

Former Barton County athletic director goes to trial

WICHITA (AP) — Barton County Community College's former athletic director goes on trial Tuesday in the latest case related to the scandal that has ensnared eight people and led to the firing of the school's president.

Neil Elliott, who resigned as athletic director in May, is the highest-ranking official of the Great Bend school charged in the case. The other seven defendants were coaches or assistant coaches in the college's basketball and track programs.

Elliott faces trial in U.S. District Court on 12 counts alleging conspiracy, theft of federal funds, embezzlement from student assistance programs, and mail fraud.

His attorney, Robin Fowler, has maintained that his client is innocent of the charges.

Federal prosecutors in the case against Elliott allege that student-athletes were paid for work-study and campus jobs they did not do. Similar charges were filed against the coaches.

The mail fraud counts relate to mailing of National Junior College Athletic Association eligibility forms that falsely stated athletes were in compliance with eligibility rules. The affected departments were Barton County's men's basketball program and its men's and women's track programs.

A separate count involves a medical hardship request mailed to the

NJCAA on behalf of DaJuan Clayton that Clayton allegedly was not entitled to receive.

Elliott was hired as Barton County's assistant men's basketball coach in 1995 and was promoted to athletic director in 1998. His duties included supervising the athletic programs and the coaches who prepared time sheets, according to the indictment.

The college's president, Veldon Law, was fired last July because of the scandal.

Among the eight defendants, only Elliott and former track coach Lance Brauman have taken their cases to trial. Brauman was convicted earlier this month on five felony counts.

Of the six other defendants, former assistant basketball coach Matthew B. Skillman and former basketball coach David "Soupy" Campbell are serving probation after entering pleas. Four others — former basketball coach Ryan Wolf, former assistant basketball coach Shane Hawkins, former track coach Lyles Lashley and former basketball coach Ryan Cross — await sentencing.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Brad Kersenbrock of Colby took a practice swing Friday before teeing off during the golf tournament held to benefit the Colby Community College wrestling program. The tournament was played at Colby Country Club.

Colby K18 heads to state

Colby's K18 baseball team qualified for the state tournament by winning the regional tournament held last weekend in Russell.

Colby's first state-tournament game is 8 p.m. Friday vs. Belleville

in Lucas.

Last year, Colby's K18 team placed second in the state tournament. Colby lost 4-3 to Russell in the championship game.

Kyle Petty charity ride to pit stop in Colby

The Chick-fil-A Kyle Petty Charity Ride Across America is cruising through Colby Wednesday.

The Chick-fil-A Kyle Petty Charity Ride is expected to arrive between 1:30 and 1:45 p.m. at Oasis Travel Center. The group will only stop long enough for gasoline.

The 2006 ride kicked off in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, Saturday and is traveling a Pacific-Northwest route through the mountains of Colorado across the country for nine days making stops in Kansas, Illinois,

Ohio and ending their journey in North Carolina on July 30.

More than 200 motorcycle enthusiasts are in the nine-day adventure to reach the final destination — the Victory Junction Gang Camp in Randleman, N.C. The Victory Junction Gang is a non-profit camp created to enrich the lives of children with chronic or life-threatening illnesses by creating camping experiences that are memorable, exciting, fun, empowering, physically safe and medically sound.

SportsBriefs

HOYLAKE, England (AP) — Tiger Woods had an answer for everyone Sunday on another methodical march to victory in the British Open.

One month after missing the cut for the first time in a major, Woods was ruthless as ever on the links of Royal Liverpool, making three straight birdies to turn away a spirited challenge by Chris DiMarco and win golf's oldest championship for the second straight year.

He closed with a 5-under 67 and became the first player since Tom Watson in 1982-83 to win consecutive titles.

This was his first victory since his father, Earl Woods, died May 3 after a brutal bout with cancer. Some questioned whether Woods could regain his focus, especially after he was sent packing after two rounds at Winged Foot in the U.S. Open.

VERONA, N.Y. (AP) — John Rollins shot an 8-under-par 64, edging Bob May by one shot to win his second straight B.C. Open title.

CYCLING
PARIS (AP) — The highs and lows of Floyd Landis' nail-biter of a bike race ended without a hitch Sunday as he won the Tour de France and kept cycling's most prestigious title in American hands for the eighth straight year.

The 30-year-old Landis, pedaling with an injured hip, cruised to victory on the cobblestones of the Champs-Elysees, a day after regaining the leader's yellow jersey and building an insurmountable lead in the final time trial.

Landis picked up where another American left off last year, when Lance Armstrong completed his seventh and final Tour triumph. With the victory, Landis becomes the third American — joining Armstrong and three-time winner Greg LeMond — to win the Tour.

Landis' fifth yellow jersey of the Tour was possible thanks to a once-in-a-lifetime ride Thursday in the Alps that put him back in contention, one day after a disastrous ride dropped him from first to 11th, more than eight minutes back.

AUTO RACING
LONG POND, Pa. (AP) — Denny Hamlin completed the Pocono sweep on Sunday, dominating the field for his second victory that pushed the rookie into championship contention.

While Hamlin was cruising

around Pocono Raceway, teammate Tony Stewart nearly self-destructed and Dale Earnhardt Jr. took another hit in his pursuit of the Nextel Cup title.

Stewart, the defending champion, was black-flagged early in the race for intentionally wrecking Clint Bowyer. He rebounded for a seventh place finish, good enough to move back into 10th in the Chase for the championship standings.

Earnhardt is out of the top 10 after a hit from Dave Blaney sent him into the wall and out of the race.

TENNIS

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — James Blake beat Andy Roddick 4-6, 6-4, 7-6 (5) to win the RCA Championships on Sunday.

Roddick still hasn't won a tournament this year.

PRO FOOTBALL

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Pro Bowl cornerback Ty Law agreed to a five-year deal with the Kansas City Chiefs on Sunday.

Law will rejoin Herman Edwards, who coached him with the New York Jets last year, when the veteran came back from a severe foot injury and led the NFL with 10 interceptions.

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