

## Taking it to the mat



KRISTI GUTHMILLER/The Saint Francis Herald  
Nathan Reed got a firm grip on his opponent during a Colby High wrestling meet at St. Francis last Thursday. The Eagles will face Oakley in a dual meet at 6:30 p.m. tonight at the Colby High gym.

## Horse show finishes season; team members pick up wins

The Colby Community College Intercollegiate Horse Show Association team completed its fall season at a two-day show at the University of Nebraska, Omaha on Nov. 22-23.

"Our team had another great showing," said Coach Shanda Draper. "We brought home several wins. We had a great cheering section at the show, with over 25 equestrian family members and fans in attendance. It was a great way to end our fall season."

Team members and placings:  
Novice Fences, Show 1: Kelly Maxwell, Manhattan, second.  
Open Flat, Show 1: Heather Temple, El Dorado, fifth.  
Intermediate Flat, Show 1: Taylor Foster, Colorado Springs, fifth.

Novice Flat, Show 1: Maxwell, Reserve; April Brown, Platte City, Mo., sixth.

Advanced Walk-Trot-Canter, Show 1: Casey Daugherty, Menahga, Minn., first; Chelsey Darrow, Leavenworth, fourth.

Beginning Walk-Trot-Canter, Show 1: Riandi Louw, Colby, first; Justyna Price, Mullinville, fourth; Malea Stefan, Hays, sixth.

Walk-Trot, Show 1: Megan Sitz, Topeka, first; Jennifer Hartnett, Lenexa, first; Melissa Vogt, Norton, fifth.

Novice Fences, Show 2: Brown second; Maxwell, fifth.

Novice Flat, Show 2: Maxwell, second; Brown, Reserve.

Advanced Walk-Trot-Canter, Show 2: Daugherty, third; Darrow, fifth.

Beginning Walk-Trot-Canter, Show 2: Louw, third; Stefan, fourth; Price, Reserve.

Open Flat, Show 2: Temple, sixth.

Walk-Trot, Show 2: Hartnett, second; Jennifer Malcom, Augusta, third; Sitz, fifth.

Spring competition begins Feb. 14-15, 2009 with a Western show hosted by Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture in Curtis.

"At this point, we already have two riders qualified for regionals, and I expect several more will qualify in the spring," said Draper. "Those qualified to date are Arianna Smith in Intermediate II Horsemanship and Casey Daugherty in Novice Horsemanship and Advanced Walk-Trot-Canter."

## Refereeing is no easy task; fans should be respectful

By Travis Vaughn

It's hard to believe that the high school basketball season is already here. You would think after 15-plus years of officiating, I would learn to start getting in shape about a month or so ahead of time.

Not me, though. I always try to get ready in that week prior to the opening game. Quite honestly, it seems like kids have gotten a lot faster over the years. Or maybe I'm just getting slower. Whatever the case, I love the game, and all the aches and pains are well worth it.

Officiating has been a big part of my life for many years, even though there have been times when it has been no fun at all. But the good outweighs the bad by quite a ways.

I'm just like any official; there are certain calls over the years I wish I had back. But there are also the games that I am very proud of. Many people wonder why would anybody want to be an official. Why would anyone want to purposely add more stress into their already busy and hectic lives?

I just recently read an article in the "Official's Quarterly" magazine from a retired basketball official by the name of Jerry Sulecki. Jerry had retired from officiating after 30 years. In his article he explained what he had learned from the whole officiating experience. If I were to retire, I feel like I would feel exactly the same about many of the things he discussed.

He said he came to realize how patient and understanding his family had been to allow him to indulge himself for so long. He recognized he had been and still was in many ways, part of another family. He realized he had participated in a truly noble avocation, helping shape and mold lives of young athletes.

Jerry also recognized that not just anyone can officiate. It takes a special person. When we put on the stripes, we are expected to be perfect. We find out who we are every time we step on the court, and that takes backbone, fortitude and moral fiber.

Jerry found there are people who've never blown a whistle telling us what's wrong with officiating all the time, and it's obvious to them anyone could do a better job, but they can't. He explains that as an official we have to be extra careful in what we say and do at all times, because there is always someone watching us.

Jerry found out after 30 years that he didn't want to take the uniform off. He loved the uniform; it put him in charge of something, if only for a brief time. While taking the game and its effects on the participants very seriously, he always tried to have fun while officiating.

He also acknowledged all the fine people he had met, all the free exercise he had gotten, all the great athletes he had officiated and all the gyms he knew how to get to. Jerry also came to realize that besides marrying his wife and

seeing his children grow up, that officiating was probably the most satisfying single thing he had done in his life. Lastly, Jerry's greatest lesson he had learned after retiring is to enjoy what you are doing right now while you still can. Nothing in life is guaranteed, he said; nothing in life is forever.

I thought he made some great points in his article, and I can't help but think most officials would feel the same as Jerry when the day comes for them to give it up. It's currently getting harder and harder to recruit new quality officials, and many young officials quit because of the abuse they take from the fans.

The only way to get better as an official is to work as many games as you can those first few years. I'm a huge fan of loud gymnasiums and loud fan support, because the louder the gym, usually the better the game. A silent gymnasium is usually a sign of a not-so-good basketball game.

As you head out to watch your favorite team this winter, just remember that while hollering at the officials is part of the game, being disrespectful to them is not. I wish you and your team the best of luck. We will see you on the court.

Travis Vaughn, who referees for the Northwest Kansas League, Twin Lakes League, Western Kansas Liberty League and Mid-Continental League, lives in Colby.

## Four Trojan players honored

Four former Colby Community College baseball players have been named to the 2008 All-Canada collegiate teams, which comprises Canadian-born players from all college baseball programs.

Over 700 players from Canada play college baseball in the United States.

Aaron Dunsmore was named to the second-team as an outfielder. Dunsmore played for the Trojans from 2007-08. Last season, Dunsmore was a first Team all-conference

selection in the West division of the Kansas Jayhawk Conference. He led a strong offensive attack for the Trojans, finished with a .438 batting average, nine home runs, 45 runs batted in and a school record 23 doubles. Dunsmore transferred to the Dayton Flyers and spent the summer playing for the Sherwood Park Dukes.

Former catcher/first-baseman Marshall MacDonald was named to the third-team. MacDonald played for the Trojans from 2006-

07 and currently plays for Dayton University.

Steve Kletke and Jason Chatwood received honorable mention. Kletke transferred to the Trojans for the 2008 season, and batted over .400 with 48 RBIs. Chatwood was an All-American for the Trojans as a second baseman during the 2007 season. He transferred to Gonzaga University.

### HELP WANTED

Like to meet the public? Attentive to detail? Basic computer skills? Kansas Quick Lube is accepting applications for part-time and full-time courtesy person to join our auto service team. Position opens in January. Request application at [kql@st-tel.net](mailto:kql@st-tel.net) or pick up at our service center in Colby.

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Our office will be closing Wednesday, December 24th at Noon and we will be closed all day on Thursday and Friday to observe the holiday.

**THERE WILL BE NO PAPER DECEMBER 25TH OR 26TH!**

The paper for December 24th will be delivered on December 23rd.

Deadlines: Country Advocate for 12/31/08 Wednesday, December 24th at Noon. Colby Free Press: 12/24/08 paper deadline is Monday, December 22nd by Noon. 12/29/08 paper deadline is Wednesday, December 24th by Noon.

**We will be back to serve you on Monday, December 29th!**

**THANKS FOR YOUR BUSINESS THIS PAST YEAR!**

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