



Matt Murray's arm was raised several times at the NCAA Division I national championships at St. Louis. The Colby standout finished the tournament as the runner-up, positioning him as the #1 wrestler heading into the 2004-05 season.

Matt Murray in super showing at nationals

Matthew Murray, known far and wide for his exceptional wrestling talent — many fans will remember his skills on the local mats — came away from the NCAA Division I Wrestling Championships on March 18-20 in St. Louis in the runner-up spot.

Murray is a member of the University of Nebraska Cornhusker team. Murray entered the national showdown ranked #7 in the nation. After winning his first two matches, he met the #2-ranked wrestler in the country, Nate Gallick of Iowa State, in the quarterfinals. Murray won the match 3-3 by overtime criteria (riding time). Gallick had defeated Murray twice previously in close encounters.

In the semifinals, Murray had to meet the #3-ranked wrestler and returning 2003 national champion, Teyon Ware of the University of Oklahoma. Murray was able to take this match by a 5-4 decision.

That victory sent Murray into the

finals against Cliff Moore of the University of Iowa. In the semis, Cliff Moore defeated the #1-ranked wrestler, Scott Moore of the University of Virginia. Scott Moore had entered the tourney with a 48-0 record, with 33 of those victories being pins.

Murray came up short against Cliff Moore, 2-5. Since Cliff Moore is a senior, Murray will likely enter the 2004-05 wrestling season ranked #1 in the country.

Murray was also selected to the 1st Team Big XII All-Academic Team, with a 3.9 grade point average. After placing 2nd at the national tourney, Murray was selected to the 1st Team All-American Academic Team.

Murray thanks everyone for their support during the just concluded season.

The widely respected and recognized Colby athlete is the son of Jim and Bernice Murray, Colby residents.

Colby swimmers are getting ready

The Colby Swim Club will begin summer swim practices on Sunday at the Colby Community College pool with a parents meeting at 4 p.m. followed by the first practice for new and returning swimmers.

Practices will be on Sundays through May, club officials said, then daily practices begin after school is out.

Swim meets this year are scheduled as follows: Saturday, June 5, at Holyoke, Colo.; Saturday, June 12, at Burlington, Colo.; Saturday, June 19, at Oakley; Saturday, June 26, at Colby; and Friday and Saturday, July 9 and 10 in Wray, Colo.

With the 2004 swim season right around the corner, club officials wanted to highlight some of the new changes in the program.

For example, the Colby Swim

Club started winter swimming at the Colby Community College swimming pool in November.

All age groups met every Sunday (except the third) to work on swimming technique and endurance.

"The Swim Club has experienced coaches who work with swimmers to improve their abilities," said Pat Erickson, one of the coordinators. "Anyone can swim for the club and being a good swimmer is not a prerequisite, but you do have to be willing to learn and work hard."

Dating back many years, the swim club has sparked interest in swimming for many people. In fact, many of the parents of current swimmers were former members in their youth, Erickson said.

Highlighting some recent events, Becky Lang and Erika Erickson,

decided to swim competitively this winter. They registered with Missouri Valley Swim and swam under the Western Kansas Swim Club name.

This club has members from towns all over western Kansas and one each from Oklahoma and Texas (Colby, Dodge City, Garden City, Great Bend, Guymon, Okla., Hays, Lakin, Leoti, Liberal, Scott City, Spearman, Texas, and Ulysses).

Lang and Erickson practiced in the mornings at 6 a.m. at the college pool to prepare for swimming, then swam at one meet in Salina, one meet in Emporia, and qualified times for the Division II meet in Topeka in many events.

Missouri Valley has members all over the country but the western Kansas club usually competed

against eastern Kansas teams. The girls had to qualify to swim then had to swim a preliminary race in many events and be in the top 8 to qualify for the finals. The results of Division II saw Lang taking 3rd in 50 freestyle (finals), 8th in 200 IM (finals), 5th in 200 backstroke (finals), 3rd in 100 backstroke (finals), 7th in 200 freestyle (finals), 11th in 100 freestyle, and 12th in 100 butterfly.

Erickson took 5th in 1000 freestyle, 7th in 500 freestyle, 4th in 400 IM, 3rd in 200 breaststroke (finals), 6th in 200 IM (finals), 3rd in 1650 freestyle, 2nd in 100 breaststroke (finals), 11th in 50 freestyle, and 10th in 100 freestyle.

For questions, call Mark and Angie Goudy, Brewster, at 694-2599 or Tracy and Robyn Rogers, Colby, at 462-3128.

Trojan baseball picks up 10th victory

Tuesday Western Nebraska at Colby Game 1-Colby 5, Western 8

—Despite three hits by Dan McClure and two doubles by Kyle Sandusky, the Trojans could not pull out game one.

The Trojans struck in the bottom of the first after a lead off single by sophomore center fielder Dan McClure was converted to a run by freshman third baseman A.J. Steele.

Steele scored McClure with a

sacrifice fly to left field after McClure stole second and advanced to third on a balk. That would be the only lead for the Trojans as the Cougars scored two in the top of the second and the Trojans could only get as close as a tie in the fourth.

