

Aiming for a victory



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Rex Branum of the gray team, son of Amy and Travis Branum, prepared to fire a pitch during a Bambino Boys League game against the blue team on Monday at the Colby Recreation Fields. The gray team went on to win the game. The league is for boys between 9 and 13. Rex's dad is a coach on the gray team.

Recreation Department plans triathlon for youth

The Colby Recreation Department will hold its first Iron Athlete "Sprint" Triathlon at 8 a.m. Saturday, July 24, starting at the city pool.

Recreation Director Stacy Lee said the race, geared for youths and teams, is a shorter version of the adult triathlon planned for 8 a.m. Saturday, July 31, at the pool.

In the event next week, the young athletes will start out by doing a 400-meter swim, Lee said, then they will hop on their bikes and head to Court Avenue. From there, they will go north to Eighth Street and turn east to Country

Club Drive. They will go north on Country Club to Veterans Memorial Drive, turn west and continue to Franklin Avenue. From there they will turn south on Franklin and head back to Eighth.

This is about a two-mile ride. Lee said they will bike this route six times before finishing the race with a two-mile run around the same loop.

The director said the Colby Police Department will not be partnering with the Recreation Department for scholarship prizes at this year's adult triathlon because the money is just not there as it has been in the past.

That race will start with an 800-meter swim, Lee said, then the athletes will do a bike course — all on country roads. She said after the participants complete the bike portion of the race, they will do their run, which goes around the Cottonwood and LaHacienda area. Lee said the race is about a 3 1/2- to 4 1/2-hour event.

The director said she is looking for volunteers to help with both triathlons. She added that she needed 15 to 20 volunteers for the race on July 31. If you're interested, call the department at (785) 460-4440.

Former coach claims \$3.2 million

TOPEKA (AP) — Legal documents show former Kansas State athletic director Bob Krause has described efforts to nullify a buyout agreement with ex-football coach Ron Prince.

The *Topeka Capital-Journal* reports that transcripts from Krause's deposition show frantic attempts to

invalidate a \$3.2 million "secret agreement" with Prince last year.

Under a "memorandum of understanding" Krause devised, Prince is to receive \$3.2 million in deferred payments, starting in 2015. The university has filed a lawsuit seeking to nullify the deal.

Colby High senior to serve as ambassador

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After finishing his last meet with the Colby Swim Club on Saturday, Kalen Rasmussen took off for Bonn, Germany, to serve as a youth ambassador for the United States.

Rasmussen is one of 25 high school seniors who will be Congressional Youth Ambassadors as part of the Congress-Bundestag Vocational Youth Exchange Program set up by the national legislators of both countries. The ambassadors will live, study and work in the other country for a year.

Rasmussen said he first had to fill out an application, get three recommendations and write three essays for the program. Then he was interviewed in Denver.

His father, Gordon, said Rasmussen flew to Washington first.

While there, he toured the U.S. Capitol and the State Department and met with the German ambassador. From there, the group flew to Germany. Gordon said his son grew up speaking some German, since his grandparents immigrated from Germany and he has visited the country.

Rasmussen has had a storied career for the Colby Swim Club in the Northwest Kansas Swim League and the Western Kansas Swim League. He went undefeated in nine of his 12 seasons and he qualified for the Division I Missouri Valley Championships in four competitions his junior year. The events were 50- and 100-meter freestyle and 100- and 200-meter breaststroke. He was the only boy between 15 to 18-years-old to qualify for Division I in the Western Kansas Swim League that year.

The Western Kansas league has more and bigger teams than the Northwest league, Gordon said. He said the teams in that league have swimming at their high schools, making it more competitive than the northwest. He said the Colby club's stronger swimmers compete in the western league, giving them the chance to qualify for the Division I and II championships. If you just swim in the northwest league, he said, you can't qualify for the championships. The western league includes teams such as Hays, Liberal, Scott City, Great Bend, Lakin, Garden City and a couple squads from northwest Oklahoma.

Rasmussen qualified for the Division I and II championships his sophomore year, but he didn't compete because ironically, the events were taking place while he was vacationing with his family in Germany. He has broken several records at meets including five at the Goodland pool, one in Colby, two in Burlington, Colo., 12 in Holyoke, Colo., and seven in Oakley.

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Rasmussen

Former Jayhawks official expected to admit guilt

WICHITA (AP) — A second former University of Kansas athletics official was due in court today, where he is expected to admit he knew about a massive scam that allegedly involved the theft and sale of at least \$1 million worth of tickets to sporting events.

Brandon Simmons, the school's former assistant athletic director for sales and marketing, is expected to plead guilty in U.S. District Court in Wichita to one count of misprision of a felony, the same charge his former colleague, Jason Jeffries, pleaded guilty to on Wednesday.

Like Jeffries, Simmons was charged with knowing about the scam and concealing it from authorities.

An internal school investigation found the two assistants sold more than \$200,000 worth of tickets to Jayhawks games through ticket brokers with the knowledge and consent of their boss, Charlette Blubaugh, the former associate athletic director in charge of the ticket office. Neither man has been charged with profiting from the scheme, but Jeffries agreed to forfeit property as part of his plea agreement.

Jeffries, 35, the school's former assistant director of ticket operations, remains free on his own recognizance. He could receive up to three years in prison and a \$250,000 fine at his Sept.

29 sentencing, but he'll likely get far less, if any, prison time. The government agreed as part of his plea deal to recommend a sentence within federal sentencing guidelines, although U.S. District Judge Wesley Brown is not bound by that recommendation.

Assistant U.S. Attorney David Lind told the court Monday that if the matter went to trial, the government would have shown that Jeffries schemed to withhold the sale of certain tickets to the general public, then changed the tickets' status to reserved sales.

"He did that to disguise the nature of the transaction," Lind said.

Jeffries agreed as part of his plea deal to cooperate fully in the federal probe into the ticket scam and to testify in any grand jury or other court proceeding. He also agreed to disclose to the government all assets for forfeiture and

not to contest any forfeiture proceedings.

Jeffries referred all questions to his attorney.

"Mr. Jeffries has always accepted his responsibility," his defense attorney, Tom Haney, said after the hearing. "He has nothing to hide."

Haney declined to discuss the investigation, saying prosecutors have asked them not to talk about it.

As part of the plea deal, prosecutors agreed not to file charges against Jeffries' wife or seek further charges against him.

Details of the scam surfaced in May, when school officials disclosed that a report by a Wichita law firm was sent to federal investigators already looking into allegations of wrongdoing in the athletics department and the school's athletics fund-raising arm, the Williams Educational Fund.

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