

# Men's field is best 'in many years'



**Brian Ostermann**  
●Power Sports

This weekend teams from Panola, Tex., Casper, Wyo. and Hobbs, N.M. will invade Trojan country for the Thomas County Insurance Ambassador Classic at the Colby Community Building. We have put together the best men's field in many years for this season's Classic.

The men will play a tournament format. We take on the Thunderbirds of New Mexico Junior College on Friday night at 8 p.m. In the other semi-final Casper Junior College takes on Panola Junior College at 4 p.m.

The Lady Trojans play both nights at 6 p.m. Tickets are still available at the gate.

The 2001-2002 Trojans are off to a 4-0 start and have not been playing at full strength. We lost two key players due to injury during the Tip-off Classic.

Donte Hammond (Richmond, Va.) sprained an ankle and is now at about 80 percent. He will play this weekend. Tony Tucker (Baltimore, Md.) injured his ankle a little more severely and is currently at about 65 percent. He will also try to play. Both guys played at Mid-Plains.

Eric Fowlkes was also injured (bruised tailbone) but he has been playing and is at about 90 percent. In addition, we are still awaiting final eligibility approval on post player Detric Spooner. Detric will provide a much-needed presence in the paint.

We have won two huge road games. Our win over Mid-Plains Tuesday night 81-76 was another character building victory. I thought our win at McCook on Nov. 7th (83-79 in overtime) really helped us in our game at Mid-Plains.

We trailed by 13 points early in the second half and we were able to persevere and find a way to win it in the end. Once again the strength of this team appears to be depth.

We have had different players step up in each game. Stuart Keltner hit a big three to give us the lead on Tuesday. Last week it was a big shot by Eric Fowlkes. Donte Hammond coming back from an ankle injury hit several big shots to keep us close Tuesday evening. I am still not sure how good we are but credit must be given to the kids for playing hard and hanging tough. I encourage you to come out this

weekend. I know this group has a passion for playing the game and it's fun to watch.

**Jottings**

• The Thomas County Insurance/Ambassador Classic men's teams are: Casper, Wyo. (3-1), Panola, Tex. (2-0), and New Mexico Junior College (2-3.) Our first round opponent New Mexico is 2-3 with a win over a Cochise, Ariz. team that is receiving votes for the NJCAA top 25 poll. New Mexico lost last weekend to two Jayhawk West schools in Garden City (100-88 against Garden City and 90-78 against Seward County) in relatively close ball games. Casper defeated Trinidad, Colo. and Frank Phillips, Tex. in the Garden City tip-off classic. Casper lost to Garden City 77-63.

• In case you missed it: Our road win last week at McCook was our first of the season. It was the earliest a Trojan team won a road game in at least six years.

• Jayhawk West teams are a combined 37-7 at this time. Wow!

• Thank you Pepsi and Phil LeDou for providing some drinks for our road trips.

• We have invited all area high school teams to be our guests at a Trojan home game of their choice. We continue to try and promote our basketball program and the great game of basketball to everyone in northwest Kansas.

• The Lady Trojans have a 3-3 record and play three home games this week. Thursday at 8 p.m. and Friday and Saturday at 6 p.m.

• It's getting close to the Holidays and I want to thank Gambino's, Taco John's, Subway, and Thomas County Feeders for donating food to feed the guys! We appreciate their support and want everyone to know how important these people are to our program.

Jayhawk Western Division men's basketball standings as of Nov. 14.

1. #5 Barton County	5-0
2. Garden City	5-0
3. #27 Seward County	5-0
4. Colby	4-0
5. Dodge City	3-0
6. Butler County	4-1
7. Hutchinson	3-1
8. Cloud County	1-2
9. Pratt	2-3



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Colby High School boys' basketball coach Derek Bissitt answered Jeff Reavis' questions during a winter sports meeting at the high school on Thursday.

# Laramie meet good for college wrestlers

LARAMIE, Wyo. — The Colby Community College Trojan wrestlers ended the Cowboy Open Tournament at the University of Wyoming in Laramie on Sunday with four medalists and a team match record of 30-16.

"We have a long way to go," said coach Steve Lampe, "but this is our best showing ever at the University of Wyoming Open."

Freshman Matt Murray was the champion at 141 pounds with a 4-0 record.

"Matt was remarkable!" said Lampe. "He defeated three outstanding wrestlers, including Dustin May, (a four-time Kansas State Champion) in the finals."

Murray was up 7-0 before pinning May in what Lampe called a "dominating performance."

