



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Colby High School Eagle wrestler Daniel Gonzales (in white) battled a Garden City opponent during last week's meet at the high school. The Eagles compete this weekend in the regional wrestling tournament. Those qualifying for state will go to Salina next weekend.

Trojan softball team starts season losing doubleheader

By Matt Dickson
Colby Community College

In what is a highly anticipated season the Colby Community College softball team dropped their opening doubleheader Wednesday at Lamar, Colo., 9-5 and 6-4.

The Lady Trojans had a spectacular fall and gained votes in the national pre-season rankings.

Colby coach Carl Adams used last year's ace Jere Ebert (Rosthern, Saskatchewan) as the opening day starter. She pitched well enough to win but her defense did not give her the support she needed.

Jere gave up two earned runs in 4 1/3 innings of work and sophomore transfer Amanda Bell came in to finish the game allowing no earned

runs in 1 2/3 innings. Seven unearned runs negated the strong pitching performance.

Sophomore Molly Langerak went 3-4 with two RBI's as the team pounded out 14 hits.

In the second game Amanda Bell went all six innings but allowed six earned runs. Colby did not get the same kind of offense as it did in the first game as they only collected six hits. Catcher

Langerak carried over her strong hitting from the first game as she went 2-3 and scored two runs.

"We scored enough runs to win both games. Our defense didn't make the routine plays on a consistent basis. When we were down we couldn't get a key hit with runners in scoring position. We stranded 26

runners in the two games. We will build from this and be ready for Otero on Sunday if Mother Nature lets us play," Adams said.

First pitch is scheduled for 2 p.m. in La Junta, Colo.

Colby 5
Lamar 9

Losing Pitcher: Jere Ebert 12H 1K 0BB 2ER 4.33IP;

Amanda Bell 1H 1K 0BB 0ER 1.66IP

Leading Hitter: Molly Langerak 3-4 2RBI Team Hits - 14

Colby 4
Lamar 6

Losing Pitcher: Amanda Bell 10H 2K 11BB 6ER 6IP

Leading Hitter - Molly Langerak 2-3 2R Team Hits - 6

Gordon, Sadler to lead Daytona

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Jeff Gordon thinks it's far too early to label him the Daytona 500 favorite.

But based on his early Speedweeks showings and an outstanding string of success in the Great American Race, he's the only one who doesn't think he's once again the driver to beat.

Gordon staked his claim Thursday by winning one of the twin qualifying races at Daytona International Speedway that is used to set the field for Sunday's season opener. Elliott Sadler won the first race, which also had strong runs from Dale Earnhardt Jr., Jimmie Johnson and Tony Stewart.

"I don't know how you can just pick one guy, there's strong cars out

here," Gordon said. "I felt like (Sadler) was really strong in that first race. I know that Tony and Junior and Jimmie and those guys who weren't in our race are going to be strong."

Gordon, coming off a disappointing season that saw him miss the Chase for the championship, needs to start 2006 out on a high note to show his team he has rebounded. Daytona is the perfect place for him to do it: He's the defending race winner and a three-time 500 champion.

So when considering his entire body of work, Gordon finally acknowledged that he's got a good chance Sunday.

"I think with our track record here at Daytona, with the performance that we've got going for us already this week, I'd like to think that we're

one of the favorites," he said. "But whether we're the guy to beat or not, we'll find out in the closing laps of the 500."

Gordon will face a stiff challenge in the main event from Sadler, who is having a stout week for his Robert Yates Racing team. Sadler was fourth in time trials and was dominating in his victory.

"It feels pretty good," he said. "We beat them all pretty handily."

Sadler will lean on past lessons learned to transfer the momentum from this win into Sunday's event. He won a qualifying race in 2004, only to fade to a seventh-place finish in the 500.

Kansas High School Hall of Fame to honor Hoxie's Rosell

From the Kansas High School Activities Association

Four individuals were chosen from nominations sent to the selection committee. The inductees are: Benny Rosell of Hoxie, Jim Baker, Donald Corbett and Troy Lee Hodges.

To be eligible for the Hall of Fame, a person must have made an unusually outstanding contribution in interschool activities, either as a student with exceptional talent, or as an adult working with youth (such as an activity coach, director or sponsor, an administrator, an official or a contributor).

Hall of Fame inductees are no longer active in the field for which they are nominated. Each individual/family is honored and presented their Hall of Fame plaque at various KSHSAA state functions, championship activities, or at a function in the individual's choosing.

Benny Rosell's award presentation will be Saturday, May 13 at Hoxie High School.

"For over 20 years, Hoxie High School dominated the landscape of Kansas Debate & Forensics, due in large part to Benny Rosell. In 1974, Coach Rosell launched an unprecedented streak of success in Debate at Hoxie High School that would not end until his retirement in 1994.

For 21 consecutive years, Rosell's teams qualified for state competition, winning four state titles, four runner-up places and two third-place finishes. Along the way they captured 18 regional championships and four runner-up titles. Overall, his teams had a Regional record of 277-54 (.836) and a State record of 192-116 (.623). The '77 team was undefeated in regional competition as was the '89 team at state.

In addition to his debate coach-

ing duties, Rosell taught English and speech and directed school plays at Hoxie High School. He also excelled as a forensics coach, winning back-to-back state championships in 1988 and 1989. What makes Rosell's many accomplishments even more extraordinary is that during his teaching and coaching career, he was also a full-time pastor.

Rosell was recognized by his peers by receiving the Kansas Speech Communication Association Outstanding Teacher, and was the first honoree inducted into Kansas Debate Coach Invitational Tournament Hall of Fame in 1999.

A truly outstanding individual, perhaps his true legacy is as a teacher, mentor and role model.

Although fiercely competitive, he modeled respect to all. In his book, success was not even a close second to sportsmanship and integrity."

Regional basketball starts Monday

Regional basketball tournaments for Brewster and Golden Plains boys and girls teams begins Monday.

Boys bracket
Weskan plays Triplains 7 p.m. CT Monday at Weskan. Winner plays Brewster Thursday in Goodland.

Wallace County plays Cheylin 7 p.m. CT Monday at Sharon Springs. Winner plays Golden Plains Thursday in Goodland.

Brewster and Golden Plains received first-round byes. Championship game is 7:30 p.m. CT Saturday in Goodland.

Girls bracket
Weskan plays Cheylin 7 p.m. CT Tuesday at Weskan. Winner plays Golden Plains Friday in Goodland.

Wallace County plays Triplains 7 p.m. CT Tuesday in Sharon Springs. Winner plays Brewster Friday in Goodland.

Golden Plains and Brewster received first-round byes. Championship game is 6 p.m. CT Saturday in Goodland.

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