

Splashman!



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Sinatra Brown took a leap into the deep end at the Colby swimming pool. The pool is open from 1-6 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays and 2-8 p.m. on Sundays through the summer. Temperatures have been favoring the swimmers since the pool opened; however, today is a different story with the reading only in the 60s at 11 a.m. today vs. 87 on Tuesday and 91 on Monday.

SportsLine

Weight room reminder

The summer weight room hours for all Colby School District athletes, 7th through 12th grades, are underway and will continue through Aug. 12 at the high school gym. The room is open on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, with workout sessions from 6-7:15 a.m., 7:15-8:30 a.m., 8:30-9:45 a.m., and 6:30-7:45 p.m. These sessions will include strength training and also flexibility and agility. Athletes will need to attend one session daily, but need to arrive 15 minutes prior to the session they want to attend.

MAYB updates

June 18 is the registration deadline for tournaments for 4th-12th boys and girls at **Colby** and Sabetha on July 9-11. Five games guaranteed.
June 25 is the registration deadline for tournaments for 4th-12th boys and girls at Scott City and Baxter Springs on July 16-18. Five games guaranteed.
July 2 is the registration deadline for tournaments for 4th-12th boys and girls at Dodge City, Hillsboro and Gardner on July 23-25. Five games guaranteed.
Call (316) 284-0354 or email mayb@mayb.com for additional information. **Colby's** information can also be obtained by calling (785) 462-3736.

SportsLine contact is colbysports@nwkansas.com to get your item placed in this column. Deadline is 10 am.

She's not about to pay \$58,500 for KU seat

TOPEKA (AP)—The day Allen Fieldhouse opened in 1955, Max and Jackie Kennedy took front-row seats and cheered their Jayhawks. The young couple kept renewing their season tickets for those same prime seats year after year. Almost half a century flowed by. They built a deep love and an abiding loyalty for the school that would eventually grant degrees to both their sons and daughters-in-law. Max, a football letterman at Kansas in the 1940s, served as the Jayhawks' golf coach for three years. And he served for free. The athletic department was strapped for funds in those days. Max is gone now. He died after a fall last year.

And if Jackie doesn't write the university a check for \$58,500, the seats she and Max shared for all those years will belong to someone who gives the school a big donation. Whether Jackie is unable or unwilling to pony up the extra money does not matter. Under the new "points system" Kansas is putting in place to raise new revenue, Max's widow — unless she pays up — will be moved to nearly the top row of the historic old building that holds so many cherished memories at court-side. "I sat in those front row seats with my husband for 50 years," said Kennedy, 74. "The hardest thing I had to do was walk in that field house without him. I'm not sitting anywhere else."

this is happening."

Actually, it's happening in many places. In the Big 12 alone, similar what-have-you-done-for-me-lately programs are in place at Texas, Oklahoma, Nebraska, Texas A&M, Missouri and Kansas State.

When Missouri began assigning seats in its new basketball arena this spring, it used a point system based on past donations to decide who got first choice.

Then just to buy season tickets, fans had to make contributions of \$250 to \$1,000 and commit to making annual donations after that.

For Kansas, points are mainly based on donations to the Williams Fund, the revenue-raising arm of the athletic department. People also get points for such things as having football tickets, being a Kansas graduate and being a longtime ticket holder at Allen.

Get enough points and you get your choice of the best seats. It's almost all tied to donations.

The only way to compensate for a lack of points is to whip out the checkbook.

Not every Allen Fieldhouse ticket-holder is unhappy. Many people who sit up high and have been making big donations are looking forward to being closer to the action.

"We have probably some of the worst seats in the house," said Janis Holiwell, of Topeka.

"We've been making donations every year, and they're not small donations. Other people are not (making big donations). I know they've sat there a long time. But we pay the same amount of money and we sit in very poor seats."

Larry Brown leads Pistons to NBA title

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) — The Los Angeles Lakers left the court in pieces. Karl Malone kept his head down, Shaquille O'Neal absently slapped a few high-fives and Kobe Bryant jogged in late, encased in his own thoughts.

The Detroit Pistons celebrated in concert, pulling their wives and children and entourages onto an increasingly shaky stage at the center of The Palace. They crowded around coach Larry Brown, who stood next to the Larry O'Brien Trophy — a small, golden monument to the glories of teamwork.

"We did it the right way: working hard, working together," said president of basketball operations Joe Dumars, who built the first championship team in Detroit since his playing days. "This isn't a star system we've got here. I just think this is the ultimate team."

Detroit's 100-87 victory in Game 5 Tuesday night ended one of the most surprising NBA Finals in the last half-century — the triumph of togetherness over talent, collaboration over celebrity.

