



Baseball season has arrived



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
Senior Corey Sager played second base during the Colby High Eagles' batting practice on Wednesday. The baseball team will start its season at 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 31, with a doubleheader against Scott City at the Colby Recreational Fields.

Friend of basketball coach playing for Globetrotters

By Andy Heintz
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One of Coach Parker McKee's old friends will be coming to town in a couple of weeks. The Harlem Globetrotters, a world renowned exhibition basketball team, will perform at 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 1, at the Colby Community Building. McKee's former junior college teammate, Nate "Big Easy" Lofton, will be on the court for the Globetrotters. McKee, who coaches the Colby High girls basketball team, said he and Lofton first crossed paths when they played together at Independence Community College in eastern Kansas. Lofton, a 6-foot, 9-inch post player from New Orleans, was voted the team's most valuable player during McKee's freshman year.

"He played really well with his

back to the basket," said McKee. "He was really good at getting offensive rebounds and putting it back in."

Lofton said he and Parker had great chemistry on the court. The two formed a friendship that season that remains strong to this day.

"He texted me recently to tell me he was excited to visit where I grew up," said McKee. "We're really good friends."

Lofton said the two keep up with each other through text messages.

Lofton left Independence for WestArk junior college his sophomore year. He would eventually play at Southeast Louisiana, where he was a two-time All-Southland Conference selection. Lofton's nickname on the Globetrotter's is Big Easy because of where he

grew up.

Playing for the Globetrotter's differs from college basketball, Lofton said, because it's more relaxed and its more about making the fans happy.

"It's a privilege to play for the team," he said. "I have the best job in the world."

Lofton said he has traveled to 30 countries since joining the squad. He said traveling the world has helped give him a new insight on life.

"Once you see how everyone else lives, it makes you appreciate what you have," he said.

Tickets are \$15 and can be purchased at the Colby Community Building or online at www.ticketweb.com. Call Stacy Lee at the Colby Recreation Department for information at 460-4440 or 460-4435.

Brewster and Golden Plains players named to league team

By Andy Heintz
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Two Brewster High boys basketball players, juniors Seth Ackerman and Devan Selby, and three students from Golden Plains, senior Tate Bruggeman, junior Jordan Spresser and sophomore Rilee Spresser have been named by the member schools in the Western Kansas Liberty League for the 2009 All-league Basketball

Teams Senior T.J. Preston and junior Ryan Allen from Brewster received honorable mention.

Brewster junior Nichelle Erskine was named to the all-league girls team and senior Britt Kammer got honorable mention.

Other players who made the all-league team include Michael Roehl, Dighton; Luke Johnson and Reese LaToush, Healy; Clay Rogge, Triplains; Tate Andrews and Tyler O'Connor, Wallace County;

and Chase Waldman, Wheatland/Grinnell.

Other players on the girl's team were Kelsey Hubin, Kaylee Cramer and Emily Torsion, Dighton; Megan Shafer and Madison Mosser, Greeley County; Kyla Sharp, Healy; Kara Gfeller, Triplains; Audrey Mote and Kenzi Knobbe, Wallace County; Payton Walker, Cassondra Welsh, Danica Cox and Raney Okeson, Weskan; and Tessa Weaver, Wheatland/Grinnell.

Bail set against man charged in killing of Denver Broncos player

DENVER (AP) — Bail has been set at \$2 million in a murder case against a man who is also charged in the separate drive-by slaying of Denver Broncos cornerback Darrent Williams.

Willie Clark had a bail hearing Wednesday in the shooting death of Kalonniann Clark, who was scheduled to testify in an attempted murder case.

Authorities say Kalonniann Clark's case isn't related to William's death, and there is no known relationship between Kalonniann Clark and Willie Clark.

Willie Clark is being held without bail in the New Year's Day 2007 shooting death of Williams.

More than a dozen armed sheriff's deputies stood in the courtroom during the bond hearing for Clark and two co-defendants, Brian Hicks and Shun Birch, the alleged triggerman.

A judge set Hicks' bail at \$2 million and Birch's at \$1 million. All three are scheduled to enter pleas at their June 26 arraignments.

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ney Mandarin Bowers had asked Denver District Judge Christina M. Habas to free Birch on \$50,000 bail, citing Birch's strong family support, employment prospects and relatively clean criminal record.

"There's no way, in an execution of an attempted murder victim that I can, in good conscious, set that kind of bond," Habas told Bowers and the dozen of Birch's supporters in the gallery.

During the hearing, prosecutor Bruce Levin said Kalonniann Clark was killed the day before a pretrial hearing in Hicks' attempted murder case, in which he was accused of trying to kill Kalonniann Clark.

Hicks had been charged with attempted first-degree murder, illegal discharge of a firearm and possession of a weapon by a previous offender in the June 2005 shooting of Kalonniann Clark outside a

club. Authorities say Kalonniann Clark survived and was scheduled to testify against Hicks at the time of her death.

Levin said Hicks' attempted murder case was dismissed after Kalonniann Clark's slaying. Prosecutors have said Kalonniann Clark was also scheduled to testify against Hicks in a drug case.

Willie Clark is accused of arranging the slaying of Kalonniann Clark at the request of Hicks, who was in jail at the time. Prosecutors allege Willie Clark hired 27-year-old Shun Birch, who Levin said in court Wednesday killed Kalonniann Clark in exchange for marijuana.

Clark, a suspected gang member, is scheduled to go on trial July 6 in Williams' slaying.

Clark is accused of driving an SUV and firing into Williams' rented limo, according to an indictment handed up in October.

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