



COLBY FREE PRESS

Former Trojan going for the gold

By **Joey Falkoff**

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Colby Community College head wrestling coach Steve Lampe remembers all too well how close Daniel Cormier was to reaching the podium at the 2004 Summer Olympics.

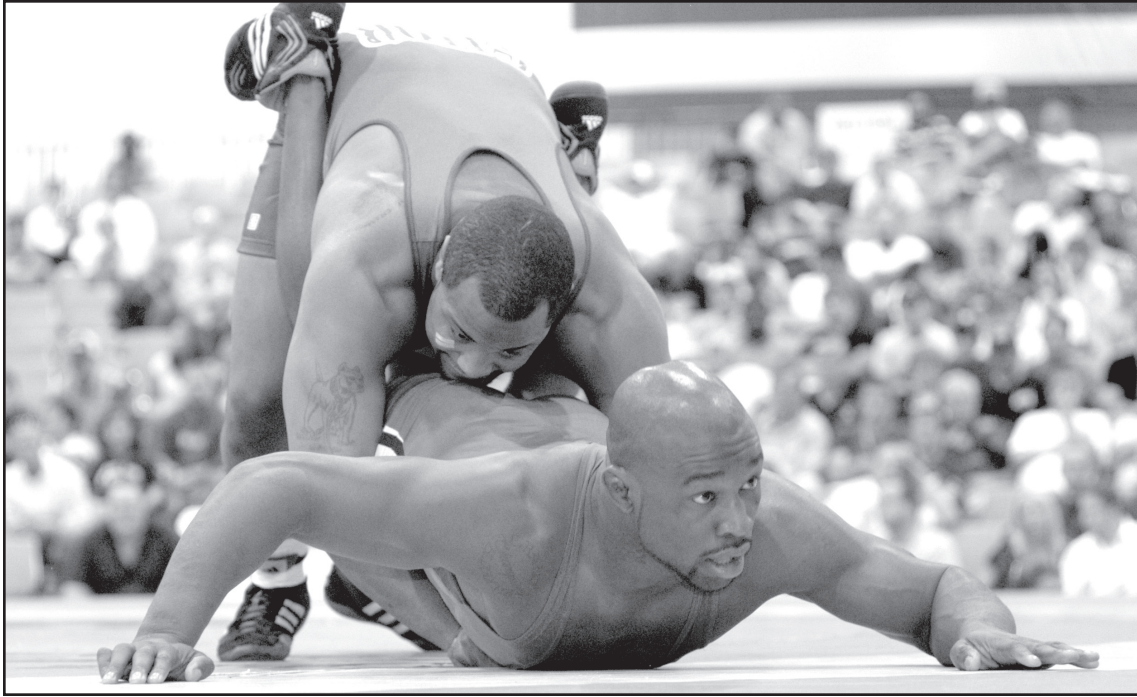
In fact, the 32-year veteran Trojan head coach was in the arena that day in Athens, Greece to witness it firsthand.

"He was an eyelash from the bronze medal," said Lampe, who coached Cormier from 1998-99. "For no reason with 20 seconds left, they put Daniel on his back and the Iranian guy (Alireza Heidari) body-blocked him and spun him around.

"Everybody in the stands was shaking like rat terriers. It was a like three-point shot in basketball in the last second."

Cormier has had four years to relive that faithful moment himself, but in less than two months the former Colby Community College two-time national champion will get his long-awaited shot at redemption.

Cormier will don the red, white and blue for the second time at the 2008 Summer Olympics in



FILE PHOTO

Former Colby Community two-time national champion wrestler Daniel Cormier, top, will make his second Olympic appearance at the Summer Olympic Games Aug. 8-24 in Beijing, China.

Beijing, China (Aug. 8-24) after defeating Damion Hahn in the 96 KG championship match at the U.S. Olympic Team Trials in Las Vegas Sunday.

This time, Cormier doesn't plan on letting the opportunity slip away.

"I'm just going to train hard," Cormier told the TheMat.com. "I don't want to feel like I did coming back from Athens in 2004. Losing two overtime matches in the semis and then losing the bronze medal match, I don't want to feel that way. I'm doing every-

thing possible to make sure I'm prepared and ready to go when I get to China. If I do that, I think I'll be OK."

Cormier is the only member of the U.S. Men's Freestyle Olympic team in 2004 to regain a spot on the '08 team. None of his other

former Olympic teammates made it past the Olympic Trials.

