



Trojan coach wrestles with facilities

Wrestling coach says lack of amenities hurt college, program

By John Van Nostrand

Colby Free Press Publisher

Colby Community College wrestling coach Steve Lampe has won a national championship and sent several wrestlers to Division 1 programs during his 31 years as coach — all without a locker room.

His hopes of his teams having a locker room are in sight.

Lampe favors the college board's proposal of a \$15 million wellness center that includes a 2,400 seat gymnasium, auxiliary gymnasium, coaches' offices, meeting rooms and locker rooms.

"Division 1 coaches have visited and are mindboggled we can do anything here," Lampe said.

Trojan wrestlers practice in a makeshift room overlooking the college's indoor swimming pool.

"For 29 years, we've been in a room not designed to be a wrestling room," he said. "It's just too small."

During Lampe's first two years, the team wrestled in double-sized classroom, which now holds the college's radio station studio.

Lampe said where the team practices can be a hazard. The room is only big enough to safely hold 20 wrestlers. Any more than that, wrestlers can get in the way, and possibly hurt, other wrestlers practicing.

One of those Division 1 coaches who have visited the Trojans' facility has been Dan Gable. Gable is an assistant coach at the University of Iowa.

Previously, he was head coach who led the Hawkeyes to 15 national championships, nine consecutive, and 45 individual champions in 25 years. Gable and Lampe met while wrestling in college at



COLBY FREE PRESS FILE PHOTO

Colby Community College wrestling coach Steve Lampe, right, watches members of his team practice in the wrestling room located above the college's indoor pool on campus. Lampe said the

Iowa State University.

Gable spoke in October in Colby. Lampe gave him a tour where Trojan wrestlers practice.

"He didn't say much," Lampe said. "No locker rooms? 'You've got to be kidding me,' he said. He was stunned we don't have locker rooms."

Trojan wrestlers have access to a dressing room for the pool. Wrestlers don't have a legitimate weight lifting room or other practice amenities.

Colby Community College's lack of such facilities has hurt the program Lampe said. Recruits have turned down Colby partly because of facilities. Depending upon scheduling, Trojan matches are held in either the Colby Community Building or Colby High School.

"Recruits try to be polite, but I hear comments," Lampe said. "Today, most high schools have a weight room. We still don't."

Last year, Lampe said his top three recruits turned down Colby

and went to Iowa Central. "The facility was just one reason," Lampe said.

The condition of the facilities is a challenge to attracting wrestlers out of the region.

"I haven't signed a good out-of-state kid for three years," Lampe said, "fortunately we've done well with local guys."

Lampe said during his coaching career, college boards in the past have informally discussed improving athletic facilities, but nothing

ever developed. He said the current college board and administration has been the most active with the subject.

"Kreider has done more in the past five months than past administrations have done in the past eight years," Lampe said.

Lampe was referring to Dr. Lynn Kreider, who began his job as president of the college in July.

Lampe said he lost his patience with past administrations and had to get used to what he had to work

with.

"In 1998 it got real bad," Lampe said about his patience. "I was just given promise after promise after promise."

Lampe coached the Trojans to a national championship the next year.

Room to roam

Lampe said he is thrilled with what the wrestling program will get, based on the proposal. Plans are for a wrestling practice room 44 feet by 88 feet, large enough for two mats and more than 20 wrestlers at one time.

"It's perfect," he said.

Also included the wrestling program can use will be an indoor running track and weight lifting room.

Lampe was thankful how much input all current college coaches had on the design of the facility. Lampe was under the impression anyone on campus who could use the facility was asked for their opinion on design.

"They covered all the bases," he said.

Lampe also likes how the facility will work. Plans are to use solar, wind and geothermal energy. Geothermal uses the temperature deep within the earth to either heat or cool the facility for just a fraction of the cost of conventional climate control systems.

"Kreider had insight using a green energy approach," Lampe said.

Lampe is also aware of grant money for projects that use such energy devices.

"Here we are in Colby, Kansas, doing something a head of its time," he said. "I see nothing negative with this. I can't see it."

Should the facility be approved and built, Lampe plans to stick around long enough to enjoy coaching in it.

"I'm almost 58 and been doing this for 31 years and been hanging on to promises. I want to continue. I'm good for 10 to 12 years."

