

Freshman golfer already at state level

By John Van Nostrand
Free Press Publisher

Colby High golfer Ryley Haas got more than what he wanted. He’s only a freshman and qualified for the 4A state golf tournament Monday in Wamego.

“I just wanted to get in the top five at regionals,” Haas said. “And if not that, just play for the team score.”

Haas finished seventh at regionals with a 78. His score was good enough to qualify as an individual. But even before the regional tournament was over, he could tell he was going to qualify for state.

“I knew it at the 16th hole. I knew it,” he said.

As a team, Colby’s score was not good enough for a trip to state.

Haas, 15, said he has been playing golf ever since he was 2. He said this year he had to develop his game to learn how to play competitive, high school golf. Part of those skills is again learning how frustrating golf can be.

“At Hoxie I shot a 70 and at McCook I shot an 87,” he said. Those meets were two weeks apart.

“There is a mental challenge with golf,” he said. “And you will have days when nothing goes right.”

Haas thanks coach Tom Bowen for his success.

“He’s been great. He’s a great coach and has helped a lot. He is a very good asset,” Haas said.

Bowen, who has coached Colby

golf for 10 years, said this will be different for him because while he has coached he has never sent only a freshman to the state meet.

“He’s played in good golf tournaments through junior golf,” Bowen said. “I don’t feel he will be intimidated.”

Bowen said what will be a challenge for Haas is he has nobody to turn to.

“It’s different without your team and the moral support,” he said.

But at the same time, Bowen said this is a major step in Haas’ high school golf career.

“You hope you can learn and draw from these experiences. There will be some real good golfers there,” Bowen said. What Haas does this year provides a foundation for his future.

“This may be easier than being a junior or senior,” Bowen said. “Because you have three years left to improve.”

Haas was the only Colby golfer to qualify. He tees off at 9:40 a.m. at the Wamego Country Club.

Brewster

Brewster High will send two of its golfers to the 1A state meet Monday at the Hesston Golf Course.

Junior Jance McKee qualified for state shooting a 74 at the regional meet in Grinnell. Sophomore T.J. Preston shot a 81 at regionals to qualify.

McKee tees off at 9:42 a.m. and Preston at 8:46 a.m. McKee played in the 2006 state meet.



COLBY FREE PRESS FILE PHOTO

Colby golfer Ryley Haas will compete Monday at the 4A state meet at the Wamego Country Club. Only a freshman, Colby coach Tom Bowen said Haas can use this season, and the state tournament, as a learning tool to improve his golf game throughout high school.

Baseball commissioner sidesteps Bonds

NEW YORK (AP) — Bud Selig was willing to discuss just about everything — other than Barry Bonds and steroids.

The baseball commissioner sidestepped questions Thursday about whether he’ll attend games as Bonds nears Hank Aaron’s home run record of 755.

“Is he really approaching?” Selig, a longtime friend of Aaron, said facetiously after owners finished their two-day meeting. “I don’t have anything different to say today. I’ll make a decision at some appropriate time.”

In 1974, commissioner Bowie Kuhn was criticized for not attending the game when Aaron hit No. 715 to break Babe Ruth’s record. Kuhn was there when Aaron hit No. 714.

Bonds began Thursday with 745.

Selig also wouldn’t say whether he was concerned that active players thus far have not agreed to be interviewed for former Sen. George Mitchell’s steroids investigation and only a few have supplied requested medical records.

“That is something that my friends at the players’ association, the players, you’ll have to ask them,” Selig said at a news conference.

Mitchell’s investigation was not brought up during Thursday’s meeting.

Owners approved baseball’s new seven-year “Extra Innings” out-of-market television contracts with

DirecTV and iN Demand, deals that guarantee the clubs an average of \$80 million annually. Owners also approved the launch of the MLB Network, which Selig said will be available to at least 47 million homes when it starts broadcasting on Jan. 1, 2009.

“That will exceed any other cable channel launch in cable television history by almost 20 million homes,” baseball executive vice president Tim Brosnan said, adding that the current high was set by MSNBC, which was available in 28 million homes a year after its launch in 1996.

The MLB Network will broadcast baseball programming 24 hours a day, including a weekly

Saturday night live game during the regular season.

Selig said the new postseason schedule did not come up during the meetings. Last week, baseball announced that the World Series will start Oct. 24 and Game 7 will be Nov. 1, an effort that eliminates Friday night games and cuts Saturday night games from two to one.

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Trojan women golfers play at national meet

Three members of the Colby Community College women’s golf team competed at the NJCAA National Tournament Monday through Thursday in Daytona Beach, Fla.

Veronica Forsythe, (Brush, Colo., sophomore) was the top finisher for the Lady Trojans, ending with a 72-hole total of 416.

The score put her in 87th place. Forsythe’s best round was on day one when she finished with an 18-hole total of 99.

Kati Near, (Meade, sophomore)

finished 89th with a four-day total of 429.

Near’s best round was the third round when she had an 18-hole total of 98.

Megan Scheuerman, (Scott City, sophomore) finished 92nd with a 72-hole total of 456.

The best individual score was from Jordan Lazenby of Daytona Beach Community College. She shot a 316.

McLennan Community College of Waco, Texas, won the meet.

Errors plague Eagles

Ulysses’ one run in the ninth inning ended Colby High’s baseball season Wednesday in the semifinal round of the regional tournament in Hugoton. Ulysses won 4-3.

What helped Ulysses during the game were eight errors committed by Colby.

Colby pitcher Kevin Lang threw eight innings and allowed four hits and one earned run.

Lang struck out six. Stephen Dinkel relieved Lang.

Colby had 11 his. Three different Colby Eagles had two hits. Trenton Powell and Lang each went 2-5 and Dinkel was 2-4. Powell had a double and a RBI. Lang and Dinkel each had RBIs. Dinkel had a home run. Cory Sager hit a triple.

Colby finished the season 14-5. Seniors on this year’s team were Powell, Mitchell Gatz, Jesse Hawk and Joe Heier.

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Registration: Pre-registration is encouraged and expected by May 24th. The sign up fee is \$80 with a free camp T-shirt included. Checks can be made out to Matt Sims and hand delivered or sent by mail to Matt at 1131 Summer Sun, Colby KS, 67701. Contact Eric Luedke at (785) 443-3001 or Matt Sims at (785) 443-0082 or email at ericlued@hotmail.com for a registration form or ay questions you may have.

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