Sophomore centerfielder Dan McClure went 3 for 3 with a walk, a run scored and an RBI. Sophomore catcher Kyle Sandusky also had a big game going 2 for 3 with

two doubles and two runs scored. A.J. Steele added a home run in the seventh.

Game 2 - Colby 7, Western 1
Freshman right-hander Dan Neal had nine strikeouts on his way to a complete game victory in game two.

Neal did not walk single batter and gave up just two hits for his second victory of the season. The Trojan offense was highlighted by a five run third that saw a double by sophomore right fielder Joel Gould score two runs.

Dan McClure backed up his 3 for 3 performance in game one by going 2 for 4 with a double in game two. Freshman second baseman Russell Coates also had an outstanding game going 3 for 3. Coates' drag bunt was responsible for sparking the five-run third.

The Trojans are now 10-15 on the season and 4-4 in conference. Today, March Pratt comes to town for a p.m. doubleheader. Saturday the Trojans travel to Garden City and Sunday Barton comes to Colby for another 1 p.m. doubleheader.

SportsLine

Colby District

• **Thursday** — Varsity softball at Syracuse, 4 p.m.

• **Friday** — Junior varsity golf at Norton, 9 a.m.; varsity track at Norton, 3 p.m.; varsity/junior varsity baseball at Plainville, 4 p.m. - varsity game followed by junior varsity game.

• **Monday** — Junior varsity tennis at Garden City, 9 a.m.; Colby High girls' basketball potluck and awards in the commons area, 6:30 p.m.

• **Tuesday** — 7th/8th track at Norton, 10:30 a.m.; junior varsity/

varsity baseball at Ulysses, 4 p.m.; the junior varsity/varsity softball games at Ulysses scheduled for this date have been moved to Friday, April 30, 4 p.m.

Numbers:
fax 462-7749
or
462-3963

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On the road

Trojans gain split with Seward

The Colby Community College went to 7-3 in their last 10 games with a split at Seward County on Tuesday afternoon.

The Lady Trojans won game one of the doubleheader 8-7. Christina Obernolte was in the circle for the win pitching 7 innings and allowing just one earned run. She allowed 6 hits and four walks while striking out three. Calea Meyer and Lauren James each went 3 for 4 in the contest with Meyer knocking in two runs. The Lady Trojans had 12 hits in game one.

Colby dropped game two 8-7 in

8 innings. Lindsey Kastanek took the loss allowing 12 hits and 7 earned runs in 8 innings of work. She walked 5 batters and struck out one. Shanae Calkins went 2 for 3 with 3 RBI in the loss.

Coach Carl Adams commented on the Seward County doubleheader, "We are playing better each time out. We still need our pitchers to continue to step up and get better. We are more focused on hitting as a team and not as individuals. This weekend we will start our district games. We are 4-6 in the Jayhawk West right now. This is a

weird year, everyone is getting beat. There are no teams that are dominating like in years past. The conference and the region are wide open, whatever team gets hot that weekend has a great shot to win regionals and get to nationals."

The Lady Trojans will be a home on Thursday, April 1 to play Barton County at the college field. First pitch is scheduled for 3 p.m.

Sports to:
Fax 462-7749

It's that time again



CRYSTAL RUCKER/Colby Free Press

The Colby Chapter of the American Youth Soccer Organization started its spring games last weekend. Games will run on Saturdays in Colby and Oakley at the ball fields through May 15, except there will be no games played on April 10. During last week's competition the Winona team took on one of Colby's teams in the age 6 youth division pictured above. Scores and other details were not available.



Endowment Association

Colby Community College

Scholarship Benefit Party Auction

Comfort Inn Convention Center in Colby
Saturday, April 3

Doors Open: 4:45 p.m. Buffet Dinner: 5:30 p.m. Live Auction: 7:00 p.m.

LISTED BELOW ARE A FEW OF THE ITEMS DONATED:

- Trojan Backer Stone..... Farm Credit CCC Graduates
- Cheyenne Frontier Day Package..... F & M Bank
- 2 Minute Shopping Spree..... Dillions of Colby
- Night Stay @ Claremont Inn..... Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball
- Framed Pheasant Picture..... High Plains Printing
- Gift Certificate for Setting and Med Package..... FotoGirl
- Exotic Meat Basket..... Oakley Premium Meats
- Compact Fridge..... High Plains Sheep Co.
- Rocking Horse..... Miller's Photography
- 8' Locust Tree..... Goodell Green House & Floral
- Autographed Basketball..... Brian Ostermann
- One Quarter Beef Processed..... CCC Judging Team

Thank you to all the area individuals and businesses who donated items to help make the auction a success! A Special Thanks to Farm and Ranch Realty and ALL auction staff, cashiers and spotters. Stop by the His Shop, Personal Touch & Colby Photo to see displays of auction items coming this weekend.

DON'T MISS OUT ON THE FUN!!!

Auction conducted and clerked compliments of Farm & Ranch Realty, Inc. - Don Hazlett, Broker

****Tickets Still Available****

For reservations, call 785-462-4684