"It's pretty amazing," said Lampe, who coached Cormier in 1998 and 1999. "That's an incredibly difficult thing to do. It's amazing how mentally tough he is to hang in there. It's a big honor to have a guy like that."

Lampe was informed of Cormier's accomplishment late Sunday night from one of his friends in Denver, Colo. He spent most of that night trying to avoid the news as long as possible.

"I went to the races, because I was so nervous I couldn't stand to watch and wait," said Lampe.

"I would guess he's going to be ranked back in the top three of the world again. We were really fortunate to have him in Colby before he went on to big things."

Cormier's second Olympic berth only adds to his impressive resume, which already included a gold medal at the 2003 Pan-American games.

He was recently honored as the National Freestyle Wrestler of the Year of 2007 after winning a bronze medal at the World Championships last fall.

Cormier's accomplishments are even more remarkable considering the amount of adversity he's been

through in his life. When Cormier was four, his dad was murdered by his uncle, and in 2003 his three-month old daughter was killed in a car wreck.

At Colby College, Cormier was arrested for assault after breaking someone's jaw during a fight, even though he was doing it to defend a friend. Rather than face felony charges, Cormier pleaded guilty, took the \$8,700 fine and remained in school.

"The guy has gone through so much controversy in his life it's unbelievable," said Lampe. "He just keeps coming back. It's amazing how he never has a chip on his shoulder.

Most of us what have left school and just took it, but he stayed here and did what he had to do. He doesn't hold grudges and he's never been bitter about it. Daniel will always help anyone but himself."

Cormier bounced back from that unfortunate incident to win two national championships at Colby in 1998 and 1999.

He went on to wrestle for two years at Oklahoma State University where he was the national runner-up in 2001.

See "OLYMPIAN," Page 3

Rod Run results

By **John Van Nostrand**

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Elegance. Class. Luxury. Lavish.

While surrounded by muscle cars loaded with big, strong motors at Colby's Rod Run last weekend, Chuck and Pat Wagoner's 1937 Cadillac Opera Coupe was displaying some royalty.

"It's rare," Chuck said.

The car's spare tire rests near the front of the car, nestled in a case the shape of the tire. Backseats fold out and those who sit in them face each other. The white color gives it even more class.

No "Hemi" label slapped on the side. No pile of chrome sticking out above the hood.

Chuck, who said he has had the car for about 20 years, has taken it to various car shows from Oklahoma City, Okla., to Kentucky.

He said the car gets noticed, mostly by people who can remember that generation.

"People have said 'I haven't seen one since I was a kid,'" he said.

Chuck said a friend of his found the car for sale in Omaha, Neb. The car needed some work. Chuck's finished product is not all original, except the body. He has driven it about 50,000 miles during those 20 years.

Chuck said he has always had



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press

Cars entered in Colby's Cruise to the Past Rod Run line Eighth Street beside Fike Park Saturday. Chuck and Pat Wagoner's 1937 Cadillac is on the far right.

an interest in acquiring and restoring older cars.

But as the years go by, the interest changes.

"The older year cars, they are getting harder to find," he said.

Chuck said some model and years of cars are more valued than others.

"Some models will always bring money. I don't know if this would," he said about his Cadillac.

"I'd like to get rid of it, but she (wife Pat) won't let me," he laughed. Wagoner's car was also

noticed by the judges of the Rod Run as he and Pat were given the honors for having the best car before 1950.

Other winners included: Mayor's Choice: Jason Cook's 1964 pickup.

Fire Chief's Choice: Alan Scott's 1972 Chevrolet Malibu. Police Chief's Choice: John Barna's 1956 Chevrolet.

City Manager's Choice: Duane Schram's 1959 Lincoln.

Special Interest: Joe Papproski's Model A.

Off-Road 4x4: Randy Santa-

la's 1970 Chevrolet C20.

Work in progress: Gene Farizius' 1930 Ford Model A.

Owners of cars from a certain decade were also recognized: Pre-1950: Chuck and Pat Wagoner, Dave Posson.

1950s: Francis Pudell, Barna, Richard Epard.

1960s: Jeff Miller, Dave Schoenberger, Larry Morris.

1970s: Alan Scott, Shan Holm

1980s: Justin Freel.

1990s: Heather Anderson.

2000s: Everett Eggers.

Commission considers boundaries

By **Jan Katz Ackerman**

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County commissioners on Monday took steps to change the boundaries on a portion of land in the north part of Colby.

