

Pre-season preparation



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Colby High School Eagle Zanae Baird listened to head basketball coach Derek Bissitt last week as he explained a play. The Eagles are preparing for their first game of the season, which will be at home Dec. 2.

Trojan runners take fifth place at national marathon championship

The Colby Community College Trojans had a successful showing at the NJCAA Marathon Championships Saturday, Nov. 19 at Spartanburg Methodist College in Spartanburg, N.C.

The Trojans placed fifth overall as a team, finishing behind Butler County Community College, Iowa Central, Johnson County, Kan. and SUNY Dehli, N.Y.

The Colby men's team had two finishers place in top 10 individu-

ally. They were Denzel Ramirez, third, and Derrick Monson, seventh. Both are All-Americans.

Ramirez had a time of 1:12:18 over the 13-mile course and Monson had a time of 1:14:46.

Other finishers were Anton Sandoval, 1:20:06, 28th, and Andrew Bird, 1:22:43, 38th.

On the women's side, Christa Perue placed 21st with a time of 1:42:53.

Head coach Jeff Becker was

pleased with his team's performance.

"I was very proud of these young men and women they ran great and represented Colby Community College in a positive way," Becker said. "We were very competitive at the national level as we were really close to second and a national team trophy. We will now allow these young men and women a break and then get ready for a great track and field season.."

Colby wrestler having success at Iowa

Eric Luedke of Colby is enjoying a successful start to his career as a wrestler at the University of Iowa. Luedke, along with the rest of his

team, will travel to Tempe, Ariz., Saturday for their first dual match of the season against Arizona State University.

Luedke, a junior, competes in the 165-pound weight class.

At the Spartan Open in Dubuque, Iowa, earlier this month, Luedke took third place. It was the Hawkeye's first competition of the season.

He had another third place finish in the open division at the 2005 Kaufman-Brand Open in Omaha, Neb. Luedke was one of 26 Hawkeye wrestlers who competed in the meet. More than 650 wrestlers from 42 teams competed, making it the country's largest single-day collegiate tournament.

Luedke is currently 5-1.

Broncos edge Dallas

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Regardless of whether Ron Dayne ever outruns his reputation as an underachiever, he'll always be able to look back fondly at Thanksgiving 2005.

Filling in for injured Tatum Bell, Dayne rumbled 55 yards on the second play of overtime and Jason Elam followed with a 24-yard field goal to give the Denver Broncos a 24-21 victory over the Dallas Cowboys on Thursday in the kind of tight, tense game expected in a clash between first-place teams.

Bell was a surprise scratch because of a bruised chest, and Dayne didn't even know he'd be in the lineup until Thursday. He responded with 98 yards rushing, his most since Sept. 30, 2001, and scored his first touchdown since the 2004 opener, when the 1999 Heisman Trophy winner was still with the New York Giants.

"The coaching staff gave me a

chance and they believed in me," Dayne said. "I was glad I got this opportunity to show Coach that I wasn't a bust."

The game was close for more than four quarters, with the margin never wider than a touchdown. Both defenses came up with big plays and each team downed a punt inside the 2. There was a close call by the officials, and the Cowboys (7-4) missed a 34-yard field goal that would've put them ahead midway through the fourth quarter.

Denver (9-2) never trailed in winning its fourth straight, but the Broncos were hardly in control. Their running game struggled until Dayne's big burst and Jake Plummer threw his first interception since Week 2.

Still, they improved to 3-2 on the road to maintain hopes of catching unbeaten Indianapolis for home-field advantage in the AFC playoffs.

Chief's Gammon on IR

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Kendall Gammon, whose excellent long snapping had made him well known within the NFL but virtually anonymous to most fans, was placed on injured reserve Wednesday by Kansas City.

The Chiefs signed Ed Perry, the former long snapper at Miami.

Gammon, 37, fractured his left fibula during Sunday night's game at Houston. He had made 218 consecutive starts, the longest active streak in the league among nonkickers.

"It happened at the line of scrimmage," said Gammon, a native of the Wichita, Kan., area who played at nearby Pittsburg State.

"I was blocking, and somebody's knee hit me in the right place, or the wrong place, however you want to

say it. I've never not played a game. I've been fortunate to play 13 years without being hurt. But I can barely walk right now, let alone run."

Losing Gammon could be a blow to the Chiefs (6-4). Longtime NFL kicker Morten Andersen once called him the greatest long snapper in NFL history.

"We're going to miss Kendall Gammon," said Chiefs coach Dick Vermeil. "Nobody snaps the ball better than Kendall Gammon."

Gammon said he will not need surgery, just time to let the injury heal. He hopes to be back next year.

"That's my plan," he said. "You just hope it's somebody else's plans. The injury is not significant in terms of messing me up. But if I took another blow, I could screw my knee up for life."

SportsLine

Public invited to watch wrestling tryouts

The Colby High School wrestling team will be holding their final tryouts, which will be open to the public at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 29 at the high school gym. The event will showcase the top two wrestlers in the 14 different weight classes. The winner of each weight class will become the team's varsity wrestler for the first part of the season. Proceeds from the free-will donation event will benefit the wrestling team throughout the year.

Middle school basketball on Tuesday

The Colby Middle School Eagle seventh and eighth grade basketball team will travel to St. Francis on Tuesday for a game. Action starts at 4:30 p.m.

Colby High School basketball season opens Dec. 2

The Colby High School Eagles basketball season opens Friday, Dec. 2 against Scott City. Action starts at 4:30 p.m. with the "C" teams and games will be played at the Colby Community Building and high school gym.

Eagle wrestling starts Dec. 2

The Colby High School Eagle wrestling season starts Friday, Dec. 2, at Burlington, Colo. Both the junior varsity and varsity squads will compete. Action begins at 6:30 p.m.

High school wrestling on the road

The Colby High School varsity wrestlers travel to the St. Francis tournament Saturday, Dec. 3. Matches begin at 9:30 a.m. The junior varsity squad will wrestle at the Goodland tournament Dec. 3. It begins at 10 a.m.

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