

Checking it over



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Don Harrison of Colby looked at items donated for the Citizens Foundation's annual "Harvest For Health" benefit auction on Friday. The Colby Country Club was site of the foundation's golf tournament and also its bridge tournament. Tama Unger, spokesperson for the foundation, said more than 100 people participated and despite the rain the result was very good. Unger said the

proceeds will be used for the purchase of medical equipment and also for medical education scholarships. The tournament is an annual affair and attracts golfers from a wide area. Prizes are variable in nature and are given by local and area businesses and individuals. And as with golf tournaments, the day was capped off with a meal.

SportsLine

Girls' basketball camp underway

Colby Community College women's basketball coach, Tom Stephens, and the women's basketball team, is holding a girls' basketball camp today, Tuesday and Wednesday at the Colby Community Building. Today's camp was for 5th-6th graders (2004-05); the camp on Tuesday is for 7th-8th; and on Wednesday for high schoolers. The camp will have instruction on fundamentals with an emphasis on off-season workouts and will run from 9 a.m. to noon.

Weight room workouts continue

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 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 Ryan Sturdy or Melissa Murray at (785) 462-4440.

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

Sports notes fax:
785
462-7749

Eagle softball ladies honored

The Colby High School softball Eagles were honored with many awards at the recent "Awards Potluck."

Honors went to:

• **Varsity letter winners** — Whitney Adams, Sheena Brown, Crystal Herschberger, Jen Hutfles, Ivy Ramsey, Savannah Rupp and Stephanie Wieland, all seniors; Shawna Cox, junior; Emily Dougherty, Katie Friesen, Christy Gerstner, Elaine Lamm, Ali Leavitt, Sarah Redmond, Cierra Rous and Diana McAdams, sophomores; and Lindsey Bugbee and Lauren Cox,

both freshmen.

• **Most Valuable Player** (varsity) — Whitney Adams and Savannah Rupp
• **Rookie of the Year** (varsity) — Ivy Ramsey and Lauren Cox
• **Will to Win** (varsity) — Shawna Cox and Sarah Redmond
• **Most Valuable Player** (junior varsity) — Elaine Lamm
• **Rookie of the Year** (junior varsity) — Tisha Bieker
Coach Jack Elliott pointed out the following to be the season's highlights:
✓Beat Goodland 3 of 4 games

✓Won 2, 1-run games and an extra inning game at Regional to advance to the State.
✓Got out of a no-out bases loaded jam in the bottom of the seventh inning in the Regional championship game.
✓First appearance in Regional championship game and first-ever State appearance in the program's 5-year history.
✓Solid State showing.
✓Total improvement of every team member from start of the season to the end of the season.
✓Senior leadership.

Two Rexford residents selected to referee All-Star football game

Special to the Free Press

While the spotlight will be on the 68 players that make up the East and West squads of the 31st Kansas Shrine Bowl football game July 31 at Emporia State's Welch Stadium, there will be another "team" on the field that will be just as important as the players.

That squad is, of course, is the "zebras," the men in black-and-white stripes who officiate the game. And while the players are the state's best at what they do, the men with the whistles are also among the state's best at scrutinizing the players' every moves.

Among the officials for this year's bowl game are Mike Miller and Terry Preston, both of Rexford. "Our game is special," says Shrine Bowl Executive Director Dave Mize. "We have the biggest, fastest, and most talented players in the state, and that demands the best officiating in order to have an outstanding game year after year."

Long-time Shrine Bowl official, Bill Hilbert of Meridan, agrees. "The is one of the toughest games to work", he says. "These players are all-stars, and they work very hard to prepare. They want to win."

Coaches are chosen based on their experience, and Hilbert says officiating on the college level helps, since the game is played by NCAA instead of high school rules. "I've been officiating for 28 years, 20 on the small college and community college level," he says. "The Shrine Bowl can be tough on an official who is unfamiliar with NCAA play, or the size and speed of the Shrine Bowl players."

"We choose five officials from each of the five Shrine areas of Kansas," says Mize. "That gives us 15 officials for the game, which works out nicely in our setup."

Other officials for the 2004 game

are James Blaauw, Topeka; John Bruckner, Salina; Tim Clapp, Andover; Don Clapsaddle, Erie; Gary Davis, Chetopa; Jared Griffin, Emporia; Dan Gillig, Pratt; Michael Grosdidier, Baldwin; Shannon Haydock, Kechi; Mike Oplotnik, Girard; Jim Patton, Hiawatha; and Kirk Simone, Silver Lake.

The Shrine Bowl is officiated by seven on-field officials, the same number that officiates NCAA football games, instead of the four or five officials that work most high schools games.

Two sets of seven officials each work one half of the game. The 15th official serves as coordinator of TV timeouts, helps with rules interpretations, and stands ready to go on the field in the unlikely event one of the on-field officials becomes ill or injured.

What's in it for the officials? Certainly not money — none of the officials receives payment for their services. In fact, the officials travel to and from the game at their own expense, just to be part of the event. However, Hilbert, who has worked several Shrine Bowl games since

the mid-80s, says there are other rewards.

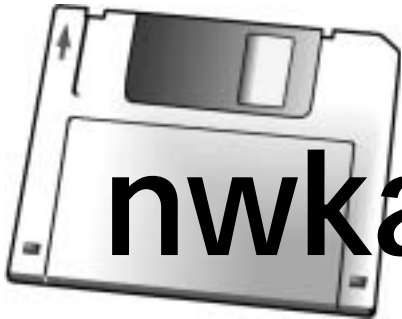
"You believe in what the game is about," he says. "Dave Mize and the other Shriners treat the officials very well, and we enjoy being on the same field with the talented players, many of whom will become stars in college or in the pros. You have to love the game and the kids."

The Kansas Shrine Bowl has been called the "Kansas Super Bowl of Hope." Proceeds from the game support the Shriner's Hospitals for Children, a network of 22 hospitals that provide expert, no-cost orthopedic and burn care treatment to children under 18.

The 2004 game will kickoff at Welch Stadium at Emporia State on Saturday, July 31, at 7 p.m. Reserved chairback tickets are \$20 in advance, \$22 on game night.

Adult general admission tickets are \$9 in advance, \$10 on game night. Student tickets are \$5 in advance, \$6 on game night.

Advance tickets can be purchased also through the Shrine Bowl office by calling 1-800-530-5524.



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AUCTION

Sunday, June 27th @ 10:30 AM

Location: County Fairgrounds - Hays, KS Exit I-70 #157

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