

Salina girl named ‘Honorary All-Star Player’

EMPORIA—Thirteen-year-old Myranda Schneider of Salina has been selected as 2004’s Hospital Patient Special Guest and Honorary Player representing all Shriner’s patients at the 2004 Kansas Shrine Bowl.

Anyone in Kansas looking for an example of what Shriner’s Hospitals for Children can mean for a child — and an entire family — need look no further than the Schneider family.

In August of 1992, Myranda’s family had celebrated her second birthday just two weeks before they were struck with a crushing blow. A lawn mower accident mangled the little girl’s right leg, forcing surgeons to amputate her leg just below the calf.

During a four-week hospital stay,

the Schneiders learned about help that was available from Shriner’s Hospitals. “Until Myranda was hurt, I didn’t know what the Shiners did,” says her mother, Stacey. “I knew about them, because I always went to the Shriner’s Circus, and watched Shriner’s perform in parades. But I didn’t know about the Children’s Hospitals.”

With the help of Doug Jolley, an officer in the Salina Isis Shrine, Myranda, along with her mother and father (Len) made their first trip to the St. Louis Unit of Shriner’s Hospital’s for Children soon after she was released from the Salina hospital. In St. Louis, she was fitted with her first prosthetic device, and began walking an amazingly short time later. “The accident happened on Aug. 23”, said Stacey, “and she

began walking on Dec. 5, just over three months later.”

Myranda was too young to remember the accident itself, but she has grown up making frequent trips to St. Louis for surgeries and check-ups. She says the people at the St. Louis Shriner’s Hospital “are pretty amazing. They are very friendly, and wait on you hand and foot.” She makes return trips every year or so to chart her progress, and to have new prosthetic devices fitted as she grows.

She has also undergone a series of surgeries to adjust for bone growth in her amputated leg, and may have to have more surgeries before she stops growing. But that hasn’t stopped the active 13-year-old from participating — and excelling in — several athletic activities,

particularly softball, skating and snow skiing.

As the Special Guest Honorary Patient and Honorary Player, Myranda will speak to the 1,000-plus attendees at the annual Shrine Bowl banquet on July 30, ride in the Shrine Bowl parade on game day (July 31), and flip the traditional coin at midfield before the start of the game.

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.

Sports Briefs

• **BASKETBALL**
Opts out of contract
LOS ANGELES (AP) — Derek Fisher, a key member of the Los Angeles Lakers the past eight seasons, opted out of his contract to become an unrestricted free agent. Lakers general manager Mitch Kupchak said the team expected such a decision. Kupchak said the Lakers will be aggressive in trying to keep Fisher, who joined them as a first-round draft pick in 1996.

Fisher would have earned \$3 million from the Lakers in each of the next two seasons had he not opted out. He can’t sign with anyone, including his former team, until the middle of next month. Fisher played in all 104 games for the Lakers this season, averaging 21.6 minutes and 7.1 points in 82 regular-season games and 23 minutes and 7.5 points in 22 postseason games. He was a member of the Lakers’ three straight title teams starting in

2000. He made one of the most memorable shots in a playoff game in years, hitting an 18-foot running jumper at the buzzer to give the Lakers a 74-73 victory over San Antonio in Game 5 of the Western Conference semifinals.

• **FOOTBALL**
Assistant coach cited
PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — An Oregon assistant football coach violated NCAA recruiting rules when he tried to lure a junior college transfer to the school in January 2003, resulting in a two-year probation for the school. The Pacific-10 school remains eligible for postseason play and does not lose any scholarships, NCAA spokeswoman Kay Hawes said. The assistant, Gary Campbell, was suspended without pay for one week during the last school year, and he was not allowed to recruit until January. The university also restricted the number of coaches allowed off campus to recruit last season. The case was resolved without a formal hearing. The NCAA’s governing body agreed with the university’s proposed penalties and did not impose additional sanctions.

McMahon pleads no contest
MILTON, Fla. (AP) — Former NFL quarterback Jim McMahon has been placed on probation for 12 months after pleading no contest to a drunken driving charge. McMahon, 44, who led the Chicago Bears to a Super Bowl win in 1986, was also ordered to perform 50 hours of community service and pay about \$850 in fines and costs, Assistant State Attorney Andy McGraw said. McMahon’s driver’s license was suspended for six

months.
• **BASEBALL**
Won’t pursue charge
PHOENIX (AP) — Maricopa County prosecutors will not pursue a felony charge against San Diego Padres prospect Matt Bush, who was arrested for allegedly biting a bouncer escorting him out of a bar. Bill FitzGerald, a spokesman for the County Attorney’s Office, said that the case was sent back to the city of Peoria, meaning no felony charges would be filed. The shortstop, the No. 1 pick in this month’s amateur draft, could face misdemeanor counts. Bush, who received a \$3.15 million signing bonus, was arrested Sunday at a bar across the street from the Peoria Sports Complex, where the Padres train and sponsor a rookie-level team.

• **COLLEGE SPORTS**
Joins another league
BOSTON (AP) — Northeastern accepted an invitation to join the Colonial Athletic Association beginning in 2006. Northeastern, currently a member of the America East Conference for all sports except football, will be the northernmost school in the CAA. Northeastern will compete in 12 sports, including basketball, in the CAA, but will remain in the Atlantic 10 for football.

The beat goes on



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Ivy Ramsey is one of many Colby Eagle athletes working out this summer during the Colby High School supervised weight room sessions. Hours the weight room is open can be found in today’s SportsLine.

SportsLine

Lake Atwood race reminder

The 24th running of the Lake Atwood County Challenge Race will be held starting at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, July 4. The men will run four times around the lake for a distance of 8 kilometers (5 miles) and the women will run twice around the lake for a distance of 4 kilometers. Every age division finisher scores points for his or her county. In nearly every race, the team having the most participants won the competition. There are no awards or entry fees. Runners take part for the honor of his or her county. The County Challenge Race is the first event of the annual Lake Atwood Day celebration hosted by the Atwood Rotary Club. For information, call (785) 626-3295.

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.

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

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