

Eagles baseball coach won't return next season

By Andy Heintz

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The Colby Public school board approved the resignation of Kevin Cox from his position as Colby High School varsity baseball coach on Monday evening. Cox has been coaching the Eagles

since the baseball program's inception ten years ago. He is departing after his team finished second in the class 4A state championship and went 24-2 overall. It was also the first time the team had ever won regionals.

"I think we made a pretty good run," said Cox.

He said one of the most memorable parts of his ten years of coaching at the

high school was seeing the program go from winning six to eight games in its early years to where they are today. Cox said the program really started to turn the corner in his fourth season as coach. He was optimistic the program's success will continue after his departure.

"Colby's a 4A power," he said. "I think it will continue."

Cox said he wants to spend more time

helping his son Luke Cox work with his baseball skills. Luke is an eighth grader at Colby Middle School. Cox said he plays third base, pitcher and shortstop.

"I want to have more time to coach him individually," he said.

There are certainly things Cox will miss about coaching.

"I still love baseball and working with the kids," he said. "I will miss the cama-

raderie with the kids and coaches."

Cox said there is a chance he will return to coaching sometime in the future, but he is comfortable with his present decision.

"All things come to an end," he said. "I have been thinking about this for quite a while."

Cox will continue to teach health, strength training and physical education at the Colby Middle School.

It's a keeper



Danny Buford (left) of Colby held the first catfish ever caught by his one-year old granddaughter Destiny Crandall of Kansas City, Mo. on Sunday at Villa High Park.

ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Broncos star wide receiver unhappy with organization

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) — Brandon Marshall has no problem working with the scout team while he plays his way back into Pro Bowl form.

What bugs him is the way the Denver Broncos handled his acquittal on misdemeanor battery charges last week.

Marshall said Wednesday in his first public comments about the matter that he was miffed a member of the team's public relations staff told his teammates not to gloat over his acquittal in an Atlanta courtroom on Friday.

Marshall was told the staffer was acting on his own in an attempt to be sensitive, but he believes the directive came from higher in the organization and he suggested the episode fostered distrust between him and the Broncos.

There's a hazard this latest imbroglio could lead to an irreparable rift between the team and its superstar receiver who already is unhappy that the Broncos haven't reworked his contract or traded him.

"Unfortunately, I think it gets to that point," Marshall said. "There are trust issues on both sides. It's understandable. We've got to try our best to move forward."

Trust issues were at the root of the offseason quarterback predicament in Denver that ended with Pro Bowl passer Jay Cutler getting traded after rookie coach Josh McDaniels considered acquiring former pupil Matt Cassel.

Cassel ended up in Kansas City, Cutler was sent to Chicago and Kyle Orton came to Denver.

Marshall, set to make \$2.2 million this season, had hoped the verdict in his trial would give him leverage for a new contract, and his agent, Kennard McGuire, met with McDaniels on Monday. Both men have declined to say whether McGuire asked again for a big raise or, barring that, a trade, and Marshall also sidestepped the question.

"From Day One, I never asked the Broncos for more money, and that's from the summertime. The biggest thing was I really disappointed that ... on one of the best days for the past three years of my

life, some of my teammates were (told), 'Don't say you're happy for Brandon,'" Marshall said.

"I felt like we need to sit down with the guys upstairs and try to figure out what's really going on."

So, Marshall and his lawyer, Harvey Steinberg, met with Broncos chief operating officer Joe Ellis, who apologized to Marshall.

The Broncos have declined to discuss their side of the story, saying it's an internal issue.

"Some things you can't control," McDaniels said Wednesday when asked about Marshall's reaction. "That situation, we feel like we've tried to handle it the best we could after something like that came out."

Marshall made it clear when camp started that he wasn't happy in Denver anymore, but he said Wednesday that he had started to come around before hearing about the staffer's admonition.

"I thought we were moving past that and it was just Friday when players were coached to say they weren't happy for me, so it's tough," Marshall said. "It's tough."

Marshall thought he was going to get traded this summer following a meeting with team owner Pat

Bowlon. So, does Marshall feel like the Broncos broke a promise?

"In that meeting with ownership it was told to me that they'll do their best to accommodate me with that wish and I'm still here," Marshall said. "I'm a Bronco and all I can do is try my best to get in the best football shape and be that player I was the last three years."

Marshall said he has no ill effects from his hip operation or the hamstring he pulled early in camp but is way behind on the playbook, which prevents him from taking snaps with the starting offense.

Marshall insisted he didn't mind running with the scout team, though, suggesting: "I really want to take those reps and go against Champ Bailey, (Andre') Goodman and (Brian) Dawkins and those guys, so I'm just taking advantage of the talent we have on the defense."

Bailey and Dawkins, however, weren't at practice Wednesday.

Marshall also ran exclusively with the scout team in the evening practice Wednesday. He never shed his orange scout-team jersey to run any of the Broncos' offensive plays even though he acknowledged he was "not close at all" to mastering McDaniels'

Late inning lead-off home run propels Rockies to 5-4 victory

WASHINGTON (AP) — Carlos Gonzalez has even amazed himself with his sudden power surge. Gonzalez lead off the eighth inning with a home run for the second night in a row, giving the Rockies the decisive run in a 5-4 win against the Washington Nationals on Wednesday night.

Gonzalez has homered in four straight games and six of the last eight. Before this stretch, he had six homers in 130 career games. His latest landed above the Nationals' out-of-town scoreboard in right field to lead off the eighth inning.

"Yeah, I knew that ball was going to go out," Gonzalez said. "It was a tough pitch. I saw the replay and it was down and away.

I was pretty impressed with myself because the pitcher probably did not even know how I hit that ball." The home run gave Colorado a boost after leaving the bases loaded three times in the first six innings.

"We did not do a good job tonight from the standpoint of our situational hitting," Rockies manager Jim Tracy said.

"We left the 1st Battalion stranded out there on the bases."

Even though the Rockies stumbled at times, they kept their NL wild-card lead and improved to a season-high 14 games over .500 with a 67-53 record.

Colorado starter Jason Marquis (14-8) gave up nine hits and three runs over six innings.

Gonzalez's home run gave the Rockies a 5-3 lead for closer Huston Street, who came on for his 31st save in 32 attempts. He has now converted a team-record 23 save chances in a row, but his last two have not been easy.

Street gave up three hits Tuesday against the Nationals, and gave up a home run to Josh Bard on his first pitch Wednesday night.

"Sometimes you're going to have to win without your best stuff, and that goes from the pitching end to the hitting end.

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