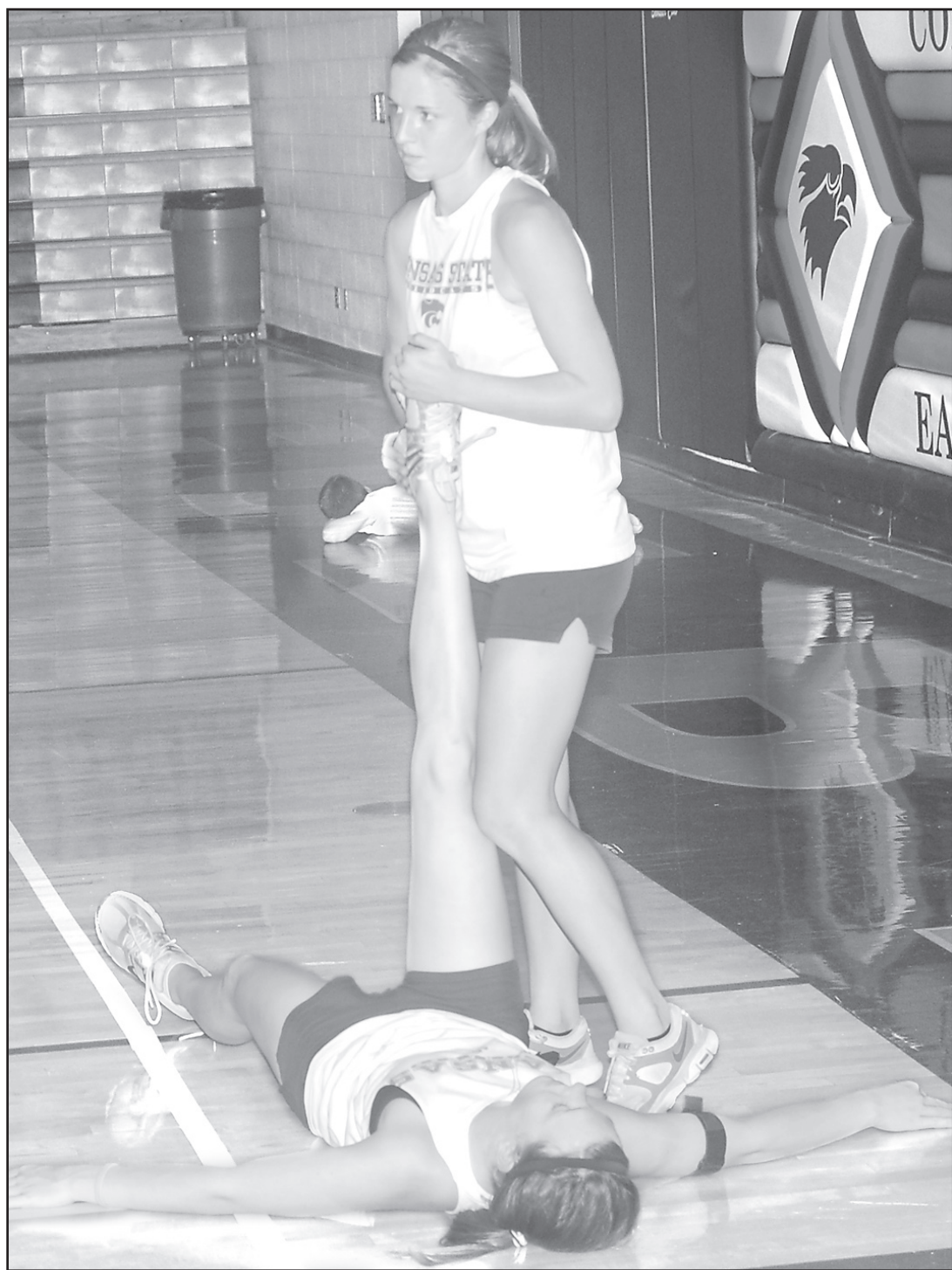


Stretching the muscles



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby High juniors Kayla Hockersmith (standing) and Katrina Kaus did a stretching exercise at the end of the Eagles' track and field practice Wednesday at the high school gym.

