

All-State pitcher



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Colby High School junior Jared Cranston was named to the Class 4A All-State baseball team as a pitcher by the Kansas Association of Baseball Coaches. Cranston was 8-1 during the 2002 season, with an ERA of 1.11. "Jared has a great arm and loves baseball," said Eagle coach Kevin Cox. "He wants to play at the next level. I'm really looking forward to having him back." Also nominated to the All-State team was pitcher/third baseman Clayton Kaiser.

Colby High School gives out awards to its spring sports participants

By **DARREL PATTILLO**
Colby Free Press

Colby High School recently recognized its outstanding spring athletes at the annual Springs Sports Awards night. Winning the David Cooper Spirit Award was Tucker Stover; Mike Woofler was given the Community Booster award. Tucker Stover was also named Sportsman of the Year; Jessie Brenn was named Sportswoman of the Year.

CHS had six student-athletes win three letters this school year; Jessie Brenn, Tucker Stover, Eric Seeman, Clayton Kaiser, Wil Higerd, and Jeff Williams.

The 2002 golf team letterman were: Wil Higerd, Deni Wieland, Jared Helin, Christopher Finley, Sean Mengel, Casey Denneker, and Derek Elliott. Participant awards were given to Terry Cox, Joe Cox, Curt Beringer, Derek White, Devlin Dempewolf, Collin Biesler, Josh Cox, Alex Marshall, and Ben Jurek. Lowest stroke average award was presented to Christopher Finley.

The tennis team lettermen were: Phil Schindler, Doug Hurtt, Eric Luedke, Joey Melnyk, Rusty Helin, and Simon Roesch. Participants were Ian Meyers, Chris Barnum, Brett Dempewolf, Ian Yoon, and Luke Rogers. Dempewolf was named Rookie of the Year, Luedke Most Improved, Roesch Most Inspira-

tional, and Schindler Tennis Player of the Year.

The Lady Eagle softball team letter winners were: Megan and Melissa Augustine, Dominique Palser, Kacie Donn, Becky Herl, Alicia Leavitt, Carla Sloan, Jenny Wilson, Samantha Wolf, Whitney Adams, Savannah Rupp, Stephanie Wieland, Jessica Bullington, and Shawna Cox. Participants were: Karen Higerd, Jessica Stockton, Sheena Brown, Amber Dempewolf, Crystal Hershburger, Marjorie Jacobsen, Jennifer Huffles, Cassandra Barnett, Brianna Donn, Valarie Higerd, and Kristen Thieme.

The Lady Eagle track team awarded letters to: Jessie Brenn, Erika Erickson, Breann Hart, Kylee Hunter, Lauren Kaiser, Marcia Kaus, Bethanie Linden, Erica Molstad, Maret Peterson, Jamie Quenzer, Ivy Ramsey, Kristi Schroeder, Amanda Seeman, Desiree Sharp, Emily Sloan, Liz Sothman, Summar Stephens, Brianna Swafford, Lori Ziegelmeier and Manager Jennifer Schwindt, and Trainer Jodi Nicholson.

Participants were MacKayla Dougherty, Michelle Fay, and Clarissa Unger. Bethanie Linden was Most Improved Track Athlete, Ivy Ramsey Hardest Worker, Kylee Hunter Rookie of the Year, Jessie Brenn Best Track Athlete, and Raya Mazanec Best Field Event Athlete.

The Eagle boys track team letter winners were: Rocky Baalman, Tanner Brown, Josh Cersovsky, Cole Cranmer, Jared Dinkel, Omar Fercha, Chris Griggs, Jordan Harris, Nathan Harter, Theo Kleinsorge, Chase Kough, Brett Mariman, Brent McCoy, Carson McKee, Keegan Myers, Rusty Raymo, Nic Schroeder, Jason Schwindt, Eric Seeman, Jason Simmering, Adam Smith, Landon Stover, Shane Stover, Tucker Stover, and Brandon Stupka. Participants were: Zach Baird, Travis Helus, Dusty Quenzer, and Jeff Reavis. Jordan Harris was Rookie of the Year, Jason Simmering was voted Hardest Worker and Track MVP, Adam Smith Field Event MVP and Shane Stover Most Improved.

In baseball, letter winners were: Josh Houtz, Brian Sulzman, Chris Gordon, Cody Hatfield, Jared Cranston, Jeff Williams, John Wark, Clayton Kaiser, Ryan Arensdorf, Bruce Arnberger, and Matt Augustine. Participants were: Jordan Cranston, Travis Powell, and Dason Wente. Clayton Kaiser was named Most Improved Defensive Player, Matt Augustine Most Improved Offensive Player, Kaiser Defensive Player of the Year, Josh Houtz Offensive Player of the Year, Jared Cranston Pitcher of the Year and Most Valuable Player, and the Leadership Award was given to Jeff Williams

Mike Shanahan gets promotion to vice-president

DENVER (AP) — Denver Broncos coach Mike Shanahan got a promotion.

