



# Colby tennis star leads online poll

By Andy Heintz

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Colby senior tennis player Caitlyn Wark ran roughshod over her competition last fall, going 36-0 and winning the class 4A state tournament.

No one even came close to defeating the red-haired phenomenon. She never lost a set all season. Wark's success hasn't gone unnoticed.

She has been selected by catchitkansas.com, a website that covers the state's high school sports, to be up for the site's Catchy's girl's tennis player of the year award. She is up against another singles player and two doubles teams. People can vote online for Wark at catchitkansas.com until Friday, July 30. The site has Wark in the lead.

Wark has been playing in tournaments against top-notch com-

petition this summer. The tournaments she plays in are sponsored by the United States Tennis Association. She says the competition – consisting mostly of 6A schools from Wichita – is tougher than the competition she faces in the fall.

Wark has already taken first in two tournaments and her summer record stands at 12-5. She won the Riverside Open at the Riverside Center in Wichita on July 1 and 2 and the Collegiate Junior Open in Wichita on June 30.

Wark has been approached by several colleges interested in having her come play for their tennis program including Bethany College, a private Lutheran College in Lindsborg; Hesston College, a two-year college of Menonite Church, USA; Fort Hays State and Briar Cliff College in Sioux City, Iowa. She said she wants to end up playing somewhere in Kansas.



C. Wark

# Chicago Cubs coach retires after 22 years

CHICAGO (AP) – After all those dirt-kicking, base-tossing tantrums, Lou Piniella is going out with more of a whimper.

This isn't the way he envisioned his final days as the Chicago Cubs' manager.

The team had bigger plans, too. Piniella announced Tuesday he will retire at the end of the season, completing a storied and often colorful career that included 18 years in the majors as a player and another 22 as a manager.

The 66-year-old Piniella, who made five trips to the World Series in his career and has three championship rings, said he was looking forward to spending more time with his family. He didn't rule out consulting for the Cubs or another team, but made it clear he was getting out of the daily grind.

"It's been a wonderful experience," he said. "There's no way that I won't cherish the memories here."

But, he added: "I've been away from home since 1962. That's about 50 years."

General manager Jim Hendry said Cubs Hall of Famer Ryne Sandberg, now managing the club's Triple-A affiliate in Des Moines, will be a candidate for the job. He said Piniella's replacement won't be hired before the end of the season, but he hopes to have a manager in place by organization meetings in late October or early November.

"It's not going to be a two-week process," said Hendry, who new owner Tom Ricketts said will be back next year.

Sandberg, who spent several seasons as a spring training instructor with the Cubs after retiring in 1997, said he's interested.

"I need to focus on what I'm doing here in Des Moines with these players and what my job is right now," he said. "If the time came, if I was considered for that job in Chicago, I think that's a terrific thing just to be considered. The whole goal of any minor leaguer is to get to the major leagues, and I think that includes coaches and managers like myself."

Cubs slugger Derrek Lee said he was surprised by the timing and Piniella will be missed.

"He doesn't like to lose," Lee said. "He's had a great career, put a lot of time into this game."

Announcing his retirement now, Piniella said, gives the team time to find a replacement.

"I'm proud of our accomplishments during my time here and this will be a perfect way for me to end my career," he said. "But

let me make one thing perfectly clear: Our work is far from over. I want to keep the momentum going more than anything else and win as many games as we can to get back in this pennant race."

Entering Tuesday's game against Houston, Piniella's overall record was 1,826-1,691 (.519). He trails only Tony La Russa, Bobby Cox and Joe Torre in victories among active managers. The Cubs said Piniella will retire as the 14th-winningest manager in major league history.

Piniella's record with the Cubs was 307-271. Under the mellowed skipper, Chicago won consecutive NL Central titles in 2007-08, but missed the playoffs last year and has struggled again this season with a new owner in charge.

The Cubs have gone 102 years without a World Series title.

"It's got to be a lot of pressure," All-Star outfielder Marlon Byrd said. "It's got to take a toll. Everybody wants to come here and win a championship. You assume you're going to do it, you're going to be the guy to come in here and help this team win it. ... It can take a toll on you, but at the same time, he hasn't given up – not one bit."

A right-handed outfielder, Piniella was the AL Rookie of the Year in 1969 after batting .282 with 11 homers and 68 RBIs with the Royals. He was traded to the Yankees in 1973 and ended his playing career with New York in 1984.

In all, he played 18 years in the majors and was a career .291 hitter.

Piniella began managing in 1986 with the Yankees and lasted three years, including a stint as general manager. He managed the Reds from 1990-92, leading them to a World Series championship in his first season. He also got national attention for a clubhouse wrestling match with reliever Rob Dibble.

Dibble, part of the "Nasty Boys" bullpen, said Piniella "was one of us." He downplayed their 1992 tussle as overblown.

"We butted heads once. It's way more famous than it should be."

After Cincinnati, Piniella had a long run in Seattle, where his teams won at least 90 games four times. The Mariners went 116-46 in 2001.

The Cubs won 97 games under Piniella in 2008.

Reds manager Dusty Baker said he was surprised by the timing of the announcement.

"There's a time for us all," he said.

## The youthful angler



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press  
Morgan Durham, an incoming Colby Grade School kindergarten, reeled in her sixth fish of the day Wednesday evening at Villa High Pond.

