



# COLBY FREE PRESS

10 pages

## Coach: Look inside for victories

By John Van Nostrand  
Colby Free Press

What Dan Gable buried in his billfold, he hopes other people have deep inside themselves.



D. Gable

Gable, an assistant wrestling coach at the University of Iowa, was the featured speaker Tuesday during the Colby Community College's annual wrestling banquet and fundraiser held at the Colby Community Building.

Gable, 57, was head coach at Iowa from 1977 to 1997. During that time span he led the Hawkeyes to 15 national championships, nine of them consecutive, 21 Big 10 championships, 45 individual national champions and 152 All-Americans. His coaching record was 355-21-5, winning 93 percent of the time. He returned to the program this year as an assistant.

"It's easy to be good," Gable said to the audience of about 800. "But it's hard to be great."

Gable said his drive to success began during his wrestling days at Iowa State University. Colby Trojan wrestling coach Steve Lampe was a teammate.

During Gable's junior year, Iowa State wrestled at Hofstra in New York.

Gable won his match 12-1 and remembers talking to his coach afterward.

"That wasn't good enough for me," he said. "The guy scored."

In a local newspaper the next day, Gable's opponent talked about the match. "He's a man, I'm a man. It's going to be different

next time," Gable said the story read.

"He challenged me," Gable said. Gable cut out the man's quote and kept in his billfold.

The next match for Iowa State was in Lancaster, Pa. Gable pinned his opponent.

"I felt better," he said.

A local newspaper the next day also had a story about Gable's opponent and match.

"I knew he was good. I thought I had a chance to win," Gable said about his opponent's quote. He too cut that out and kept it in his billfold.

"That guy didn't challenge me but he encouraged me," he said.

Gable went on to compete in the 1972 Summer Olympics. He won the gold medal without giving up a point to any of his opponents. In Gable's final 21 Olympic qualification and matches, he scored 12 falls and outscored his nine other opponents, 130-1. Larry Owings scored the only point. Owings defeated Gable in his final collegiate match at nationals his senior year, Gable's only loss in college.

Gable's lone loss is symbolic of his philosophy and his reputation. He said the loss defined his career. "Things happen in life, alcohol, a bad grade or a friend," he said. "There are major setbacks. Either they take over you or you take over them."

To overcome troubling issues, Gable said people need determination to come out on top, nothing else.

"You have to have a will to win, not just a wish to win," he said. "Wishful thinking, daydreaming kills a person."

Knowing he was speaking to an audience that included high school athletes from the region and Colby

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COLBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PHOTO

University of Iowa assistant wrestling coach Dan Gable, left, autographed a T-shirt for Taylor Moeder after Gable spoke during the Colby Community College annual wrestling fundraiser and banquet held Tuesday.

## Wrestlers need more opportunities

By John Van Nostrand  
Colby Free Press

One of wrestling's most successful participants said the sport needs more support in America.

University of Iowa assistant wrestling coach Dan Gable spoke Tuesday during the Colby Community College annual school wrestling banquet and fundraiser.

While as head coach from 1977 to 1997 he led the Hawkeyes to 15 national championships, nine of them consecutive, 21 Big 10 championships, 45 individual national champions and 152 All-Americans.

His coaching record was 355-21-5, winning 93 percent of the time. According to his research, there are 251,000 high school

wrestlers in America. With Arkansas starting its high school wrestling program, that leaves only Mississippi as the only state in the country without organized high school wrestling.

The number of college wrestlers is about 7,500 and from 400 to 500 Olympic-level wrestlers.

"There is a lack of opportunity," Gable said. "America needs wrestlers."

At the college level, Fresno State University and Slippery Rock both recently eliminated their wrestling programs.



S. Lampe

"Colby is a famous place," Gable said.

"It's known for its amateur wrestling." Colby College wrestling coach Steve Lampe has coached many who transferred to four-year universities and wrestling programs. Eric Luedke, who wrestled in Colby, is one of them.

"Because of Lampe, this town, this college is known throughout the world," Gable said. He knows of a poster promoting wrestling that lists several people in various leadership positions who wrestled at one time in their life. Gable encouraged people to join and create more wrestling advocacy organizations.

"Wrestling teaches independence," he said.

## Industrial, construction supply business opens

By Tisha Cox  
Colby Free Press

A new business has opened in a familiar location.

Fastenal Manager Matt Kerns said the business opened last month in Colby at the former Kansas Country Store at Southwind Plaza. Fastenal started out as a fastener company but now focuses on industrial and construction supplies, he said.