Hoxie man's dogs to be examined

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

A Hoxie man trying to keep his dogs was in Sheridan County District Court today.

Mark Karnes is challenging a municipal court ruling in an effort to keep three dogs the city is calling pit bull dogs.

Karnes, 27, agreed to have his dogs examined by Dr. Mark Poell, a Hoxie veterinarian, after Hoxie City Attorney Ken Eland filed a motion asking Judge Glenn Schiffer to require the examination.

Karnes is appealing Hoxie Municipal Judge Tony Haffner's ruling which states he can't keep his dogs within the city limits of Hoxie. Claiming he got "nothing but mixed information" from the judge, the city's municipal court

clerk, as well as several attorneys from Hoxie to Wichita, Karnes decided to represent himself.

Karnes is to have Poell examine his dogs before his next court date Feb. 19. Eland told Schiffer if Poell determines Karnes' dogs are not pit bull dogs he will ask the case be dismissed.

Karnes said the city wants to force him out of town. He said he has kept the Labrador retriever and Shar-Pei mix dogs inside his home, or in a locked and fenced area of his backyard, for the past five years without incident. He said his attempts to register his dogs have failed, being told he could not register them unless he could provide proof of the breed.

Hoxie's ordinance states dogs which are pit bulls, or have the appearance or characteristics of pit

bulls, can be in the city as long as they are registered; leashed or muzzled; confined indoors or in a securely enclosed and locked pen or kennel; have signs posted to their presence; be covered by liability insurance; identified by photograph; and reported to the city of its whereabouts and health conditions, sale or transfer of ownership.

The dispute over the dogs began in July after former Hoxie Chief of Police John Bieker took a photograph of his dogs while they were in their locked kennel outside his home. Bieker took the photo to Eland, who filed paperwork against Karnes.

After contacted by the city, Karnes said he took measures to make sure he complied with the ordinance

That's a shock

Colby police draw 11 taser guns



By Tisha Cox

Colby Free Press

The Colby Police Department officers will be putting something different in its holsters in the near future.

The Colby City Council approved purchasing 11 X26 Taser International tasers. A taser is a hand-held weapon that discharges 50,000 volts of low-amperage electricity. The volts cause uncontrolled muscle reflexes in the person that is hit, temporarily paralyzing them.

City of Colby Manager Carolyn Armstrong said the tasers cost \$10,472 and was paid partly by the special law enforcement fund. The money for the tasers was included in the city budget last summer.

Police Chief Randy Jones said tasers gives officers another choice besides lethal force.

"It's a matter of officer safety and also individuals," Jones said.

In incidents in Colby and around the area, use of a taser would have made for a "more positive outcome," he said.

The weapons are effective up to 25 feet.

"The whole episode lasts about five seconds," Jones said. "They go down fairly quickly."

The weapon also allows officers to handcuff uncooperative suspects in less time than it would normally take to subdue them without the taser.

"The weapons are useful in certain situations," Jones said. He explained, on a domestic call, if someone was combative and tried to attack an officer and refuses to cooperate, a taser could be used.

"It's an appropriate weapon to use," Jones said.

In a public place where pepper spray could be used by officers, more than just the person it is aimed at could be hit. A taser would eliminate that potential.

"Though an alternative to using a gun, the tasers are still a weapon," Jones said. "If someone ducks, a taser barb could hit them in the eye or head instead of the chest or other



Jones

“Like any weapon, I'll have to trust they won't abuse the tools they have to work with.”

Randy Jones
Colby Police Chief

body part.”

And it will be something Jones hopes the officers won't misuse.

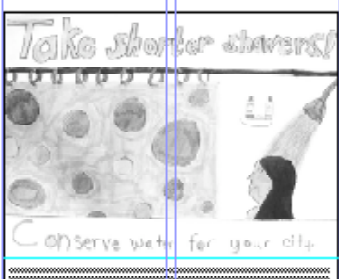

"Like any weapon, I'll have to trust they won't abuse the tools they have to work with," Jones said.

Each officer on the force will be armed with a taser.

Jones won't carry one because he usually isn't the first officer at the scene of an incident. Officers will receive training before they can use the tasers on the streets. Jones said the cost of the weapons includes training and practice cartridges.

Jones said the tasers and officers will be ready in about a month.

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