



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

A Colby High Eagles' running back barreled through a hole in the line during practice Thursday at the football field behind the high school. The team's season opener starts at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 3, at St. Francis.

Famous pitcher faces indictment

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal grand jury's indictment of pitching great Roger Clemens for allegedly lying to Congress about his use of steroids deals a further blow to baseball, reinforcing the game's image as a sport where the use of performance enhancing drugs was widespread.

The six-count indictment alleges that one of the most dominant pitchers of his era obstructed a congressional inquiry with 15 different statements made under oath, including denials that he had ever used steroids or human growth hormone. As he did when he testified to a House committee in 2008, the seven-time Cy Young winner denied using the substances again Thursday and said he will fight to clear his name.

"I never took HGH or Steroids. And I did not lie to Congress," Clemens said on Twitter. "I look forward to challenging the Government's accusations, and hope people will keep an open mind until trial. I appreciate all the support I have been getting. I am happy to finally have my day in court."

Clemens is just the latest superstar to be ensnared in baseball's steroid scandal. All-time home run king Barry Bonds is scheduled to go on trial in March on charges of lying to a federal grand jury when he said he never knowingly used performance-enhancing drugs. Slugger Mark McGwire admitted earlier this year to using steroids.

Clemens, who turned 48 this month, ranks ninth on the career list with 354 victories and was an 11-time All-Star. During a 23-year career that ended in 2007, he played for the Boston Red Sox, the Toronto Blue Jays, the Yankees and the Houston Astros and struck out 4,672 with a lifetime 3.12 ERA.

The rampant use of performance-enhancing drugs in the 1990s and early 2000s has been one of baseball's worst scandals.

The indictments against Clemens raise new questions about whether the superstar will ever be enshrined in the sport's Hall of Fame — and might instead spend time in prison.

Clemens also used his lawyer Thursday to insist that he was telling the truth.

"Roger is looking forward to his day in court," the athlete's lawyer, Rusty Hardin, told a news conference. "He is happy this has finally happened. We have known for some time this was going to happen. We'll let everything get taken care of in court."

Hardin said federal prosecutors made Clemens a plea offer but he rejected it. Hardin declined to comment on details of the proposed plea deal — which ordinarily involves admitting to a crime while avoiding the scenario of a multiple-count indictment as happened in the Clemens case.

Clemens' case was assigned to U.S. District Judge Reggie Walton, who presided over the perjury and obstruction trial of Vice President Dick Cheney's former chief of staff, I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby. No date was set for Clemens' initial court appearance.

The former pitcher faces a combined maximum sentence of 30 years in prison and a \$1.5 million fine if convicted on all charges. However, under U.S. sentencing guidelines, he would probably face no more than 15 to 21 months in prison.

Hardin said that although many have argued that Clemens should simply admit he took steroids, "the problem is nobody ever talks about what he should have done if he didn't do it."

Clemens had been prominently mentioned in the Mitchell Report, Major League Baseball's own accounting of its steroid problem, and he went to Capitol Hill on his own to clear his name in 2008.

Eagles gear up for football season

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The Colby High Eagles football team is gearing up for another season.

The boys finished with a 7-3 record last season. Many high-profile names from last year's squad will be returning, including senior wide receiver Corbin Stephens, senior defensive end Rocque Russell, senior quarterback Kale Arnberger and linebacker and running back Andrew Flanagin.

Some new faces will have to step up to replace fullback Adam Webber and running back Ethan Stickel who graduated last spring. Stickel and Webber were two of the team's leading scorers and Weber was one of the Eagles' leading tacklers, averaging about 10 tackles per game. Stickel led the team in scoring last year with

62 points overall and Weber was third with 44.

Arnberger returns to the team after having a solid junior season. He proved he was both a running and passing threat last season, throwing five touchdowns and rushing for five.

Flanagin was one of the team's most explosive offensive players. He posed a duel threat to opposing teams because he could run and catch the ball. Flanagin scored six touchdowns and had five two-point conversions last fall.

Stephens also had a solid season last year until it was cut short when he was sidelined because of a torn meniscus in his knee. Even though he had to sit out the final four games of the year, he still led the team in number of catches and pass yards. He caught 13 passes for 276 yards. Other receiving threats on last year's squad included junior Dalton Snyder, senior

Ryan Parker and Flanagin. Parker had five receptions for 148 yards, Flanagin, nine catches for 161 and Snyder, three for 73.

Flanagin, linebacker Parker and Russell will lead this year's Eagles' defense after having fantastic junior seasons. Flanagin led the team in tackles last season with 115 tackles; 52 solo and 63 assisted. Russell had almost nine tackles a game and he led the teams in sacks with four. Parker had about eight tackles a game.

The Eagles picked up some big wins last year including a 12-6 win over Goodland, a 22-12 victory against Concordia and a 22-14 win over Phillipsburg.

Other than a 65-19 pummeling Colby received at the hands of the powerful Buehler Crusaders in the first round of the Bi-district Class 4A tournament, The boys played every team competitively. They were only couple plays away from

finishing 9-1 instead of 7-3. Colby suffered a tough 28-22 loss to St. Francis in their season opener and they went toe-to-toe with legendary Smith Center in a 24-12 loss on the road. If it were not for a couple big plays the Eagles would have broken the Redmen's 72 game winning streak.

With several key players returning look for Colby to have another successful season. The team's season opener starts at 7 p.m. Friday, Aug. 3 at St. Francis.

Dodgers shut out Rockies 2-0

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Ted Lilly threw a two-hitter to win his fourth straight start since joining the Dodgers and Reed Johnson hit his first homer of the season in a 2-0 victory over the Colorado Rockies on Thursday night.

Lilly (7-8) had a season-high 11 strikeouts, walked two and retired 19 consecutive batters in his third career shutout.

Colorado's Dexter Fowler lined a double past third baseman Casey Blake and down the left field line with one out in the first and the

Rockies didn't get another hit until Troy Tulowitzki grounded

a single through the middle with two out in the seventh.

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