

'Hall of Fame'

Dream realized for Colby coach

By TOMA DREILING
Free Press Publisher

The comments covered a wide range, from "it's about time" to "he's the proof in the pudding that nice guys don't always finish last."

But to Bob Mannebach, popular Colby High School teacher, cross country coach and former head boys' basketball coach, the honor he received last week was special because it came from his peers — those who know the game of basketball inside and out, know the sacrifices made on behalf of mentoring young players and know the resulting satisfaction when their charges share the spotlight for missions accomplished.

Peer review and acceptance was Coach Mannebach's night in the spotlight when he traveled to Topeka on Aug. 4 to be inducted into the Kansas Basketball Coaches Association "Hall of Fame." A reception allowed family, friends, fellow coaches and others to convey their personal congratulations, and then later at half-time of the boys' KBCA All-Star Game in Lee Arena on the campus of Washburn University, he was officially introduced and then presented with awards recognizing his induction into the Hall — a dream come true.

Two plaques were presented, one to Coach Mannebach and the

other to be placed in the Hall of Fame at the Sports Arena in Hutchinson where it shares space with all the other inductees since the program's founding in 1984.

In his two years as coach of the Colby High School Eagles, 1990-1992, Mannebach's Eagles captured a Sub-State runner-up finish and also a Northwest Kansas League championship.

His biggest success story was at Sacred Heart High School at Salina where, over 21 seasons, his teams posted 306 wins and 167 losses, and won four state titles — three of them consecutive in 1979, 1980 and 1981.

He started his career in 1963 at Esbon. In 1967 he arrived on the basketball scene at Grinnell where, in the 1967-68 season, his team took district champion honors and in 1968-69 won the Grinnell Invitational, the Western Kansas League crown, were district champions and regional runner-up.

In 1969 he moved to Salina Sacred Heart where he coached until 1990. Here are some of the achievements tacked up on the walls of the Salina Catholic high school:

1970-71, Sacred Heart Invitational champions; 1971-72, North Central Kansas League champions, District champions, Regional runner-up; 1973-74, Geneseo Invitational champions; 1974-75, Central Prairie League champions, Concordia Invitational champions, Regional champions,

Sub-State champions, undefeated State champions with a 27-0 record; 1975-76, Central Prairie East League champions, Concordia Invitational champions, Regional champions; 1976-77, NCAA League champions; 1977-78, NCAA League champions, Sub-State champions; 1978-79, NCAA League champions, Sub-State champions, State champions, record 23-2; 1979-80, NCAA League champions, Sub-State champions, State champions, record 22-3; 1980-81, NCAA League champions, Salina Invitational champions, Sub-State champions, State champions, record 24-1; 1982-83, Sub-State champions; 1983-84, NCAA League champions, Sub-State runner-up; 1985-86, Salina Invitational champions, Sub-State champions; and 1989-90, Cottonwood Valley League champions.

In 1975, Mannebach was assistant coach of the East Team for the Kansas Jaycees Cerebral Palsy Sports Classic All-Star Game in Wichita; in 1978-79, he was named *Salina Journal* "Area Coach of the Year;" 1979-80, *Topeka Capital-Journal* "Coach of the Year;" 1980-81, *Wichita Eagle-Beacon* "Coach of the Year" and Kansas Basketball Coaches Association Class 4A "Coach of the Year;" and in 1989, KSAL Radio Sportscasters Club "Coach of the Year."

In addition to his personal induction into the Hall of Fame this



COURTESY PHOTO

Colby High School's Bob Mannebach flashes a smile as he displays the plaque presented during his induction into the Kansas Basketball Coaches Association "Hall of Fame." The ceremony was held Aug. 4 at Topeka.

year, his 1975 Sacred Heart Team was inducted into the KBCA Hall of Fame in 1989.

Mannebach also served as a basketball clinician for the Heart of America Coaches Clinic, Kansas State High School Activities Association Coaches Clinic and the South Dakota High School Activities Association Coaches Clinic.

Coach Mannebach graduated from Menlo High School in 1959, earned his BS degree in business from Fort Hays State University in 1963 and his MS degree in business, also from FHSU, in 1968.

Mannebach is busy carving out a niche in still another sport — cross country at Colby High School. His teams have had a lot of success and

the girl runners, particularly, have worn the Northwest Kansas League crown for nearly more times than the number of fingers on their hands.

His life has been a life of mentoring young people. Success has been pretty much his stamp.

Coach Bob and wife Evelyn, live in Colby.

SportsLine

Tourney to benefit Trojan basketball

The Colby Community College Trojan basketball golf tournament and benefit auction will be held at the Colby Country Club on Tuesday, Aug. 24. Registration is at 9:30 a.m., shotgun start at 10 a.m., social hour at 5 p.m. and benefit auction at 5:30 p.m. This is a four-person scramble. The cost is \$60 per person (includes cart, lunch, hors d'oeuvres). Contact assistant coach John Woods at 462-3984 x317 for details or to sign up your team. Auction items include: Larry Walker return game tickets (Cardinals at Rockies); Broncos tickets; autographed Purdue basketball by K-State grad Gene Keady;

autographed sports memorabilia; golf items and the big plus is an opportunity to meet former NBA All-Star Otis Birdsong.

Hunter Education Course reminder

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks, Colby volunteer instructors and the Colby Recreation Department, have scheduled a "Hunter Education Course" in Colby. It will take place at the Colby Community Building on Tuesday, Aug. 24 and Thursday, Aug. 26 from 6:30-9:30 p.m., and on Saturday, Aug. 28 from 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Range activity will be from 1:30-3:30 p.m., weather permitting. This will be the only class in Colby

before the "Youth Outdoor Skills Day." Students must attend all sessions. Anyone born on or after July 1, 1957 must take and pass a Hunter Education Course before they can hunt in Kansas. Students must pre-enroll at The Pirates Den, Southwind Plaza, Colby. For more information, call (785) 462-6631, 462-7602 or 462-3367.

'Youth Shoot' on Sunday's schedule


The Colby Trap Club and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks' "Pass It On" program are sponsoring a "Youth Shoot" this coming Sunday from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. at the Trap Club five miles west of Colby on Hwy. 24 to Th.Co.Rd. 16,

then south one mile. Trap house one will be a free shoot for all youth, women and new shooters. Tap house two and the skeet houses will be open for the more experienced shooter. Shotguns, shotgun shells and blue rock will be pro-


vided for trap house one by the Colby Trap Club and the "Pass It On" program. For more information, call Tim Hansen at (785) 460-2710, Bob Luck at 462-8857 (day) or 462-3701 after 6 p.m., or Benny Young at 462-7602.

Sports notes to (fax) 462-7749

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What an outstanding season!

