



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Former Harlem Globetrotter and Colby Community College player Elbert "Tree" Gordon delivered a pass to one of his campers at his Global Legends Basketball camp on Thursday at the Community Building.

## Former Globetrotter holds basketball camp

By Andy Heintz

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Former Harlem Globetrotter Elbert "Tree" Gordon has been impressed with the youngsters he has worked with this week at the Global Legends Basketball Camp.

"This is the best group I've worked with in a long time," Gordon said. "They give it their all. Their attitudes are beautiful."

Gordon's camp has run from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. every day this week at the Colby Community Building. The camp is for girls and boys, ages seven to 17.

The former Globetrotter said his

favorite thing about the camp is putting smiles on the kids faces.

"It's all about the kids," Gordon said.

The youth at the camp have been working on their fundamentals this week. Gordon said they have been focusing on the same things each day. He said he has had the kids working on developing skills such as ball handling, getting in shooting position and defensive stances.

Gordon said everyone learns at different speeds and some people are going to pick things up quicker than others, but what's important is everyone eventually learns the skills. He said he has been having the campers work on all aspects of

the game so they can have a total package of skills.

Before he became a Globetrotter, Gordon played basketball at Colby Community College from 1985 to 1987. While playing for the Trojans he earned a number of accolades including Sporting News first team all-American, most valuable player, first team all-conference and first team all-defense. Gordon played for the Globetrotters from 1990 through 1997.

The former Globetrotter has played over 2,000 basketball games in his career, visited over 100 countries and gave more than 200 motivational speeches at schools.

## Coach recovering from injury

PITTSBURG, (AP) - Fixing a flat tire isn't usually a life-changing event, but it was for Fort Scott High freshman basketball coach Pechone Stepps on May 24, 2002.

He had been working at St. John's University in New York and, part of a close-knit family, decided to come home to Fort Scott and drive with his parents and two brothers to a reunion in Marianna, Ark. They were in two vehicles, parents Clyde and Marion Stepps in one car, and brothers Pechone, Travis and Trenton in another.

On Interstate 540, not far across the Arkansas border, the vehicle

the three young men were riding in blew the tire on the front passenger side.

After one of his brothers tried to change the tire, Stepps got under the vehicle to see if he could fix the flat.

Another vehicle, driven by an underage drunk driver, came off the highway exit ramp and slammed into the Stepps Silverado. He was run over by his own vehicle.

"I had a broken neck, a broken arm and road rash," Stepps said. "Right there, laying on the ground, I couldn't move, couldn't feel any-

thing, so I knew it was bad."

Just a few minutes before, he'd had a good job, a good life. He had coached basketball at Independence Community College from 1998 to 2000, then moved on to Division I and became interim head coach for women's basketball at St. John's University.

The university had later decided to bring in a new head coach, but chose to retain Stepps as an assistant and as the squad's top recruiter. Now his priorities were first to survive and then to walk again.

"The accident happened only one mile from Washington Re-

# Colby baseball team improves record to 6-0

By Andy Heintz

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The Colby K-18 baseball team crushed an over-matched Atwood squad 15-0 and 17-2 Thursday at Young Memorial Field.

Both games ended in the fourth inning due to the 15-run rule. If a team is leading by 15 or more runs after three innings and the other teams have already batted the game is called.

Keegan Morgan pitched well in game one, striking out several batters and consistently throwing strikes. He said he was just playing catch with his catcher.

The Eagles jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning. Brady Rose scored on a fielders choice grounder to third by Mark Bremenkamp, giving Colby a 1-0 lead. A single to right field by Quade Woofter scored Zach Stones. Then Bremenkamp scored from third on a strike to Morgan that got past the Buffaloes' catcher. Then Woofter scored on a wild pitch, extending Colby's lead to 4-0.

Morgan struck out the first two batters, before allowing a single in the top of the second. Undeterred by the hit, the Eagles' pitcher struck out the Buffaloes' next batter.

Matthew Barnum got on first when Atwood's first baseman dropped a catchable ball. The play was close and he might have been safe even if the first baseman had not dropped the ball. Later in the bottom of the second, Barnum scored on an errant throw to third by the Buffaloes' catcher. He was trying to steal third on a wild pitch, but Atwood's catcher recovered the ball and fired an off-target throw that got past the third baseman, allowing Barnum to score. Zack Stones belted a two-run double to left, extending the boys' lead to 7-0. Colby tacked on two more runs before the inning came to an end.

Neither team was able to score in the third. Colby scored a run early in the top of the fourth. Then Woofter hit a grounder that went under the legs of Atwood's shortstop, scoring Stones and Bremenkamp to make it 12-0. The Eagles scored three more runs and the game was called.

