



COLBY FREE PRESS

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'Coach of the Year' honors to Eagles' Beims

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

For the first time in Colby High School's history, a wrestling coach was named by the Kansas Wrestling Officials Association as the "Wrestling Coach of the Year."

A very surprised head coach, Mitch Beims, got the news prior to the start of the Class 4-A State championship matches on Saturday night at Wichita.

"It's a great honor and I feel lucky to be in a position where there's so much community support and such a good group of wrestlers," he said



Mitch Beims

today. Terry Orvus, president of the wrestling officials association in Topeka, said today that the recognition of coaches started about 10 years ago.

"As an organization that's been around for 30 years," Orvus said, "we realized the need to recognize coaches based on their success, sportsmanship, and leadership, while taking into account total students participating in the sport."

There are only four awards given each year in 4A, 5A, 6A and combined 1-2-3A schools, Orvus said.

The selection process is based on ballot sheets submitted by 70 lead referees approved through the Kansas State High School Activities Association.

"As president of the Wrestling Officials As-

sociation, I send out the ballot sheets prior to the regional wrestling tournament asking for nominations and then the announcement is made at the state tournament," he said.

After watching the various coaches throughout the season, Orvus said, the lead referees make their choices with emphasis not only on success but also sportsmanship.

"We are watching the coaches actions before, during and after the matches," he said.

Along with Beim's recognition, Orvus said another outstanding quality that made Colby stand out were its fans.

"Colby people do a very fine job of supporting their wrestling kids," he said.

"The parents and fans are energetic, they back their team, they have good applause, and they are loud enough that you know they are

up in those stands," Orvus said.

On behalf of the association, Orvus said he knows Beims will continue to keep up the good work and looks forward to seeing Colby fans back at state next year.

Although Orvus did not release the actual number of votes cast in favor of Beims, he did say the "4A Coach of the Year" was close, which meant there were other coaches displaying similar attributes.

"This also shows the quality of coaches in 4A and that they are all a good crew, Orvus said Tuesday.

There are 64 schools in the 4A classification, he said. In addition, 32 schools fall under 5A and 6A; 62 in 3A; 64 in 2A; and 113 in 1A.

Jeff Quenzer, assistant principal and activities director at Colby High School, said, he too,

was proud of the honor given to Beims.

"This is such a neat honor for Mitch and for all of us at Colby High School," he said.

Beims, who has been the Eagles' head coach for two years, said he is fortunate to work with such quality students, administration and fans. "It is a privilege to coach these young people. I know this year these guys were under a lot of pressure to repeat last year's record and I think they finished in good fashion," he said.

Beims added that he's already looking forward to next year and seeing this young wrestling squad continue to grow and improve.

The Eagles finished fourth at the state tournament this year, and had one champion, Danny Mainus at 112-lb. and two second-place finishers, Eric Luedke at 130 and Schuyler Sharpe at 140.

Bid sheets waiting for bidders



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Michelle Tittel at Pioneer Memorial Library got some items ready for the Friends of the Library annual meeting and arts and crafts auction on Saturday beginning at 9 a.m. Throughout the week, everyone is encouraged to stop by the library and view the many items available

at both the silent and live auction. Silent auction bidding will conclude at 9 a.m. on Saturday. JoAnne Sunderman, librarian, said donations can still be brought in until Saturday morning, but would prefer receiving them as soon as possible. For information, call 462-4470.

Parents proud, scared

Colby grad aboard ship for unknown overseas destination

By PATTY DECKER

Free Press Editor

More than 4,500 sailors and Marines of the Wasp amphibious ready group were deployed for parts unknown last Friday from Norfolk, Va., and among them was a young Colby man.

Mike Husband, 22, the son of Margaret and Tom Karlin of Colby, is a Navy Petty Officer, 3rd Class, and a 1998 graduate of Colby High School.