Broncos owner Pat Bowlen named Shanahan executive vice president of football operations on Tuesday. He had been vice president of football operations since 1998 and has been coach since 1995.

Joe Ellis was given a similar promotion, becoming executive vice president of business operations.

Of the promoted employees, Bowlen said: "Each is regarded as among the very best in the NFL."

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Stanley Cup off to upset-ting start

By **ALAN ROBINSON**

AP Sports Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Suddenly, it's a series.

The Detroit Red Wings heard all the talk of four-game sweeps, of their vast superiority over the Carolina Hurricanes in statistics, stars, salaries and Stanley Cup rings.

There's one edge they don't have, though — the lead.

Ron Francis, one of the few Hurricanes players who matches the Red Wings' stable of superstars in Hall of Fame credentials, scored 58 seconds into overtime as Carolina surprised the Red Wings 3-2 in the Stanley Cup finals opener Tuesday night.

Sweet Caroline, indeed. And no more yapping about Sweep Carolina, either.

"We are excited, very excited," said Jeff O'Neill, who set up Francis' score after scoring the tying goal in the final minute of the second period. "We've got a lot of young guys playing in the finals for the first time, so to get the first one is good."

Make that a lot of young guys and Ron Francis, the most revered player in the history of the franchise that began life long ago in the WHA as the New England Whalers.

Tuesday was Francis' first finals game in 10 years, or since he scored the game-winner for Pittsburgh in its Game 4 clincher against Chicago in 1992. The goalie that night was Dominik Hasek, now the Red Wings' goalie.

Game 2 is Thursday night in Joe Louis Arena, where, until Tuesday, the Hurricanes were 0-11-0-1 since Nov. 14, 1989. The game-winning goal was scored that night by — yes, Francis.

Do you believe in omens?

"It's a good lesson for us," Red Wings forward Igor Larionov said. "They're playing in the finals, so there's no way you can underestimate anybody."

Even if the only people who gave the Hurricanes much chance reside mostly along Tobacco Road, where this idea of playing championship games on ice during June is still a bit of novelty.

"We knew that over the course of the series we would have to win one game in here," Hurricanes coach Paul Maurice said. "I thought we were nervous in the first period ... but that we felt more comfortable as the game went

along." Especially when the game went into overtime. The Hurricanes have won seven of eight overtime playoff games, the most since 1993 Stanley Cup champion Montreal won 10.

"I think we just play our system and keep it simple," O'Neill said of the Hurricanes' overtime success. "Obviously, we don't try to open up too much. We just try to grind it out for wins, and it's worked so far."

That system is a trapping, neutral zone-clogging 1-2-2 defense that prevented odd-man Detroit breaks. What it didn't stop was power plays, but Detroit was only 1-of-7 with the man advantage.

"You can analyze it any way you want, but we had a chance to win it on the power play," Red Wings coach Scotty Bowman said. "We didn't play as well as we wanted, that's for sure."

Still, they played well enough to lead 1-0 and 2-1 on goals by Sergei Fedorov and checking line forward Kirk Maltby, but O'Neill tied it at 2 by scoring on a short breakaway with only 50 seconds left in the second period.

Now, the Hurricanes will find out if they've merely knocked Detroit off its game for one night, or an entire series. New Jersey also was a big underdog to Detroit in the 1995 finals, but rode the momentum of an opening game upset to a totally unexpected sweep of the Red Wings.

"They didn't surprise us. We knew they could play," Hasek said. "But it is a tough loss."

And a tough day all around for Hasek, who was cited for driving 65 mph in a 45 mph construction zone en route to the morning skate. So much for home-ice advantage.

First, Hasek got stopped — then he couldn't stop the biggest shot of the night, even as Carolina goalie Arturs Irbe was turning aside 23 of 25 shots in his first Cup finals game.

All in all, it was a huge letdown for a team that was easily the NHL's best team during the season, one that possesses the biggest collection of sure-to-be Hall of Famers since the Canadiens of the 1950s and early 1960s.

"We're disappointed to lose but we're not shocked to lose," captain Steve Yzerman said. "We knew full well we're playing a good team that's peaking right now. They've got a good thing going, they're on a roll. We're in

for a real battle." And one the Red Wings now know won't last four games — unless they're the team being swept, rather than the one doing the sweeping.

"I don't think it was a lack of respect for them, it's just that we played poorly," Brendan Shanahan said. "We didn't do the things we were doing in the other rounds. They played the way a team is supposed to play in the Stanley Cup finals, and we didn't."

Capriati to face at least one of the Williams sisters in semis

PARIS (AP) — To defend her French Open title, Jennifer Capriati will need to beat at least one Williams sister.

And perhaps both.

Capriati beat Jelena Dokic 6-4, 4-6, 6-1 to set up a semifinal showdown against Serena Williams.

Williams overpowered Mary Pierce 6-1, 6-1, right after Venus Williams beat Monica Seles 6-4, 6-3, earning each sister her first trip to the French Open semifinals.

Venus Williams next faces unseeded Clarisa Fernandez, who defeated fellow Argentine Paola Suarez.

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