

Wildcats player charged with abuse

By John Marshall
AP Sports Writer

Kansas State junior running back Leon Patton was dismissed from the team on Friday, a day after Riley County Police arrested him on charges of child abuse of a 4-month-old.

Patton, 20, was arrested and jailed on \$30,000 bond in a July 15 incident in the Manhattan area. A police news release said the victim was a 4-month-old boy but offered no other details.

Calls to Riley County Police Department spokesman Lt. Kurt Moldrup was not immediately returned Friday.

Patton was already on probation after an early July traffic stop led to the discovery of two outstanding warrants. He was issued a citation for driving with a suspended license and a routine background check found outstanding warrants for theft of two video games at Wal-Mart in Pottawatomie County in 2007 and a failure-to-appear charge on an unpaid parking ticket in Manhattan, Kan.

He pleaded no contest and was sentenced to six months probation and fined \$100.

Kansas State coach Ron Prince

announced Patton's dismissal from the team through a news release, which said no further comments would be made because a formal investigation was under way.

Patton was the Wildcats' projected starter this season after rushing 390 yards and four touchdowns on 83 carries as a sophomore — second best on the team.

Kansas State has had trouble running the ball without him, averaging 124 yards rushing per game, including a dismal 30 on 12 carries in a 38-29 loss to Louisville on Wednesday night.

The Wildcats haven't gotten much production from the running back spot; junior college transfer Keithen Valentine leads the team with 118 yards on 31 carries and freshman Logan Dold has 63 yards on 14 carries.

Take away quarterback Josh Freeman's 76 yards on 13 carries and a 44-yard run by receiver Deon Murphy against Montana State, and Kansas State has 252 yards for a 3.2 yards-per-carry average.

"We're not running the football like I would like," Prince said before the Louisville game. "There's a higher standard to be held to."

Colbert gets chance

RENTON, Wash. (AP) — When Keary Colbert decided Denver was going to be the next stop in his NFL career, he was expected to be at worst the third option in the Broncos' passing game.

That's why Denver was willing to give Colbert a three-year contract.

Turns out, rookie Eddie Royal and veteran Darrell Jackson are filling that position better, meaning Colbert was expendable when the injury-depleted Seattle Seahawks came calling this week.

"With me there, it was a logjam," Colbert said of the situation in Denver. "We had a lot of guys. I happened to be that guy toward the bottom."

Seattle sent a late-round pick to Denver in order to get instant, experienced help for a receiving unit that has six players sidelined with various injuries. Last week saw the Seahawks lose backup quar-

terback/receiver Seneca Wallace (calf) and Logan Payne (knee), joining Nate Burleson (knee), Ben Obomanu (clavicle), Bobby Engram (shoulder) and Deion Branch (knee) on the shelf.

Engram and Branch are expected to return after Seattle's Week 4 bye, meaning Colbert's best chance to make a strong impression and secure his spot for the remainder of the season comes Sunday when Seattle hosts St. Louis.

That'll be just five days after he arrived in town.

"I didn't expect this to happen, but I'm here," Colbert said. "It was an unfortunate situation (the injuries), but that's life, and that's football sometimes."

Colbert's cross-country trek from Carolina last season, to Denver and now to Seattle exemplifies the often-nomadic life of NFL players.

Youngsters win easily

The eighth-grade Colby football team stomped Goodland 38-6.

The team scored on its first play from scrimmage and the defense forced several Goodland turnovers, which helped set up touchdowns. The Eagles' pass defense was excellent, snagging four interceptions. Macen Shull had two of these picks.

Dustin Reed, Brandon Gaede, Austin Rogers and Trek Keck all had solid games on defense.

The offensive line also played well, as Troy Quenzer, Zell Bierberle, Kurt Sloan, Rogers, Keck and Dustin Reed threw some great blocks that opened up holes for Eagles' running backs.

Girls tennis dominating competition

The Colby girls High School tennis team is on a roll. They have placed first in every meet so far this season.

The team has been led by the doubles team of Lindsey Wilson and Caitlyn Wark who have been dominant this year, posting an impressive 20-0 record.

"Their experience will make them a top contender for the state championship this year," Assistant Coach Gene Rothfuss said.

This year's team has also gotten a lift from

the 2 doubles team of Lauren Bethell and Kim Gerstner. The pair placed first in meets at Trego and Colby with records of 3-1 and 4-0 respectfully.

Kaylas Hockersmith has been outstanding this year placing first at Liberal, Trego, and Colby in 2 singles this year. She also took second in 1 singles at Hays while replacing an injured Barbara Bickner.

Bickner is looking to qualify for state again this year. Bickner put on amazing display when

she placed fourth in a 1 singles tournament while suffering from a shoulder injury. She finished her last two matches playing left handed. The team will face what may be their steepest challenge when the varsity girls travel to Lindsborg on Saturday for some tough competition with several large teams (4A schools) from around the Salina area.

"We are really looking forward to the tournament in Lindsborg," said Coach Jennifer Rall.

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