

## Drill team to perform at state tourney



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

The Colby High School drill team performed at the send off for the boys and girls basketball teams headed to the Class 4A State Tournament held this morning at the high school. The drill team will be performing tonight at the half-time of the Ottawa vs. Lansing game which is scheduled at 8:15 p.m. at the Bi-Centennial Center in Salina. Athletic Director Jeff Quenzer honored the team before they performed this morning for their second place finish at the High School Dance Festival in Baldwin City in February. This was the first drill team competition attended by a dance team in the history of the school.

## C team boys finish season much improved

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS  
Colby Free Press

The Colby C team boys finished a tough season this year with a record of 0-18, but Coach Jack Elliott says the record does not reflect what the team learned throughout the year.

"Although we went winless, the team as a whole made a lot of improvement, especially the last two and a half weeks of the season when we played the bulk of our games," he said.

The team started the season in December with an 82-22 loss to Hays High.

The next week as the team played Norton at home, the score was closer as the team suffered a 47-45 loss. Heath Bieker and Stuart Aiken both scored in the double figures for the Eagles with 13 and 11 points respectively.

After the Christmas break, their first opponent was Thomas More Prep from Hays. They lost 68-48, but had three players, Aiken, Jer-

emy Dietz and Nick Howard stand out in scoring. Aiken scored 13, while Dietz had 12 and Howard followed with 11.

As the season went on, the following were scores from the rest of the C team games: Goodland 55-48; McCook 54-21; Scott City 57-35; Hill City 43-35; Ulysses 70-37; Garden City 62-38; Oberlin 56-38; Norton 51-29; Brewster 44-41; McCook 63-55; Quinter 61-33; Scott City 41-40; Goodland 70-44; Burlington 40-38; Oakley 41-31; "Our weaknesses were our individualism, lack of patience and sometimes our toughness," Elliott said. "These all improved towards the end of the season."

"These are a great bunch of guys — we had fun and worked hard to improve," he said.

Team members were Tanner Matzek, Jeremy Dietz, Brett Wilson, Kelly Lewallen, Kyle Harold, Nick Howard, Mark Gardner, Brian Seeman, Heath Bieker, Daniel Rogers and Scott Smith.

## Sports Briefs

ATHENS, Ga. (AP) — Georgia suspended coach Jim Harrick with pay and withdrew from the SEC and NCAA tournaments after an internal investigation showed three players took a phony class taught by his son.

Harrick's future is unclear while the school and NCAA look into allegations brought two weeks ago by a former player.

Georgia, ranked 21st in Monday's AP Top 25, was a lock to receive a third straight invitation to the NCAA tourney.

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Bob Knight won't accept his \$250,000 salary for coaching Texas Tech this

year because neither he nor his team met his expectations.

Last season, Knight led the team to a 23-9 record and to the NCAA tournament. Before his arrival in March 2001, Tech hadn't had a winning season in four years.

SAULT STE. MARIE, Ontario (AP) — Former NHL goalie John Vanbiesbrouck quit as coach and general manager of a minor league hockey team after using a racial slur to describe a black player.

Vanbiesbrouck will keep his 25 percent ownership stake in the Sault Ste. Marie Greyhounds of the Ontario Hockey League, team spokesman Gino Cavallo said.

## Colorado Rockies beat Oakland Athletics, 9-3

PHOENIX (AP) — Garrett Atkins went 4-for-5 with a homer, and Chris Stynes had three hits as the Colorado Rockies beat the Oakland Athletics 9-3 Tuesday.

Mark Sweeney had two doubles and drove in two runs as the Rockies won for the fourth time in five games. Colorado had four runs and five hits off John Halama in the first inning.

Stynes and Atkins drove in two runs apiece, while Ronnie Belliard and Brad Hawpe each got two of the Rockies' 16 hits. Winner Denny

Stark allowed four walks, three hits and three runs in three innings.

Three relievers combined on six scoreless innings for the Rockies.

Terrence Long had three hits for the A's, who have won just twice in their last eight games.

Esteban German had two hits, but the rest of Oakland's lineup went 2-for-26.

Halama's career-long trend of miserable first innings has followed him to Oakland. The Rockies' first seven hitters either got a hit or drove in a run against Halama, who's hop-

ing to earn the A's fifth starter spot.

In addition to his poor performance, Halama also strained his right quadriceps on a bunt play in the second inning.

Atkins is on an impressive tear for the Rockies, who played with-

out Todd Helton and Larry Walker in the lineup.

Atkins is 13-for-18 this spring, including nine hits in his last 11 at-bats. His solo homer off Roy Smith in the seventh inning was his first of the spring.

## 2000 Colby grad receives league basketball honors

Nadia Fercha, a 2000 Colby High School graduate and basketball player for the University of Southern Colorado, has been named to the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference All-League First Team.

A junior, Fercha earned a spot on the league's first team after leading the conference in scoring with 17.2 points per game and rebounding with 10.0 rebounds per game.

Although league statistics will not be finalized until all of the league's schools have finished post-season play, she could be the first player to lead the league in both

scoring and rebounding since 1994.

Fercha currently sits at sixth on the school's all-time scoring list with 1,169 points and fourth on the rebounding charts with 671.

The University of Southern Colorado made it to the semi-finals of the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Wells Fargo Shootout and finished 19-10 for the season overall and 14-5 in league play.

She is the daughter of Dr. Mohammed and Cheryl Fercha, formerly of Colby.



Fercha

## Kansas takes narrow win over Iowa State ladies

DALLAS (AP) — Crystal Kemp scored 21 points, including two free throws with 19.4 seconds left, to lead Kansas to a 63-60 win over Iowa State on Tuesday in the first round of the Big 12 Conference women's tournament.

Kansas (11-17) limited the Cyclones to just one point in the game's final four minutes and Kemp scored five of Kansas' last six points to seal the win. The victory snapped a four-game losing streak for the ninth-seeded Jayhawks.

The Jayhawks led Iowa State (12-16) for much of the game, but their biggest lead was only 28-21 late in the first half.

Iowa State rallied behind senior

guard Lindsey Wilson, the second-leading scorer in the Big 12, who finished with 25 points. Wilson was visibly tired in the second half, however, and hit only 2-of-10 field-goal attempts.

The Cyclones had a chance to send the game into overtime with 2.9 seconds remaining, but never got a shot off and had the ball stolen.

Iowa State had won the past four meetings against the Jayhawks, including a 69-44 victory in the regular-season finale last week.

The Jayhawks next face top-seeded No. 5 Texas on Wednesday. Texas won the regular season matchup 89-47 on Feb. 8.

## Royals give Quinn release waiver

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) — Outfielder Mark Quinn was placed on unconditional release waivers Tuesday by the Kansas City Royals following a slow spring training start.

Quinn had a \$500,000, one-year contract and will receive 30 days' termination pay, \$81,967. After Wednesday, players who are placed on release waivers get 45 days' termination pay.

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