



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Colby High School football players ran plays during football camp this week at the high school practice field. The camp was the first under new head coach Bob Ray. Colby's season begins Sept. 1.

Judge scolds coach for evasive answers

WICHITA (AP) — U.S. District Judge Monti Belot berated former track coach Lance Brauman on Monday for giving “evasive answers to straight questions” during the government’s cross-examination of his testimony.

The judge sent jurors out of the courtroom after Brauman testified that he ran the track program at Barton County Community College “the best way that I could” during questioning by prosecutor Debra Barnett about athlete time sheets and a summer course he taught.

Brauman currently is an assistant track and field coach at the University of Arkansas. He is on trial in Wichita for eight counts, including embezzlement, theft and mail fraud, alleged to have happened while he was head track coach at the Kansas community college.

With the jurors out of the courtroom, Belot told the coach that if he gave another evasive answer, Belot would use his prerogative as federal judge to comment on witness testimony. He warned that if Brauman forces him to comment on his testimony, it would not be favorable.

A visibly shaken Brauman apologized to the judge. His defense attorney, Lee Davis, briefly took Brauman out of courtroom to talk to him before he resumed his testimony.

“You better straighten him out,” Belot told Davis as the two were leaving.

With jurors back in the courtroom, Brauman acknowledged on cross-examination that he forged student signatures to time sheets.

Both sides have now rested their cases. Closing arguments were scheduled for 9 a.m. Tuesday.

Prosecutors contend Brauman participated in a scheme to give athletes work-study funds and campus jobs that paid them for work they did not do, and they also accuse him of causing false academic credentials to be sent to other schools on athletes’ behalf.

The former track coach’s case is the first to go to trial in a Barton County athletics scandal that spawned charges against seven coaches and the athletic director and led to the firing of the school’s president.

In his earlier testimony Monday, Brauman said it was common practice at the school to use work-study and campus employment programs to make up the difference between financial aid given athletes and the cost of their schooling. The athletes did not get any work-study money themselves, but just enough work hours were credited to their student accounts so that their accounts were “zeroed out” by the end of the semester.

Brauman testified the practice had been ongoing for 20 years.

“It was known throughout the entire institution,” Brauman said.

When he questioned it, Brauman said he was told by then-President Veldon Law and athletic director Neil Elliott that the money was Barton County Community College funds that were being used.

“It was the school’s policy and the school’s money as far as I was concerned,” Brauman said. “I was told it was Barton County money out of the general fund.”

The practice benefited the student-athlete, and since the money went directly to pay the athlete’s room and board, Brauman likened it to one department paying another.

“It was Peter paying Paul — it is the best analogy I can come up with,” Brauman said.

He said he required his athletes to work for their work-study funds, but acknowledged on cross-examination they did not work all the hours for which they were paid.

Brauman testified he left Barton College for the job at the University of Arkansas in 2002 in part because he was bothered by the way campus employment was handled, as well as the way some of the summer classes were taught.

“I was not comfortable with the things that had to be done there to have a team,” Brauman said.

SportsBriefs

Little League football

Players and coaches are needed for Little League football. Players must be in fourth through sixth grades.

A meeting will be held 5 p.m. Friday at the practice field behind the former hospital building in the 100 block of South Range Avenue.

For more information, call 460-8000 or 460-2656.

Free shoot

The Colby Trap Club and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks will have free shoots this summer for youth younger than 18, women and inexperienced shooters.

Shoots will be held 2 p.m. Sunday and Aug. 20 at the Colby Trap Club, five miles west of Colby on U.S. Highway 24.

For more information, contact Benny Young at 462-7602 or the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks at 462-3367.

Baseball

PITTSBURGH (AP) — No matter who’s on the mound, the National League can’t find a way to close out an All-Star game.

With the AL down to its final strike, Michael Young hit a two-run

triple off Trevor Hoffman for a 3-2 victory that kept the Americans unbeaten for the past decade.

Behind David Wright’s homer and some daring, old-style baserunning, the NL took a 2-1 lead into the ninth and brought in Hoffman to try to finish it.

But the San Diego Padres’ reliever failed to put this one away. He gave up a two-out single to Paul Konerko, who was replaced by pinch-runner Jose Lopez.

Troy Glaus’ smash bounded over the left-field fence for a ground-rule double, perhaps preventing Lopez from scoring. He was held at third, but Young made that moot.

Young earned the MVP award — and the AL again earned home-field advantage in the World Series.

Soccer

MILAN, Italy (AP) — Marco Materazzi acknowledged he insulted Zinedine Zidane before the French captain head-butted him in the World Cup final, but repeated his denial that he called Zidane a “terrorist.”

A Paris-based anti-racism group issued a statement Monday saying Materazzi had called Zidane, whose parents emigrated to France from Algeria, a “dirty terrorist.”

Zidane and Materazzi exchanged words in extra-time of Sunday’s final in Berlin. Seconds later, Zidane lowered his head and rammed Materazzi in the chest, knocking him to the ground. Zidane was ejected from the match.

Horse Racing

KENNETT SQUARE, Pa. (AP) — Barbaro was resting comfortably and eating with gusto, one day after the colt’s veterinarian said the Kentucky Derby winner was in for “tough days ahead.”

Barbaro had a new cast applied Monday — his sixth overall, and the fourth change in a week. He also underwent three other procedures on the right hind leg he shattered in the Preakness seven weeks ago.

Pro football

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Two-time Olympic skier and Eagles’ fifth-round draft pick Jeremy Bloom agreed to terms on a four-year contract with Philadelphia, his agent said.

Bloom was a budding star in college with Colorado before his football career was put on hold. In the 2004, the NCAA ruled because he accepted endorsements to keep his career as a skier on track, Bloom couldn’t be eligible for football.



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