The store has fasteners as well as everything from light bulbs to paper plates to tools and safety equipment. The items it carries is encompassed in 12 product lines: fasteners; metals, alloys and materials; janitorial; welding; electrical; chemicals and paints; hydraulics and pneumatics; tools and equipment; material handling, storage and



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Fastenal assistant manager Carl Saddler, left, and manager Matt Kerns looked over the store. The new business is located where Kansas Country Store used to be in Southwind Plaza.

packaging; abrasives; metal working and safety.

The company has more than

2,000 stores nationwide.

"There was already an established customer base in the Colby

area, and that was why a store was opened in Colby," Kerns said. Those customers include Colby Ag,

L&M Steel, Commercial Sign, Western Sprinkler and many others.

He was the assistant manager at the Great Bend store for about a year and a half. He and Carl Saddler, the assistant manager, are the only employees at the Colby store but that will eventually change.

Within six months, Kerns said he hopes to hire part-time positions and sales people as the business expands. Kerns and assistant manager Carl Saddler of Colby are the only two employees right now.

Kansas Country Store moved over to the main building at Southwind Plaza.

"A lot of people don't know the business has changed, but that will be easier to see later next week when Fastenal's new signs are put up," Kerns said.

## County plans road repairs

By Tisha Cox  
Colby Free Press

Truck traffic on a county road prompted an audience at the Thomas County Commissioners meeting Monday. Fourteen people voiced their concerns about the condition of County Road 35.

Residents at the meeting and who live along the road said it is not in good shape. The road is flat with no crown and is lower than the ditches on either side.

Residents said trucks hauling loads to the ethanol plant at Campus have been using that road, which has only exacerbated the situation. Dust is a problem when driving, and damage has also occurred when motorists drive on the road in the rain.

Ruth Hays wasn't happy with the situation.

"What right do they have to use the road Thomas County taxpayers pay taxes on?" Hays said. "My family has paid taxes 70 years. We deserve a better road."

Chairman Ron Evans said commissioners would address the concerns, and that will be done by revising the road department's maintenance schedule.

Evans said County Road 412 also needs work, but will be dealt with after work on County Road 35 is complete.

"The county only has so many resources to go around," Evans said.

County Road 35 begins south of Mingo and stretches to the Gove County line. Road 412 runs east-west across southern Thomas County.

County road supervisor Clair Schrock said about 17 miles of County Road 35 will be elevated in the coming weeks. He explained the road department will build up the road. Dirt will be pulled from the ditches and side of the road to build it back up, and make it drain water better. More gravel will be added to the road.

He said the ditches will also be repaired and it takes about a week to elevate one mile of road.

Schrock said dry conditions the past seven years haven't helped the road.

"The road is still there, it's just low in the middle," he said.

A couple of miles of 412 will get some work.

After those two are done, the road department will work on County Road 465.

In other news:

Schrock talked about his efforts to find a used stock trailer. At the Oct. 9 meeting, he said he was looking for an enclosed trailer to haul two four-wheelers for prairie dog spraying.

A bid for a building was also on the agenda.

Commissioners approved a bid from Stephens Construction of Colby for \$51,741.45 for a household hazardous waste building, which will be constructed at the Thomas County landfill.

Kurt Stephens of Stephens Construction explained the building specifications. The building bid was for has infrared heat, four-inch insulation in the walls and six-inch insulation in the roof.

"We've been putting up Lester Buildings almost 18 years," he said.

The heating will be suspended from the roof. Stephens said if no equipment is stored near it, there should be no problem. The infrared heating heats to the floor.

The building could be here in three weeks.

He said the structural system would be put together, then a concrete floor poured.

## In tune

The Colby High School concert choir performed one of its four songs during the fall middle school/high school concert at the high school Tuesday. The theme for the evening was "Fall Into Music."



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

## Winona man charged in stalking

By Jan Katz Ackerman  
Colby Free Press

A Winona man has been charged with stalking a child and has resigned from his position as janitor of the Oakley school system.

According to documents filed in Logan County District Court, James E. Colling is alleged to have intentionally, feloniously, maliciously and repeatedly followed or harassed of a female minor.

The child whose age and name

is not listed, was alleged to have been in "reasonable fear" of her safety.

The allegations against Colling reportedly started in April and continued until reported to law enforcement and school officials Sept. 19. Stalking is a level 10 felony punishable by a prison term between five and 13 months and a fine up to \$100,000.

Neither Oakley Police Chief Danny Shanks nor Logan County Attorney Andrea Wyrick were available to comment about the investigation.

According to Raelene Keller, president of the Oakley school board, Colling's resignation was accepted by unanimous vote at the Oct. 9 board meeting. Colling had worked for the Oakley school district since December 2005.

Superintendent Bill Steiner declined to comment about the resignation or the case against Colling.

Colling is scheduled for a first appearance in Logan County District Court on Wednesday, Nov. 28.