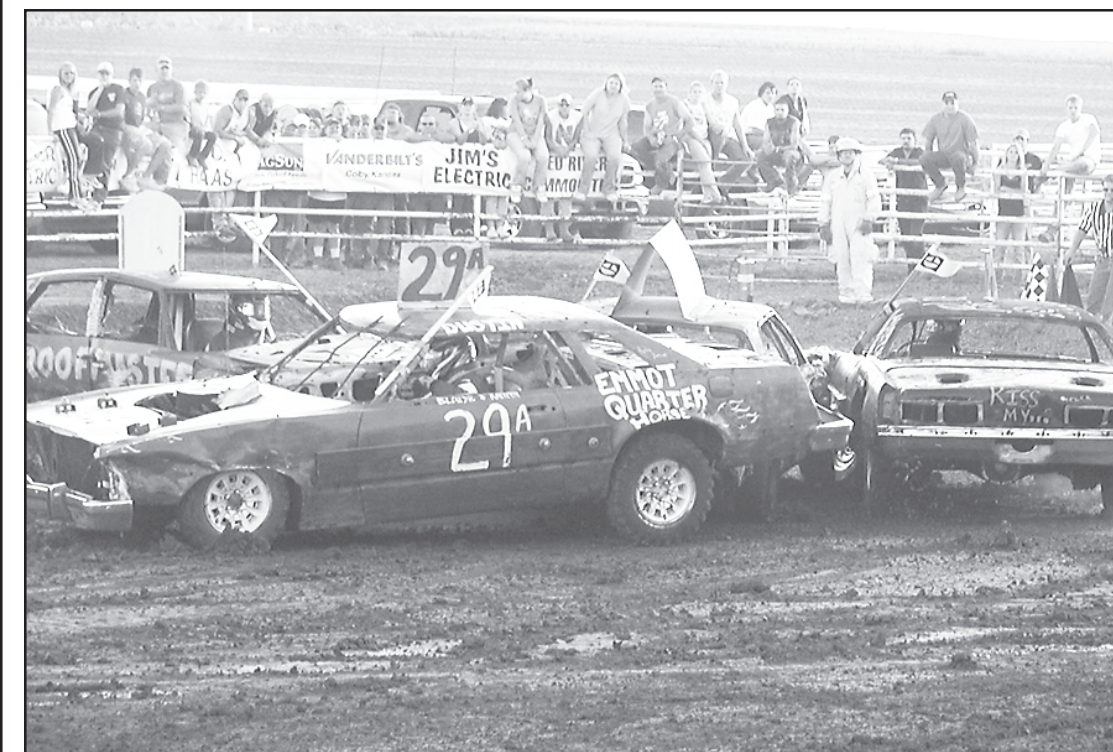


Fender benders



CRYSTAL RUCKER/Colby Free Press

Contestants in the Thomas County Fair demolition derby Thursday battle for position.

Coach feels Jayhawks have turned the corner

LAWRENCE (AP) — Although he's headed into the season with a freshman quarterback and only three returning starters on defense, Mark Mangino feels quite positive about his Kansas football team.

Oops — check that.

"We're no longer sponsoring a football team here at KU," the fifth-year head coach told reporters Tuesday at media day.

"We have a football program." There is a difference, he explained.

Since capturing their last conference championship in 1968, the Jayhawks had struggled on the gridiron. They soared in basketball, maintaining one of the nation's elite records.

But football was something different. Now, four years after replacing Terry Allen, Mangino says he believes all his hard work is bearing fruit.

Mangino's overall record stands at 19-29. But the Jayhawks were 7-5 last year and beat Houston in the Fort Worth Bowl and had their first winning record in 10 years.

Their 3-5 conference record matched their best since the Big 12's birth in 1996.

Now there's momentum, an altogether different feel.

"I think we're progressing very well. I'm pleased at where we are at this point in time," Mangino said.

The players seem to echo their coach's sentiment.

"I've been watching Kansas football for a long time," said third-year sophomore linebacker Mike Rivera. "I wanted to come here out of high school. And seeing it grow these last three years has been really great. From where it was before, it's a big change. I'm glad I'm a part of the growing process of KU football."