Richard Hamilton scored 21 points, Ben Wallace had 18 points and 22 rebounds and Chauncey Billups got six assists in the run-away clincher. The Pistons surged ahead together, maintained the lead together and held a long, sweet celebration together.

"Nobody gave us a chance, but we felt we had a great chance," said Billups, the finals MVP with 21 points and 5.2 assists per game. "They had Shaq and Kobe, but we just felt we were a better team."

The Pistons won three straight home games to finish off the franchise's first title in 14 seasons, the third in franchise history. These Pistons are more Good Guys than Bad Boys, much less iconic than the

star-studded Lakers, but much better friends and teammates.

Detroit is the first champion from the Eastern Conference since Michael Jordan's Chicago Bulls in 1998, ending the West's five-year reign over the league with a demonstration of the biggest difference between the conferences: consistent, hard-nosed defense.

"This team is built on defense, everybody knows that," said Wallace, who finished five incredible games of defense on O'Neal, held 10 points below his career NBA Finals average. "They've got a lot of offensive weapons, but we got up in them pretty good."

The clincher was the most one-sided game of a lopsided series, essentially ending when the Pistons made a 17-4 run in the third quarter. Each player got a curtain call of sorts, with Hamilton removing his distinctive clear face mask and pointing at it triumphantly, no longer concerned for his oft-broken nose.

The team announced its Thursday parade schedule with 2:56 to play, drawing more cheers. Owner Bill Davidson was one of the first people on the floor as the confetti fell, celebrating the third championship in eight months for his sports empire — and nearly getting broken in half by Ben Wallace's hug.

"I always have to be a little careful that I say I like them both equally, but this is a tremendous night," said the 81-year-old billionaire, the Pistons' majority owner since 1974 and owner of the Stanley Cup champion Tampa Bay Lightning and the WNBA champion Detroit Shock.

While his players and their fans celebrated, Brown shook a few hands and slipped away through a side tunnel. Moments after clinch-

ing the first championship of his 21-year NBA career, his only reaction was to wipe his face with a handkerchief.

Brown either had tears or sweat in his eyes — probably a bit of both. "I haven't, in my life, had disappointments too many times coaching this game," said Brown, the first coach to win titles in the NBA and the NCAA. "I told them before the game, it would be a great statement if we had an opportunity to win, because we do play the right way, and we are truly a team."

The locker room was bedlam, with Lindsey Hunter spraying champagne and Hamilton lighting

the room with his smile. Kid Rock's black felt fedora was drenched with bubbly, and so was his stringy blond hair.

There were no stars hanging out with the Lakers, who failed to win a title for carpetbagging veterans Malone and Gary Payton. Malone couldn't even dress for Game 5, sidelined by a painful right knee injury for the first time in 194 career postseason games.

The fallout from this shocking loss won't be felt in Los Angeles for several months, because the Lakers are almost certain to make major changes to a team that was a big title favorite.

Rockies post 6-3 win

DENVER (AP) — Todd Helton pumped his fist in the air after hitting a late home run, feeling the weight of the Colorado Rockies' long losing streak quickly fading.

"That wasn't too much emotion was it?" Helton said. "I hope I didn't show up anybody, but the situation we were in, we needed that run, especially with the job the bullpen did tonight."

Helton and Vinny Castilla drove in two runs each to help Joe Kennedy win for the first time in eight starts, and the Rockies snapped an eight-game losing streak by holding on for a 6-3 victory over the Boston Red Sox on Tuesday night.

Castilla was 3-for-4, including his 16th homer, and Helton went 1-for-3 with a walk and two runs scored for the Rockies, who were four losses short of the franchise's longest losing streak.

Kennedy (5-4) gave up seven hits and three innings in five innings to

win for the first time since beating Montreal on May 5. He had been 0-4 in his previous seven starts.

Shawn Chacon threw 31 pitches and faced the tying run in the ninth before finishing for his 11th save in 16 attempts.

Chacon hit Mark Bellhorn with a pitch with one out, and walked Manny Ramirez with two outs to put the tying run at the plate. Nomar Garciaparra reached on an infield single to deep short to load the bases, but Chacon struck out Jason Varitek to end it and then pounded his glove in delight.

"Every ounce of frustration I've had in the last year was brought out after that last pitch," Chacon said. "Coming in, I was just thinking 'Win.' Always the same thought: Win. Just win. Get it done. That's all and nothing else."

Bronson Arroyo (2-5) worked the first six innings and gave up four runs, but remained winless in his last five starts.

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