"We feel proud and scared at the same time," said Mike's mother, Margaret. "We don't know exactly where he is going, but we do know the mission is not routine and could be dangerous."

Margaret said she and her husband visited their son in Norfolk days before he left and were able to take a tour of the ship that he's now on.

"We had to show our identification three times and go through metal detectors and we also were able to see the USS Cole memorial, but not allowed to take pictures or videos of the ships or base," she said.

As for the mission Mike has now undertaken, Capt. Edward P. McNamee III, the commanding officer of the amphibious assault ship Wasp said, "this is not a routine deployment and we know that the potential for real conflict exists."

According to an article written by the Virginia-Pilot, the departure was described as "a morning full of emotions."

Although Mike's parents weren't there for the actual send-off, Margaret said they had "a wonderful three days together."

"Mike's job is classified and I think it's the fear of the unknown that bothers me," she said. "He told us that after Sept. 11, he was ready to go and do his part for his country."

News of the Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl, days before Hus-

band and the other

sailors and Marines left, only re-emphasizes the fact that terrorism is a global problem and continues to threaten the international community, McNamee was quoted as saying.

"While we were visiting our son in Norfolk," Margaret said, "I saw a quote from Admiral Chester Nimitz, commander-in-chief of the Pacific Fleet in WWII and I believe it said it all."

The quote was: "It is the function of the Navy to carry the war to the enemy so that it will not be fought on U.S. soil."

For Margaret, it was a good feeling to know that her son is among those brave men protecting the United States.

As for the crew of the USS Wasp, reports from Norfolk were that they were ready.

"The crew of Wasp knows it is an important day, and we are proud to be assuming our role in the war against terrorism," the Virginia-Pilot reported on what McNamee said.

"The crew understands the risks ahead and that 'sometimes people don't come home from deployments,'" he said.

Michael joined the Navy in July of 2000 and was recently promoted to his current rank while serving aboard the multi-purpose amphibious assault ship USS Wasp, homeported in Norfolk, Va.

Margaret offered her son's address to those who might want to write. His address is: E4 Michael D. Husband, USS Wasp (LDH-1) OPS/OZ, FPOAE 09556-1660.



M. Husband

Prosecutors believe missing San Diego girl dead

SAN DIEGO (AP) — A 7-year-old girl whose apparent abduction sparked national attention is now believed to be dead, allowing prosecutors to move forward with a murder case against a neighbor suspected of snatching the second-grader from her bedroom.

David Westerfield, 50, was to be arraigned Tuesday in the death of Danielle van Dam, who has been the subject of an intense search since she was reported missing more than three weeks ago.

"I must conclude that Danielle van Dam is no longer living and was killed by her abductor," San Diego County District Attorney Paul Pfingst said Monday.

Westerfield, who lives two doors down from the van Dam home, was arrested Friday and jailed without bail. Pfingst said there are no other suspects.

Westerfield's attorney, Steven Feldman, has promised to mount a "vigorous defense."

Danielle was last seen Feb. 1 when

her father put her to bed. Police believe she was abducted from her second-floor bedroom in the family's north San Diego home.

An extensive search that has stretched from Mexico to the desert east of San Diego has failed to turn up any trace of her.

The prosecutor said he would file one count of murder with a so-called special circumstance — murder during kidnapping — that will carry the possibility of the death penalty or life in

prison if Westerfield is convicted. Pfingst said no decision has been made yet on whether to seek the death penalty.

Pfingst said he had an emotional weekend meeting with Danielle's parents, Brenda and Damon van Dam.

"It was difficult to bring out the word 'murder,'" he said. "Both parents were in tears."

The van Dams declined to speak with reporters after Monday's announcement.

House advances Senate remap plan; Graves acknowledges being in bind

TOPEKA (AP) — A bill that redraws the state's 40 Senate districts is one vote away from going to Gov. Bill Graves — putting him in a serious political bind.

The House gave first-round approval to the bill Monday on a voice vote after no debate.