# Cheerleading decision saves volleyball squad

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) – Competitive cheerleading is not an official sport that colleges can use to meet gender-equity requirements, a federal judge ruled Wednesday in ordering a Connecticut school to keep its women's volleyball team.

Several volleyball players and their coach had sued Quinnipiac University after it announced in March 2009 that it would eliminate the team for budgetary reasons and replace it with a competitive cheer squad.

The school contended the cheer squad and other moves kept it in compliance with Title IX, the 1972 federal law that mandates equal opportunities for men and women in education and athletics. But U.S. District Judge Stefan Underhill disagreed in a ruling that those involved say was the first time the cheerleading issue has been decided by a judge.

"Competitive cheer may, some time in the future, qualify as a sport under Title IX," Underhill

wrote. "Today, however, the activity is still too underdeveloped and disorganized to be treated as offering genuine varsity athletic participation opportunities for students."

Quinnipiac has 60 days to come up with a plan to keep the volleyball team through next season and comply with gender rules.

"The athletes all look forward to getting back on the volleyball court for preseason in three weeks," coach Robin Sparks said. "As their coach, I feel fortunate to be able to work with such strong young women who are not afraid to stand up for their principles." School officials responded to the ruling by saying they would start a women's rugby team, but they refused to answer any questions, discuss the future of other athletic teams or say whether they would continue offering scholarships to competitive cheerleaders.

An activity can be considered a sport under Title IX if it meets specific criteria.

# Kansas City pitcher propels team to 5-2 win

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) – Zack Greinke won for the fifth time in six decisions and seldom-used catcher Brayan Pena had a career-high three hits in the Royals 5-2 win over Toronto.

Greinke (6-9), the reigning AL Cy Young Award winner, allowed two runs and six hits in eight innings, striking out nine without a walk. The right-hander improved to 5-1 with a 2.89 ERA in his last seven starts, a stretch that includes

47 strikeouts and just eight walks.

Greinke yielded singles to Vernon Wells, Aaron Hill and Lyle Overbay for a run in the seventh, but pitched out of further trouble by getting Edwin Encarnacion to ground into an inning-ending double play. Wells had three of the Blue Jays' eight hits.

Left-hander Marc Rzepczynski (0-1) allowed five runs and nine hits in 4 2-3 innings for Toronto.



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# Former Trojan to coach at Tech

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Nick Kriss, former Colby Community College wrestler and All-American, will join former Trojans' wrestling coach Steve Lampe at the Northwest Technical College in Goodland next fall.

Kriss, a state finalist on last year's Colby college wrestling team, reached an agreement with the college to become an assistant coach for the new wrestling program last Friday.

"It just made my day," Lampe said. "He's a great kid. He'll be a huge asset to the beginning of a great new program. He's a nice guy – a tough guy and very smart."

Kriss was a first-rate student during his two years at Colby, garnering an over 3.8 grade average. He was one of many model student athletes on last season's wrestling team. Cody Wark, Ganbayer Sanjaa, national champion and two-time All-American, and Bekzod Abdurakhmonov, another two-time All-American; were all distinguished academic All-



Nick Kriss

Americans last season and the team was named the National Junior College Athletic Association All-American Academic National Champions.

Lampe, a 37-year veteran coach, and a member of the National Junior College Athletic Hall of Fame; said his wife was the one who first brought up the idea of asking Kriss to be an assistant.

"She said why don't you ask Nick," Lampe said.

Kriss declined the job when Lampe first asked him about it two months ago, but said he had a change of heart two weeks later. Lampe said Kriss called him up and said, "You know Lamp,

I've been doing a lot of thinking, and it would be really cool to coach with you."

Kriss said he wants to show his new team how to work hard.

"Work hard everyday," he said. "That's going to be my mentality."

Kriss said to be a successful wrestler, you need learn from every match and not be scared of anybody. He said he would try to teach this to his wrestlers.

# Colorado Rockies suffer loss to Marlins

MIAMI (AP) – Gaby Sanchez hit a three-run homer and Ricky Nolasco pitched eight innings for Florida in their 5-2 victory over the Colorado Rockies.

Dan Uggla and Jorge Cantu hit RBI doubles for the Marlins, who have won four of five.

Nolasco (10-7) allowed two runs and four hits while striking out eight as he reached 10 wins

for the third straight season.

Leo Nunez struck out Brad Eldred to end the game with two runners on base for his 22nd save.

Jason Hammel (7-5) fell to 0-3 against the Marlins in his career as he allowed five runs in seven innings.

Seth Smith hit a two-run homer for Colorado in the eighth.

# Nebraska Cornhuskers picked to win the North

DALLAS (AP) – Nebraska has been picked to leave the Big 12 in style.

The Cornhuskers, who are bolting for the Big Ten in 2011, are the unanimous choice to repeat as Big 12 North champions in the league's preseason media poll.

Oklahoma was picked to win the South division in the poll released by the league on Wednesday.

Nebraska, which lost a heart-breaker to Texas in last year's Big

12 title game, received all 26 first-place votes from media members who cover the league. The Sooners got 16 first-place votes in the South, while the Longhorns received the other 10 votes.

Missouri was picked second in the North, followed by Kansas State, Kansas and Colorado.

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