The second game was not much different than the

first. Atwood took an early 1-0 lead, but that lead evaporated in the bottom of the first. The Buffaloes' pitcher had control problems throughout the game, throwing the ball behind batters on numerous occasions. Colby scored five runs in three out of the four innings. They probably would have tacked on even more runs in the innings if it were not for the five-run rule. If a team scores five runs, the inning ends even if the fielding team hasn't gotten three outs.

Hunter Butts started on the mound for Colby. He had a rocky start, but seemed to get into a rhythm at the end of the first. Atwood had a 1-0 lead with runners on first and third and no outs, but the Eagles' starting pitcher got the next three batters out without giving up another run. Troy Quenzer relieved him in the top of the fourth. He struck out three of the four batters he faced.

With the game tied at 1, Daalan Organ punched a double to right center, scoring Josh Matchell and Troy Quenzer to make it 3-1 in the bottom of the first. Organ scored on a sacrifice ground ball by Andrew Taylor. Colby picked up another run before the inning ended. Atwood switched pitchers after Colby had tacked on two more runs in the bottom of the second to go up 7-1. Later in the inning with Colby leading 8-1, Taylor blasted a two-run single.

Butts ran into some trouble in the top of the third, but Atwood was only able to score one run. Colby catcher Chance Hoeting threw out a Buffaloes' runner trying to steal third to end the inning.

Atwood's second baseman bobbled a grounder by Mazanec in the bottom of the third. Mazanec reached first safely and Quenzer scored. Later in the inning with the Eagles leading 12-2 and the bases loaded, Taylor ripped a line drive to left field, scoring two runs to make it 14-2. Colby scored one more run in the inning.

Quenzer relieved Butts in the top of the fourth. He looked impressive on the mound, striking out three batters and giving up a walk.

Mazanec hit a two-run bloop single that secured the 17-2 win for the Eagles. With the win, Colby improved to 6-0.

They play in a wooden bat tournament this weekend at Ellis.

## Celtics bench plays role in win

BOSTON (AP) - When Boston Celtics coach Doc Rivers gave his starters a breather to start the fourth quarter in Game 4 of the NBA finals, he told them not to get too comfortable.

"Doc was like, 'One minute, and I'm putting you in the game. You're not sitting too long, so just be ready,'" Celtics captain Paul Pierce said. "Then you look up: we tie the game, then go up two, three and then they push the lead to seven. ... It was beautiful to watch, just being a cheerleader on the sideline."

Glen "Big Baby" Davis led the Celtics bench on a game-changing run Thursday night, scoring half of his 18 points in the fourth quarter as Boston pulled away from the Los Angeles Lakers to win 96-89 and knot the best-of-seven series at two games apiece.

"This is what legends are made of, this is where you grasp the moment," Davis said. "Just play in the moment."

Game 5 is Sunday night in Boston.

The Celtics' win guaranteed them a trip back to Los Angeles and averted a 3-1 deficit that has

never been overcome in NBA finals history.

"We know what to do. We know how to play. We know how to get it done," said Lakers forward Pau Gasol, who scored 21 points to go with a game-high 33 for Kobe Bryant. "And we know how important Game 5 will be, so we've just got to get ourselves mentally and physically ready ... to accomplish our mission."

Pierce scored 19 points, Kevin Garnett had 13 and Ray Allen bounced back from a seven-quarter shooting slump to score 12 points for Boston. But the new Big Three that led the Celtics to their unprecedented 17th NBA title in 2008 - beating the Lakers in the finals - was on the bench for much of the fourth-quarter run that gave Boston the lead for good.

And that was fine with them.

"I don't think guys really care and that's why we're here, it really is," Rivers said. "(Rajon) Rondo and the rest of them, they were begging me to keep guys in. 'Don't take them out! Don't take them out!' It was great. That's the loudest I've seen our bench, and it was the starters cheering from the

bench."

Garnett and Pierce didn't rejoin Allen on the court until there was 2:51 left. Bryant scored 10 of the Lakers' last 12 points, hitting all three free throws to make it 92-86 after he was fouled attempting a 3-pointer with 1:08 left.

But then Rondo stole a pass from Bryant and took it the length of the court for a layup that made it an eight-point lead with 32 seconds left.

And this time, the reserves were cheering for the starters.

"All I'm thinking about is, 'Let's win,'" Davis said. "I'm not thinking about anything else. I'm not even thinking about Kobe making all these shots, worried about this or worried about that. I'm just worried about winning, whatever it takes to win, and just making sure that I give my teammates positive energy to finish out the game."

Bryant hit three straight 3-pointers to give the Lakers a 62-58 lead with 1:25 left in the third. Davis' putback left the Celtics trailing by two points heading into the final quarter.

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