A coalition of the Senate's 10 Democrats and 11 conservative Republicans drafted the redistricting plan and

pushed it through their chamber over the objections of Senate President Dave Kerr, R-Hutchinson.

The governor said last week that he had reservations about the proposal but had not decided whether he would veto it. Graves was in Washington on Monday, attending the winter meeting of the National Governors Association. But last week he told The Topeka Capital Journal that he will probably need all

10 Democratic votes in the Senate for tax increases that he has said are necessary to avoid deep cuts in education and social services.

"So, I find myself in a kind of a tough situation," Graves told the newspaper. "I'm going to sort of tread lightly here for a few days and see what develops."

House members followed a tradition that each chamber approves the other's redistricting map unchanged.

Senate coalition members said their proposal was fairer to Democrats and rural legislators than a map endorsed by the Senate Reapportionment Committee. Critics suggested the coalition plan helps conservative Republicans, particularly in Johnson County.

Another key difference is the treatment of Sen. Janis Lee, D-Kensington. In the bill advanced by the House, Lee would share a district with Sen.

Larry Salmans, R-Hanston. The plan supported by Kerr would put her in a district with Sen. Stan Clark, R-Oakley, one Democrat said would be tougher for her to win. Lee said that in an effort to drive a wedge between the Democrats and their conservative Republican partners, Kerr last week offered a deal to give Lee her own district, freeing her from having to run against Salmans. But she would have

to sell out the 11 GOP conservatives who joined with the Democrats to form the coalition. Lee said she isn't willing to do that. All 21 of the senators who voted for the map signed a letter to Graves last week urging him to sign it into law. "We gave our word to them, just as they gave their word to us," Lee said. "And if either group was to break that word, we simply would not be able to operate in the Senate again."

Briefly

Weather: Cold

The first below zero reading of the winter season for Colby occurred this morning when the temperature dropped to -1. The lowest reading prior to today's -1 was on Jan. 2 when the mercury fell to +1. Another cold night is in store tonight with the temperature expected to fall to -2 under clear skies and northwest winds of 10-15 mph. Wednesday, mostly cloudy skies are expected, with a 20 percent chance of snow showers early and highs in the upper 30s and northwesterly winds 10-20 mph. Wednesday night, partly cloudy and lows in the lower teens. Thursday, cloudy and highs in the lower 40s and Friday, cloudy early with lows in the middle 20s, turning partly cloudy and highs in the upper 30s.

Colby's high Monday was 25 and the overnight low this morning was -1. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 35 degrees. There was no additional precipitation overnight. The records for Feb. 26: 76 in 1986 and -9 in 1960. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

Book review Wednesday

Judy Kleinsorge will review *The Hairstons: An American Family in Black and White* by Henry Wiencek at noon Wednesday, at Pioneer Memorial Library. A light lunch will be served with freewill donations accepted.

Gem Lions sponsor soup supper

Gem Lions Club will have its annual winter soup supper on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the new Gem Community Building (formerly the Gem Baptist Church). The menu includes vegetable, potato and chili, along with crackers and corn bread, said Ken Poland, publicity chair. The cost of the soup supper is a free-will donation with proceeds used to benefit the Gem community. Also, everyone is welcome to bring old eyeglasses and hearing aids for recycling. For questions or information, call 462-7809.

Sausage-pancake feed Saturday

The Senior Progress Center in Colby is sponsoring a sausage and pancake feed on Saturday from 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the center, 165 Fike Park. Cost of the all-you-can-eat feed is \$3 with proceed to help defray expenses at the center.

Brewster board meets tonight

The Brewster Board of Education postponed its special meeting on Monday due to weather conditions and rescheduled for tonight at 7:30 p.m. The board will discuss personnel matters in executive session. All meetings are open to the public; however in an executive session, according to state law, once discussions are completed behind closed doors, the board must return to regular session before taking action.