Two wrestlers earned third place honors, freshman Bryan Miller at 133

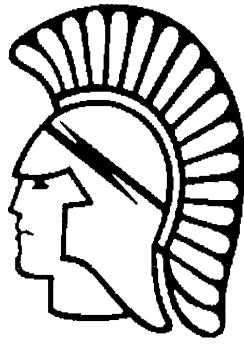
pounds, who went 5-1, and freshman Othello Johnson, who went 7-1 at 149. Sophomore Derek Jones was the fourth place medalist at 125 pounds with a 3-2 record.

Colby wrestling will be in Columbia, Mo. at the University of Missouri Open on Sunday.

Their next home meet will be a dual with Labette County at the Community Building on Dec. 6

Here are the Trojans' results for each weight class:

125 — Derek Jones, 3-2, 4th.
133 — Bryan Miller, 5-1, 3rd.
141 — Matt Murray, 4-0, 1st.
149 — Othello Johnson, 7-1, 3rd.
157 — Dylan Campbell, 4-2.
165 — Justin Schiffner, 1-2.
174 — Jim Latoski, 2-2.
174 — Rafael Ruiz, 1-2.
197 — Derek Daugherty, 2-2.
197 — Shannon Ford, 1-2.



# Athletes, parents learn guidelines

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

A new type of meeting was introduced this year at Colby High School involving parents and athletes with emphasis on guidelines and expectations required for participation.

The first parent-player meeting was held prior to fall activities and last week a second meeting provided information on winter sports with about 100 people attending.

"Activities are important in the educational process," said Jeff Quenzer, Colby High School activities director and assistant principal.

Substantiating that claim, he cited that those in extracurricular activities tend to keep their grades up in order to meet eligibility standards for participation.

"These are disciplined students and we see very few on the ineligible list because of their dedication to play in the athletic arena as well as in the classroom," Quenzer said.

In addition to talking about eligibility and guidelines, Quenzer also said that activities aren't about winning.

"We all need to be positive — coaches, parents, and players — with the common goal to play as hard as we can and let the outcome on the scoreboard take care of itself," he said.

Along with being positive, Quenzer told students they should always strive to live "with no regrets."

Whether in practice, during a game or socializing on the weekends, he encourages students to "think and make good decisions," which will eliminate or minimize feelings of "regret."

Quenzer went over rules for winter programs, noting that those participating need to attend every practice and when there's legitimate reason for missing, the coach should be contacted ahead of time, if possible.

Those showing up late for practice or missing due to unexcused absence will have consequences based on the

coaching staff's guidelines.

When students are caught smoking, drinking or using drugs, they will be disciplined in accordance with school board policy.

The first violation says that the student will be denied the privilege of participating for 25 percent of the activities in the present season.

The consequence, he said, may be pro-rated over two seasons if the present season is more than 75 percent complete.

However, if the student self-reports to an administrator before being questioned, the period of ineligibility is reduced to 15 percent.

An additional 10 percent would be subtracted if the student completes a four-hour educational class on substance abuse and a minimum suspension of one game or activity would be imposed if both the aforementioned guidelines are done by the student.

The penalty gets stiffer for second and third violations, he said, adding that parents and players should have read carefully the guidelines prior to signing the form for participation.

Grades were another issue that could result in ineligibility.

"Students need to be passing five out of the seven classes they are taking," Quenzer said, "and if they are failing a third class, they are ineligible."

"Eligibility can be restored within a week following the suspension, however, if the student brings up one or more of the failing grades.

There's a lot of time, sacrifice and hard work that goes into any extracurricular activity, Quenzer said, and by holding special meetings with parents and students the hope is for clearer communication and less problems that could arise from misunderstandings.

Whenever parents have questions about eligibility, excused or unexcused absences, grades or other areas that could disqualify their student from participating in sport or activities, the administration encourages that they call the high school office, 465-5300, for clarification.



## Area Briefs

**Youth pheasant hunt**

The Smoky Hill chapter of Pheasants Forever will be sponsoring their annual youth pheasant hunt at Cedar Bluff Lake on Saturday. The hunt is limited to 20 youth, selected by drawing, from 10-15 years old with valid hunter safety cards. Dinner will be provided. To register call, Dick Klaus, 785-625-6465, Leroy Culbreath, 785-628-6934 or Kent Hensley, 785-726-3212 by Nov. 1.

**Recreation department offers water aerobics.**

The Colby Recreation Department is offering water aerobics on Mondays and Thursdays from 7-8 p.m. until Dec. 14 at the Colby Community College pool. Cost is \$15. Contact Colby recreation at 462-4440 for more information

**Hutchinson basketball tournament**

Mid-America youth basketball is hosting a 4-8th grade boys and girls tournament in Hutchinson, Dec. 1-2 with a 3-game guarantee. Call 316-284-0354 for more information.



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