

Watch the ball, guys



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Coach Jessie Vincent played quarterback as the Colby Middle School Eagle football team worked on defensive drills at the Eagle football camp which concluded Thursday. Two-a-day practices start on Monday, August 19.

St. Francis player in Shrine Bowl

The 29th annual Kansas Shrine Bowl is scheduled to be played Saturday, July 27 at Pittsburg. Kickoff is set for 7 p.m. on Brandenburg Field at Carnie Smith Stadium on the campus of Pittsburg State University.



Dunn

According to information gathered by the Shrine Bowl, 45 of the 68 players chosen to participate in this year's game plan to begin their college careers at one of the state's college or community college program. St. Francis Indian running back/linebacker Dustin Dunn is one of the 45 as he has signed a letter of intent to play football at Fort Hays State University. Dunn received many honors during his high school football career including Northwest Kansas League recognition as an offensive back and a defensive

lineman. "Dustin will do just fine," St. Francis Coach Tim Lambert said. "He made a good decision where to go. He will be a good asset to the Fort Hays program." "It's going to be a fun experience," Dunn said. "It will be fun to play there. They had a good recruiting class and will be good in the future." Fort Hays plays Division II football. He is the son of Dr. Melvin and Barb Dunn. Observant football fans who follow the Kansas Shrine Bowl from year to year may notice familiar names on the roster as there are players who have had a brother or uncle play and two of the coaches and one of the on-field officials were also players.

Probably one of the most recognizable names is Chad Beisel, who will play for the West. His brother, Monty, participated in the Shrine Bowl in 1997 and after a stellar college career at Kansas State University, is now a member of the Kansas City Chiefs. There has also been four years in which a Simmons has been either a coach or

a player. This year it is Brandon Simmons of Blue Valley North. His brother Jeremy played in 2000 and his dad, Don was a coach for three years. For Kansas high school officials, deciding to accept a Kansas Shrine Bowl assignment is one of the easiest calls they'll ever make. Being chosen to officiate the Shrine Bowl means that an official has been recognized as one of the best in the state.

"Working the Shrine Bowl is an honor," says Mike Grosdidier of Baldwin, a 19-year officiating veteran. "It's such a great cause."

In all, 15 officials are chosen for each Shrine Bowl game with one as television coordinator and two crews of seven, with each crew working half of the game.

Phone 1-800-530-5524 for advanced tickets.

All proceeds from the game will go to support the Shriners Hospitals for Children, a network of 22 hospitals throughout North America that provides cost-free orthopedic and burn treatment for children under 18.

New tires creating parity on the track

I truly amaze myself once in awhile. I wrote in the last column that the new surface on the track at Loudon might cause some problems for the drivers and teams, and for once, I was right! You can bet that I'm marking that on the wall with a red pen and underlining that baby, for a future reminder that I did get something right, the guys know what I mean.

Anyhow with the asphalt coming apart on the track it made for one lane racing and if the drivers got out of the groove and into the marbles as it's called, they flat lost control of their cars, and most found the wall. It took a lot of good cars and drivers plum out of the race, and kept a lot of the drivers from passing and made them play follow the leader which to me isn't racing, and most of the drivers and crew chiefs felt the same way.

I really appreciate all the good comments I receive concerning my column, and I truly enjoy talking about racing anytime. One of the questions I get asked a lot during these conversations, is who do I think is going to win the upcoming race? And to honestly tell you, that is getting to be the hardest question to answer. With the new Goodyear tires that are being used by NASCAR, it has really opened up the field of race teams that can win on any given day, more so than anything else in the last few years.

We hear about aerodynamics and horsepower all the time, but these new tires are allowing drivers and crew chiefs to make some decisions that can give them the opportunity to pull off an unexpected win. Which I think is fantastic, and it gives some of the lesser funded teams a chance to win, but it plays havoc with trying to guess who will win on any given race day.

And I honestly believe that no one even figured the #22 team to be possible winners. So in my opinion, I believe that the new Goodyear tires are playing a bigger role than we may think. And as teams get more adjusted to these tires, you are going to see a lot more of gas & goes, or staying out towards the end of races, which will make for very interesting finishes.

As my readers know I have been blessed this week, by having them there Fosdick girls from Oklahoma with me this week, and it's been busy



Don Fosdick

Life in the Fast Lane

It was that way last Sunday, as Matt Kenseth in the #17 ATT/ Dewalt Ford, and Dale Jr. in the #8 Budweiser Chevy looked to have the race all to themselves, and Matt had the stronger car of the two, (how's that Jeff, Jon, & Kevin.) and was in command of the race until a flat tire ruined his day.

My guess is that Jr. had a bad set of tires towards the end of the race and came in for tires and gas, which he needed to finish the race and couldn't work his way back to the front, with the track being like it was, and the amount of laps left, for him to do any good.

With all of this pit strategy going on, the #22 Cat Dodge team, driven by Ward Burton, had made the right decisions on their pit strategy, and the new Goodyear tires lasting like they do, it allowed them to position themselves to pull off the win.

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and fantastic. And of course with the both of them enjoying NASCAR, they read a lot of my past columns.

Needless to say, when my oldest daughter Dee Dee read what I had to say about Jeff Gordon, she jumped on me like a duck on a June bug, and scolded me like an unwanted red-headed stepchild. (Not really!) Anyhow to make her happy I said I would write something nice about Jeff, so here it goes, let me think, aah, well Jeff drives a Chevy, how's that Moe!

Now my other daughter Kassy is a big Bobby Labonte fan, because his car is green and she can see his car real easy, and she also likes green. When she read that the Joe Gibbs Teams were switching to Chevy's, she thought that was cool, and maybe Bobby would win a race.

When I told her that they might change as soon as Indianapolis, she let a war hoop, and said, maybe this year then. I guess the acorn doesn't fall too far from the tree sometimes. At least they like the right manufacturer, thank god.

As always, if you made it this far, thank you, for your time. Remember to pull those belts tight, get up on the wheel, and DRIVE safely.

Don Fosdick is a regular guy who loves racing. His column appears on Fridays. You can reach him at dfosdick@grapevine.net.

E-mail your sports news to colbysports@nwkansas.com

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