

Going for a swing



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
Kassie Miller, 5 year-old daughter of Tammy and Mike Miller from Rexford, positions herself on the horizontal bar while being watched closely by Ashlee Haines, owner/coach of Tumbleweed Tumblers, at the tumbler's gymnastic competition that ran from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday at the Community Building

Community College hires new volleyball coach

By Debbie Schwanke
Colby Community College
debbieschwanke@colbycc.edu

Colby Community College has announced the selection of Carey Jones to head the Lady Trojan women's volleyball team. Jones has 11 years experience as a player and as a high school and college volleyball coach. She replaces Valerie Armstrong who resigned to accept a coaching job in Texas. Jones was the head volleyball coach at Andale High School from April 2008 to January 2009. She led the 4A team to many successes including the first winning record in 13 years of 28-8. Six Andale players were nominated to the all-conference first and second teams.

Two players continued their volleyball careers at Wichita State University and Cloud County Community College.

Jones was assistant volleyball coach at Garden City Community College from July 2006 to June 2007. She actively recruited Kansas and out-of-state players. In addition to coaching duties, she was responsible for practice plans for pre- and post-season and directed weight training and summer workouts. She co-directed summer camp with over 200 participants and was the co-director of the Block Out Volleyball club volleyball program.

"My experience in Garden City taught me about the recruiting obstacles in the Jayhawk Confer-

ence and the competitive environment it brings," said Jones. "I'm prepared to take that challenge and look forward to coaching at CCC."

Jones' first priority is to meet with next year's sophomore players and begin recruiting additional athletes for the 2009 season.

"It is my understanding that we have 4-5 incoming freshmen players signed," said Jones. "I'll be looking for athletes who are willing to work hard, learn a new system and adapt to a new environment."

Coach Jones is married to Colby native Chad Jones. He is a graduate of the college and is currently the group manager for the Mid America Ag Network.

Junior varsity softball team goes 1-1 in final two games

By Andy Heintz
Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansan.com

The Colby High School junior varsity softball team split their doubleheader with Thomas More Prep-Marian on Monday at the Thomas County Recreation Complex to wrap up their season.

The girls lost their first game to the Lady Monarchs 18-5 and they

won game two 15-12. Sophomore Tera Raymond was the losing pitcher in the first game.

Freshman Madison Gawth had a single and freshman Lacy O'Neal tripled in the game.

Sophomore Amy Schroeder was the winning pitcher in the second game and Raymond picked up the save.

Gawth singled and tripled in

the game. Raymond, freshmen Sammy Reed, Katie Zerr, Megan Schroeder and Jo-Elle Endreole all had singles.

"The girls showed great improvement every time we stepped on the field," said Coach Jack Elliot. "They all got better in all aspects of the game from the first day of practice to the very end."

The Lady Eagles finished the season with a 7-7 record.

Colby High tennis squad ends season at sub-state

By Andy Heintz
Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansan.com

The Colby varsity tennis team's season came to an end at sub-state at Pratt.

They won 6 meets this year including tying for first with Pratt at Regionals last Thursday in Ulysses.

"I couldn't have asked for a better group of guys or a better season," said Coach Matt Ludwick.

The Eagles had to compete in an extremely challenging sub-state. Despite coming in third at regionals, the Eagles' doubles team of senior Sam Matzek and junior Gray Henry were seated fifth because of how tough the doubles teams from Smoky Valley and Buhler were, said Ludwick. The singles bracket featured the returning state champion from the Vikings and his younger brother who beat him at regionals.

Senior Jared Bixenman was de-

feated by Blacher of Pratt 6-0 and 6-3. Senior Jeremy Harter fell to Smith of Nickerson. He won the first round 6-4, but lost the next two 6-5 and 6-3.

Matzek and junior Henry were defeated for the second time in their season by Peak and Mitchell of Buhler who shut them out twice. The team fared much better at regionals.

Bixenman went 3-1 and finished third. He shut out Dillon of Ulysses 6-0, 6-0, defeated Scott City's Snow 7-6, 6-3 and beat Krause of Russell 6-0, 7-6. He was soundly defeated by Pratt's Blacher 6-1, 6-0.

Harter went 2-1 and placed second. He defeated Morris of Russell 6-3, 6-3 and beat Russell's Krause 7-5, 6-2. He was defeated by Harter 6-4, 6-3.

Lubbers and Biddle of Ulysses easily defeated freshman Justin Slavens and senior Jordon Hockersmith 6-2, 6-3. Matzek and Henry finished in third place with a 2-1

record. They defeated Vonleh and Killian of Russell (6-3, 4-6, 6-4) and Pratt's Barker and Whitson (6-4, 6-7, 6-0). They were defeated by Noll and Janssen of Scott City (6-4, 6-7, 6-0).

Bixenman finished the season with 25-6 record and Harter finished at 20-10. Matzek and Henry finished their season with a 13-2 record and Slavens and Hockersmith finished at 16-7. Matzek and Henry's only losses came at regionals and sub-state.

Ludwick said he will be holding a tennis camp at some point this summer and he is thinking about holding a family day where people can come play tennis one day a week this summer.

Denver Nuggets defeat Mavericks to advance to conference finals

DENVER (AP) — Chauncey Billups is taking his hometown team to new heights with a big assist from Carmelo Anthony.

Behind 30 points from Anthony and 28 from Billups, the Denver Nuggets beat the Dallas Mavericks 124-110 on Wednesday night to wrap up their semifinal series in five feisty games.

So, the Nuggets are leaving all the animosity with the Mavericks' players, fans and owner behind and heading to their first Western Conference finals since 1985.

The Nuggets, who are 8-2 in the playoffs after tying their franchise record with a 54-win regular season, will face either Los Angeles or Houston for the conference championship.

"It's special. We worked hard in the offseason and training camp and throughout," Anthony said. "We stuck to everything, we overcame adversity, we stayed humble

and our hard work paid off."

Winners of 16 straight games at the Pepsi Center, where no opponent has won since March 9, the Nuggets would start their next series on the road if the Lakers win, and at home if Houston does. The Lakers lead the series 3-2 with Game 6 Thursday night in Houston.

Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle said the combination of Billups, a proven winner, and Anthony, "who's just taking quantum leaps as a great player and leader," makes the Nuggets a true title contender.

"These guys are legitimate, a legitimate championship-caliber team," Carlisle said. "They've got a great shot. They've got a real op-

portunity."

The Nuggets didn't dare dream of this type of success when the season began following the departures of defensive stalwarts Marcus Camby and Eduardo Najera.

"Sometimes when you're forced to come together and fight together and persevere, your best qualities come forward," Denver coach George Karl said.

The impetus for the transformation came when the team made its biggest trade ever, Allen Iverson to Detroit for Billups, who turned his hometown team from an afterthought into a championship contender after leading the Pistons to six straight Eastern Conference finals and the NBA championship in 2004.

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