Commissioners Ken Christiansen, Paul Steele and Byron Sowers signed paperwork to change Murray Subdivision No. 2, tracts 38 to 59 to Block 1 of Stephens Subdivision.

"We are replating a portion of a plat," Steele said about a of 22 acres of ground at the north end of Franklin Ave.

The action to change the design of the acreage does not change zoning or planning commission guidelines. It does take away the county's obligation to maintain roads within the area.

"It looks like a win-win situation to me," Sowers said.

"It's cleaning up a mess," said Elmer Zerr of Zerr Engineering, located at 1000 E. Fourth Street in Colby. "Quite frankly, it's cleaning up streets that are not the right width."

Steele at first was reluctant to sign the paperwork without having a public hearing on the action. He wanted to wait two weeks to sign off on the action, giving the public time to challenge the change.

Thomas County Clerk Shelly Harms and Zerr told Steele similar action was taken without public hearing when another area of

Colby was replated in 2005. That area was southwest of the acreage being changed Monday. Sowers made the motion to make the change, which was seconded by Christiansen. The measure passed with a 3-0 vote.

Also meeting with the commissioners on Monday was Thomas County Emergency Management Director Susan McMahan.

"We were awarded \$20,347 from the Kansas Division of Emergency Management to be used in the emergency management budget," McMahan said.

McMahan said she would like for the money to be set aside to hire a part-time assistant for her department. She told the commissioners the state requires an immediate response to hazardous spills and subsequent paperwork and she needs someone local to help her when she is out of town. McMahan said during a recent incident in which a semi turned over and spilled hazardous material she was called out of a meeting and was manning two phones at once trying to get paperwork in to Topeka to request a hazardous materials team be dispatched.

"That needs to be done immediately so the Kansas Department of Health and Environment can dispatch someone to the scene," McMahan said.

She also would like for the commissioners to set aside some of the money for purchase of a newer vehicle for her department.

Briefly

Remote car races Sunday

The Racing for Christ Car Club, also known as the RC Club, welcomes everyone to attend its next remote control car races, from 2 to 5 p.m., Sunday, at the First Baptist Church, 615 Webster, Colby, said Kent Higerd, coordinator. "No experience is necessary and we have many remote control cars available for all ages (10 and up) who would like to learn," he said. There are no costs and the event is non-denominational. For questions or information, call 462-3440 or 462-2867.

Free workshop June 23

The Colby School District is sponsoring a free "21st Century Learner" workshop for students entering sixth through ninth grade from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday, June 23, at Colby High School. The one-day class will target internet tools and safety while

guiding students through digital-aged adventures, said Diana Wieland, curriculum director. Early registration is preferred by calling (785) 460-5000 or e-mail jandrews@colbyeagles.org or dwieland@colbyeagles.org for the registration form. All students planning to attend will need to arrive at 8:30 a.m., Monday, for final registration. The deadline to register is Friday.

Donations sought

Anyone who may have missed a recent benefit for Connie Menges, 40, of Colby, in paying medical expenses or who would like to help can send donations in care of: Connie Menges Benefit Account, Sunflower Bank, 500 N. Franklin Ave., Colby, Kan. 67701. Menges suffered a stroke in February and spent many weeks in a Denver hospital before returning home.

Red Cross plans classes

The Thomas County Red Cross is hosting three classes this month, said Sherry White, manager. All classes will run from 7 to 10 p.m. and the location will be announced at a later date. The three classes include First Aid, Tuesday, June 24; Adult CPR and Infant/child CPR, both scheduled for Wednesday, June 25. For costs, other questions or to register, call White at (785) 462-7161.

Free trap shoots planned

The Colby Trap Club, Hunting Heritage Group and the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks "Pass It On" program are sponsoring free shoots during the summer for all area youth, women and inexperienced shooters. For questions about upcoming events, call Benny Young, 462-7602 or Matt Bain,

462-3367, both with the state wildlife and parks department.

Teacher workshop slated

A technology workshop for teachers will be held Tuesday and Wednesday, June 24-25, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. with emphasis on Internet Web 2.0 tools and digital/audio podcasting. Instructors interested in this two-day workshop are asked to call 460-5000.

Donations sought

Kiwanis Club of Thomas County is asking for donations to defray the cost of fireworks for the annual Fourth of July fireworks display, said Rick Dickman, event chair. Anyone interested in helping can mail checks payable to: Kiwanis Club of Thomas County, P.O. Box 501, Colby, Kan. 67701. The display is at 10:15 p.m., Friday, July 4, at the fairgrounds.