

Ron Prince wants Cats up to speed

By John Van Nostrand
Colby Free Press

Much like his tour of the state, new Kansas State football coach Ron Prince wants his team to be in a hurry.

Prince was in Colby Thursday and spoke at the Northwest Kansas Catbacker golf tournament and auction held at Colby Country Club.

"We are doing 50 of these in 60 days," Prince said.

Prince, who was hired in December after the retirement of Bill Snyder, is touring the state drumming up support for the Wildcat team that has missed a bowl game the past two seasons.

Prince said for the team to have a winning season, speed is the need.

"No mules are in the Kentucky Derby," he said. "All of you who have fast kids, I need you to have more."

Prince, who was previously an assistant coach at the University of Virginia, is grateful for the response the fans have already given him and the program. During the Wildcats' spring game, an estimated 32,000 fans were in attendance.

"I want to thank you," Prince said. "I now coach the team I grew up watching."

Prince is from Junction City.

The coach said potential recruits are paying attention to Kansas

State. Prince denied the speculation that few recruits are interested in living in small-city Manhattan and playing as a Wildcat. He said recruits have come from as many as 15 states.

"We can get kids to Manhattan," he said.

Recruiting is key for Prince.

Lately, football critics have divided the Big 12 Conference into two groups, the winners in the South and the other teams in the North.

Oklahoma and Texas, who both play in the South, have won national championships. Nebraska, Kansas State and Colorado, who have excelled in the past in the North, have lost some luster.

Prince said the divisions play different football. The south emphasizes more speed and the north prefers size and strength.

"People are recruiting like what is in the South," he said. "It's almost evolving to the single-wing days. The quarterback is a second running back. You have to have a fast team."

Prince wants to win immediately, but is concerned about how to maintain a level of winning.

"The Big 12 is the most competitive in the country," Prince said. "I like our position in the North."

Kansas State's season begins Sept. 2 vs. Illinois State.



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press
Kansas State football coach Ron Prince spoke during the Northwest Kansas Catbacker golf tournament and auction Thursday at Colby Country Club.

Garcia to wrestle for the Trojans

Cole Garcia of Colby signed a national letter of intent Thursday to wrestle for the Colby Community College Trojans.

Garcia was the 4A State Champion at 140 lbs. as a junior and senior at Colby High School. He placed second in the state competition as a sophomore.

In addition to wrestling, Garcia participated in football for four years and track for two years.

"I am very pleased that Cole has made the decision to join our squad," said head coach Steve Lampe.

"He has proven his ability to win tough matches and has been very successful in state-wide competitions. He's also a good student who will make a great addition to our campus next year."

Cole's parents are Alicia Riedel and Joe and Denise Garcia.

League leader beats Royals

CLEVELAND (AP) — Casey Blake can't remember the last time he beat out a bunt — or was leading the league in hitting.

Blake drove in two runs and extended his career-high hitting streak to 15 games to help lift the Cleveland Indians to a 6-5 win over the Kansas City Royals on Thursday.

"I don't really know why I did it,"

Blake said of his surprise bunt single in the second inning. "I guess when you feel confident you just do things without second guessing."

Blake also had a two-run single in the third inning and is hitting a major-league best .370 after batting only .241 a year ago to lower his career average to .255.

Colby Middle school girls win track meets

Colby's seventh grade and eighth grade girls track team won the Northwest Kansas League meet held May 11.

The eighth-grade team only had nine girls and won the meet with 117 points. Oberlin was second with 101.5.

Colby eighth-grade results

100 meter dash: April Gee, first, :12.98; Alli Barton, third, :13.58.

200 meter dash: Gee, first, :28.24; Barton, second, :29.08.

400 meter dash: Barton, third, 1:10.02.

100 m hurdles: Rachel Lamm, first, :18.30.

880 yds: Rhett Martin, fifth, 3:08.04.

1 mile: Barbara Bickner, first, 6:27.45; Martin, third, 6:48.82.

2 mile: Courtney Brungardt, fourth, 16:44.82.

Long jump: Gee, sixth, 12-9.

Triple jump: Gee, first, 33-10,

new league record; Bickner, third, 27; Lamm, fifth, 25-8.

Pole vault: Courtney Brungardt, third, 5-6; Martin, fourth, 5-6.

Shot put: Keesa Wright, sixth, 29-2.75.

Discus: Wright, sixth, 66-5.

4x100 relay: Caitlin Wright, Keesa Wright, Lamm, Barton, third, :58.58.

4x200 relay: C. Wright, K. Wright, Bickner, Lamm, second, 2:08.80.

Seventh-grade results

100 meter dash: Caitlyn Wark, second, :13.81.

200 meter dash: Kayla Hockersmith, second, :29.61.

400 meter dash: Hockersmith, 1:08.33.; Katherine Kaus, fifth, 1:08.64.

100 meter hurdles: Hockersmith, third, :18.90; Gerstner, fifth, :20.08.

880 yard run: Katrina Kaus, second, 2:41.38; Kelsey Shields, fifth,

2:57.79.

1 mile: Katrina Kaus, first, 6:23.04; Amy Schroeder, second, 6:33.07; Sara Martin, sixth, 7:13.32.

Long jump: Wark, first, 13-8; Schroeder, fourth, 13-2.5.

Triple jump: Katrina Kaus, third, 26-10.75.

High jump: Hockersmith, second, 4-2; Katherine Kaus, fourth, 4-0.

Pole vault: Katrina Kaus, first, 6-6; Shelby Terrell, third, 6-0; Schroeder, fourth, 4-6.

Shot put: Kylie Reitcheck, third, 27-6.5.

Discus: Reitcheck, second, 75-3.

4x100 relay: third, :58.58.

4x200 relay: second, 2:04.4.

4x400 relay: first, 4:47.98, new league record.

The seventh-grade girls won with 155 points.

Bonds ready for DH

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Barry Bonds might end up tying the Babe in the Bay Area after all — only it could come across the water in the unfriendly confines of Oakland.

Bonds should be well rested as he resumes his pursuit of Babe Ruth in a weekend interleague series against the Athletics in which he will be the designated hitter, perhaps a preview of the slugger's future beyond 2006.

Bonds' home run drought has reached eight games since he hit No. 713 on May 7 at Philadelphia to move within one of tying Ruth for second place on the career list.

The next three games could serve as an audition of sorts. With Bonds' contract up at the end of the season,

he hasn't ruled out a switch to the American League for 2007 to be a DH and reduce the wear and tear on his surgically repaired right knee.

He would like nothing more to get this over with, and preferably in San Francisco's own stadium. And that is still a realistic possibility considering the Giants return home Monday for six games against St. Louis and Colorado.

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When & Where: Camp will be held in Colby, KS in the Colby High School wrestling room on Wednesday, May 31st thru Friday, June 2nd. Wrestlers entering 6th grade or below are at 1:00p.m.-3:00p.m. Middle school & high school wrestlers are at 6:00p.m.-8:30p.m. All age groups are welcome. We'll cover technique of Folkstyle & Freestyle wrestling.

Cost: Pre-registration is encouraged. Camp fee is \$80. Late registration and walk-ins are welcome. Checks can be made out to **All-American Wrestling Camp** and delivered or sent to Brian Luedke at 725 Kings Ct. Colby, KS 67701. **Please feel free to call Eric at 785-443-3001 or Brian at 785-443-2677 or 785-460-6907 with any questions.**

Email: ericluedk@hotmail.com for a registration form.

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