36 for 198 yards in the inaugural Jim Thorpe Association Football Classic. Ochs was 31-of-51 for 346 yards.

Fresno State, the preseason pick to win the Western Athletic Conference, had a modest 71 yards in the first quarter but led 14-0, thanks to two Colorado fumbles that the Bulldogs converted into touchdowns. Colorado never recovered.

## Colby athlete in All-Star game

Colby High School sophomore Brian Sulzman said the Babe Ruth All-Star Game in Great Bend on Aug. 12 was "a great experience."

The all-stars, chosen by their district commissioners, met for practice on Saturday, Aug. 11 and were treated to a catered barbecue dinner, along with their parents.

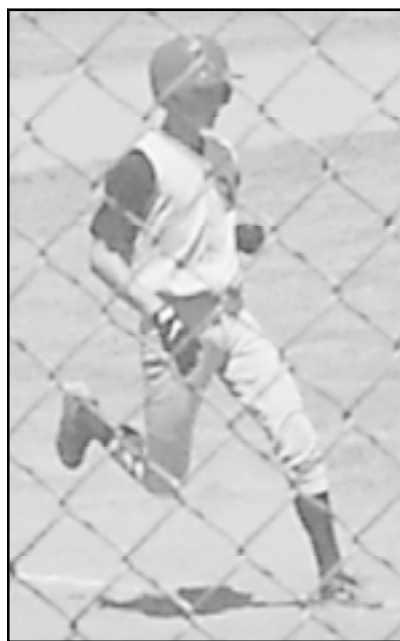
They played two nine-inning games at Veterans Memorial Park in Great Bend on Sunday, starting at 12:15 p.m.

Sulzman started at second base in game won, winning 12-7. In game two, he started in left field.

Down 18-10 in the bottom of the ninth, Sulzman's team rallied but fell short 18-15.

"It was fun," he said. Sulzman said there were a lot of big players on both teams, and the games were competitive, though the pitching was "average."

Sulzman is the son of Wayne and Deanna Sulzman, Colby.



Sulzman crossed home plate in game two of the Babe Ruth All-Star double header in Great Bend.

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## Tiger's winless summer ends

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — Tiger Woods ended his winless summer with a birdie on the seventh playoff hole to defeat Jim Furyk in the NEC Invitational.

After they exchanged pars for six holes, Woods, who started the day two behind, hit a wedge into the fair on No. 18 to finally end the longest playoff on the PGA Tour in 10 years. He and

Furyk finished at 12-under 268.

It was Woods' fifth victory of the year and 29th in his career, tying Jack Nicklaus for the most PGA Tour victories before turning 30.

Woods won the NEC Invitational for the third straight year, making him the first player to take three straight tournaments at fabled Firestone Country Club.