Colby High girls team wins softball tourney

The Lady Eagles' softball team is heading to state for the third time in 11 years after winning the Class 4A regional tournament Wednesday in Ulysses.

The Colby High girls knocked off Russell 7-1 in the semifinals and they beat Pratt 5-3 in the finals to earn their ticket to state.

Sophomore Skyler Mengel picked up the win against Russell. She allowed just one run on two hits while striking out nine. The Lady Eagles totaled 10 hits.

Colby scored three runs in the second inning. They picked up another in the third, extending their lead to 4-0. Russell got a run in the fifth, but the Colby girls scored three more runs in the sixth and went on to win 7-1.

Junior shortstop Caitlyn Wark went three for three at the plate, belting a triple. Two outfielders, sophomore Madison Gawith and junior Tera Raymond, tripled as well.

Freshman Kenzie Curry got the win in the girls'

5-3 triumph over Pratt. She gave up five hits and struck out 13.

All of Colby's runs came in the bottom of the third. Wark drove in three of five runs with a bases-loaded triple. Gawith, Mengel and Raymond all had two hits.

Coach Jack Elliot said the one-two pitching combination of Mengel and Curry had complemented each other well this year. He said his pitchers have different styles:

"Skyler moves the ball around more and Kenzie is more of a power pitcher."

With the wins, the girls improved their record to 16-5. They will play their first state game at Friday at the Bill Burke Complex in Salina.

To get to the game, take Interstate 70 east to the I-135 exit (Exit 250A), turning south (right). Take I-135 about 3.3 miles to Exit 92, Crawford Street, in Salina. Turn left on Crawford and continue east 2.8 miles to the stadium, 1501 E. Crawford St.

Former Trojan holding camp

Former Harlem Globetrotters star and former Colby Community College basketball player Elbert "Tree" Gordon is coming to Colby to run his Global Legends basketball camp starting at 8 a.m. on Monday, June 7, at the Community Building.

The camp, for boys and girls between 7 to 17, runs through Friday, June 11, said Recreation Director Stacy Lee. Each session will last from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The city Recreation Department is helping Gordon with the camp, Lee said. The cost is \$110 if you sign up before Wednesday, June 2, and \$130 after that.

Lee said Gordon contacted her about bringing his camp to Colby. Gordon said his camp is all about fundamentals. He said it will focus on doing drills at the five basic positions - point guard, off guard, center, small forward and power forward - in order to give the campers the tools to strengthen their games. For example, he

said centers would work on post play, reading defenses and good foot movement and point guards would do shooting drills, passing drills and drills that make them keep their head up while dribbling. Gordon said he will also be doing some of the ball tricks that made the Globetrotters famous.

"The camp is for the community," he said. The former Globetrotter said he is bringing one coach with him to camp, but he would love to have a volunteer coaching staff made up of coaches from the high school and college.

Gordon played basketball at the college from 1985 through 1987.

"It was a great experience; I loved it," said Gordon. The former Globetrotter also ran track and did the high jump while he was at the college. He said he particularly enjoyed the "foster families" that athletes far away from their homes could spend time with on holidays and weekends. Gordon said his "family" really helped him adjust

to living in Colby. He came to the college from Milwaukee.

Gordon played for the Globetrotters from 1990 to 1997. He said he misses playing with the famous team to this day.

The department's Be Your Best Basketball Camp for grades one through eight will be run from Tuesday through Friday, June 1 to 4. The department will run volleyball camps for third and fourth graders from Monday to Thursday, June 14 to 17 and for fifth and sixth graders from Thursday to Sunday, June 21 to 24.

The department also plans basketball camps for preschool through fourth grade on Thursday and Friday, July 15 and 16, and for fifth through eighth graders Monday and Tuesday, July 19 to 21. The college volleyball team will also be holding camps this summer at the Community Building, Lee said.