One of the biggest changes is talent. In redshirt freshman Kerry Meier, the Jayhawks have one of the most promising young quarterbacks in the nation. Big things are expected.

Meier is still untested. But everyone in Lawrence is excited to see him launch what's expected to be an outstanding college career when Kansas opens the season Sept. 2 against Northwestern State.

"Kerry's a great athlete and he's a great player," said junior tight end Derek Fine. "You can't ever say a bad word about Kerry because you know he's always giving the best effort. I'm really excited about having him on my team."

To Mangino, having a program and not just a series of one-year teams means having stability, a culture that characterizes everything that goes into football at the University of Kansas.

"We have all the elements in place to be successful," he said.

"We're never going to go backwards to 2-10. Those days are over."

"There is still much to be done. But we have a foundation," he added.

"We have a platform to work from. And I feel like we're right on target where we should be at this point in time."

Instead of players drifting in

and out every few years, there is a common thread binding everyone together, Mangino said.

"It starts with the players knowing the expectations for the program. That's No. 1," he said.

"We have systems in place where our kids, when they come to the football complex every day they know what's expected. They know what we're going to do, how we're going to do it, and what the standards are. We have systems in

place for offense, defense and special teams."

Mangino also feels that good progress has been made in forging relationships with high school coaches in the area.

"A recruiting system is in place that has been good for us," Mangino said. "There is stability. There is consistency in what we do, and how we work with our players. More than anything, they know what the expectations are."

Colby golfer ties course record

The Atwood Country Club won the team championship of the KLOE-KKCI-KWGB Classic golf tournament held last week at Sugar Hills Golf Club in Goodland.

The Atwood team won its sixth championship in the 17-year history of the event and defeated defending champion Goodland by 16 strokes. The Norton Country Club finished third, four strokes behind Goodland.

Each team competes with 11 golfers and all play scratch golf, no handicaps. The top 10 scores are used to determine the winner.

Marcus Grinnan of Burlington, Colo., won medalist honors as he shot a three under par 68. Colby Country Club was not able to field a full team but Scott Focke shot a 70 for second place.

Focke fired a course-tying 30 on the front nine to the Sugar Hills Record.

Tyson Shelley of Goodland shot a par 71.

Other outstanding individual scores were Michael Terry of Atwood with a 73; Kevin Finley of Atwood, Rollie Halligan of Goodland and John Penny of

Burlington all with a 74.

Dick Ahlberg of Oberlin, Jon McLean of Goodland and Kenny Rummel of Atwood each shot a 75.

Team results:

1. Atwood, 765; 2. Goodland, 781; 3. Norton, 785; 4. Burlington, 791; 5. St. Francis, 844; 6. Oakley, 847; 7. Sharon Springs, 881; 8. Tribune, 893. 9 Oberlin, 895.

Junior golf

Andrea Zerr-Barton and Kenzie Curry recently competed in the Northwest Kansas Junior Golf regional tournament in Oberlin placing second and third respectively.

Volleyball camp begins Monday

Colby High School volleyball practice begins 8 a.m. Monday at the high school gym.

All CHS girls interested in playing volleyball are to meet there at that time.

Fourth through sixth-grade Volleyball camp for fourth through sixth-grade students will be held 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday at the high school gym. Cost is \$20 and checks are payable to CHS volleyball.

For more information, contact Lesley Wagoner at 460-5300 ext.

NFL commissioner named

NORTHBROOK, Ill. (AP) — Roger Goodell was chosen as the NFL's next commissioner, succeeding the man who groomed him for the job, Paul Tagliabue.

He was unanimously elected by the league's 32 owners on the fifth ballot.

3403 or e-mail at lwagoner@colbyeagles.org

Seventh and eighth-grade A parent-player meeting for sev-

enth and eighth-grade students playing volleyball will be held 6 p.m. Monday at the middle school cafeteria.



Thomas County Farm Bureau Association Annual Dinner Meeting

DATE: August 10, 2006

TIME: 6:30 p.m.

PLACE: Community Building, Colby

Bonnie Lynch - Speaker

Kansas Securities Commission, Investor Education Specialist

"Don't Get Scammed"

Supper provided • Door Prizes to be given away • Election of Board Members

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