Wrestlers sign with colleges

By Andy Heintz

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Three Colby College wrestlers, Ganbayar Sanjaa, Bekzod Abdurakhmonov and Patrick Fletcher, have agreed to wrestle at four-year colleges next year.

Sanjaa signed with American University in Washington. He is a two-time junior college All-American and won the National Junior College Athletic championship in the 149-pound weight class last year. Sanjaa went 25-2 this season and 69-8 over his two years at the college. He took second at nationals at 149 this season.

Sanjaa will not be the first Trojan to wrestle for American University. Muzaffar Abdurakhmonov, a two-time national champion at Colby in 2002 and 2003, and the older brother of Bekzod, wrestled for American in 2004 and 2005.

American University finished with a school record 14th-place finish at nationals last season. The school had wrestlers finish third, fifth and eighth at nationals.

Bekzod Abdurakhmonov signed with Clarion University, a Division I school in Pennsylvania. He is a two-time All-American at 165. He went 24-2 this

season and his career record was 63-9. He was a runner up at nationals in both his years at the college.

Coach Steve Lampe said Bekzod will have to get stronger to compete against tougher wrestlers at the Division I level.

"He's working really hard in the weight room," the coach added.

Lampe said Sanjaa and Bekzod are smart and talented.

"Smart athletes make better athletes," he said. The coach said both wrestlers were technically sound on their feet, on top and bottom.

Fletcher will be wrestling at Augsburg University, a four-year division III Lutheran school in Minneapolis.

Fletcher qualified for nationals in the heavyweight division this season with a 20-13 record. Augsburg won the national championship for the 11th time in 20 years last season. They had eight All-Americans and three wrestlers who took second at nationals.

Lampe said Fletcher is fast, explosive and coachable. He said he was good enough to be an All-American this year, but he got in a tough bracket at nationals.

Fletcher will wrestle for the Auggies as a sophomore, while Abdurakhmonov and Sanjaa will both be juniors.

Brewster runner nearly pulls upset

Brewster High Sophomore Kasey Hoyt was just 66 one-hundredths of a second from winning the 800-meter title at the Western Kansas Liberty League track meet in Scott City on Friday. She ran a hard fought race against last year's state champion, Hallie Kuhlman from Wallace County, and almost pulled off an upset.

Hoyt finished in second place with a time of 2 minutes, 27.06 seconds. She also took third in the 1600-meter run with 6:03.59. Junior Sheena Rall threw the shot put 29 feet 10.5 inches for third place, and was fourth in the discus with a 76' 9" throw.

For the boys, senior Spencer Holm captured the

110-meter hurdle title for the second year in a row, winning with a time of 16.72. Holm nabbed second in both the 300-meter hurdles with 46.16, and the high jump, with a leap of 5' 8".

Freshman Michael Schmidt placed fourth in both the 1,600 and 3,200. He was only 1/100 of a second behind the second place finisher in the 3200, and finished with 11:28.60. Schmidt ran the 1,600 in 5:05.31; his best time this season.

Next action will be at 3 p.m. on Friday as the Bulldogs' track team will travel to Hays for their regional track meet at Lewis Field Stadium on the Fort Hays University campus.

Los Angeles beats Phoenix 124-112

LOS ANGELES (AP) - For a few minutes in the third quarter, the Suns actually got rolling. Grant Hill and Jason Richardson scored in a flurry of jumpers, and Phoenix forced enough turnovers and bad shots by the Lakers to tie

Game 2 heading to the fourth.

Coach Alvin Gentry will cling to those minutes over the next three days, because not much else in the first two games of the Western Conference finals suggested Phoenix can hang with Kobe Bry-

ant's defending NBA champions.

Pau Gasol scored 14 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter, Bryant had 21 points and 13 assists, and the Lakers roared away in the final minutes of a 124-112 victory Wednesday night.

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