Home sweet home



DICK BOYD/Norton Telegram

Jordan Rasmussen slid into home plate and was called safe Thursday in an American Legion baseball game in Norton. Colby won the first game with a score of 19-1, but lost the second game 6-5 after Norton made a comeback in the fifth inning, and scored the tying and winning runs in the seventh.

Chiefs' linebacker retires, takes Ohio State coaching job

By Rusty Miller AP College Football Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio - Former All-Pro linebacker Mike Vrabel is retiring from the Kansas City Chiefs and returning to his alma mater as an Ohio State assistant coach.

morning the end of his 14-year career and that he had taken the job as linebackers coach with the with the Patriots, winning three

Buckeyes. The position was previously held by his college roommate and teammate, Luke Fickell, who was elevated to interim head coach when Jim Tressel resigned

Vrabel played for Pittsburgh and New England before closing out his career with the Chiefs. He an-Vrabel confirmed Monday nounced his retirement in a statement issued through his agent.

Vrabel played eight seasons

Golfers play best ball, scramble on golf nights

the two-person scramble on la- and Janelle Barrett, and Nathan dies' night for July 5 are Audrey and Kaci Goetz, second. Hines and Pam Augustine, first; Susan Wark and Audrey Hines, are Chris and Nicki Carroll, and second; Beth Gable and Joy Roth- Alex Rosales and Sara Betz, first; fuss, third; and Suzanne Schielke and Cheryll and Stan Edmundson, reports that Kennedy made the 85-

The winning team for the twoman best ball (handicapped) on men's night for last Wednesday is

Mark Fabrizius and Scott King. The results for the two-couple scramble on couples' night for them. Check in with Kevan at the Friday are, in the first flight, Amber and Brice Barton, and Melinda

The Meadow Lake results for and C.W. Cheney, first; and Justin

The results for the second flight and Cheryll Edmundson, fourth. and Lindsay and Brad Bennett, yard shot on the third hole at The

> Also, apricots are ready to be picked at the golf course. There is plenty for everyone and free to anyone that wants to come pick club house.

Super Bowl titles as a hybrid defender and a spot short-yardage and goal-line offensive player.

6-year-old quietly sinks hole-in-one

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. (AP) – A 6-year-old golfer sank a hole in one on a course in central Illinois and calmly walked back to her

Why such a quiet reaction? Reagan Kennedy's father had told the Bloomington girl not to make a lot of noise on the course.

But 13-year-old Cheyenne Broquard says she told her younger sister that a hole in one was the one time a golfer could be excused for making a little noise.

The (Bloomington) Pantagraph Links at Ireland Grove last week.

Mother Erin Kennedy says her husband starting to put a golf club in Reagan's hands when she was only 2.

Reagan Kennedy says she's now working toward her ultimate golf goal – beating her father.

Baseball games lacking without instant replay

In this day and age, we have enough technology to examine anything and everything we choose to, especially when it comes to sports. In many sports, that means we can use television instant replay to criticize officials' decisions during sporting events, and honestly, I'm glad we can do this. I know that there are always going to be mistakes in games because every referee, umpire and official is human. However, the past couple of weeks have brought an unusually large number of mistakes that cannot be

The first I want to discuss occurred on July 3 during the women's World Cup in a game between Australia and Equatorial Guinea. Steven Goff of the Washington Post wrote that "a scoring effort by Australia in a Women's World Cup match struck the left post and was caught by an Equatorial Guinea defender, who took a step with the ball in her hands before dropping it." The Australian players called for a penalty kick, but the referee, Gyoengyi Gaal, let the game continue. After the fact, Gaal apologized for not seeing the hand ball.

Australia ended up winning the game 3-2, so a lot of people figured "no harm, no foul." Yeah, that's not how it works in my book. Last year, CBS News reported that each referee received \$50,000 for the tournament. If you're making that much money to officiate games, you better damn well pay attention. When I played soccer over a decade ago, one of the first things the coaches taught kids was that you cannot touch the ball with your hands, unless you're a goalie. It's a fundamental rule of the game. And for this player to actually hold the ball for a couple of seconds, it's unbelievable that it wasn't called.

Another major mistake happened on July 2 in a Major League Baseball game between the San Diego Padres and the Seattle Mariners. Cameron Maybin of the Padres was walked on 3 balls instead of 4 due to a scoreboard error, and he scored the only run of the game, giving the Padres the win. The umpire had relied on the scoreboard instead of the count in his hand, thinking he had just missed a pitch, and no one in the Seattle dugout protested the call. It wasn't even noticed until after the game.

I think this example is odd. What kind of umpire trusts the scoreboard over his own count? I can speak from experience, and you *never* trust the scoreboard. I was at a baseball game a few nights ago and I noticed that my score of the game was different from what the scoreboard displayed. I followed my own stats because I knew I was right, and sure enough, they changed the score to the correct number five minutes later.

Now, a lot of people would say that a Major



Kayla Cornett

On the Sidelines

League Baseball scoreboard operator would be more reliable, but that's not always the case. The bottom line is the umpire should have trusted his how-evermany-years of umping over the scoreboard.

Another error in the baseball world took place on July 5 when a runner was mistakenly called out at home plate during a game between the Boston Red Sox and the Baltimore Orioles. Matthew Pouliot wrote on the National Broadcasting Company Sports' web site in a section called HardballTalk that "... (Edwin) Encarnacion's right foot, trailing the left, clearly touched home before (Jason) Varitek could apply the tag. Umpire Brian Knight called him out anyway, giving the Red Sox a 3-2 victory."

The point of talking about all of these miscues is to stress the use of instant replay. All of these instances could have been solved with instant replay, but in professional baseball, instant replay is only used to review home runs, and in professional soccer, instant replay isn't used at all.

Many people argue that instant replay will disrupt the flow of the game, and that's true, it does. However, I think it's a necessary thing to do, if there's a call an umpire isn't sure about or if a play was too close to call. If instant replay was used more in baseball, everyone watching wouldn't be so critical of umpires' calls and it could possibly keep coaches and players from getting ejected so often.

Hopefully, Commissioner Bud Selig and the other people involved in making those kinds of decisions will wise up and realize that adding this feature would improve professional baseball, not destroy it. Until then, I'm sure everyone watching this beloved sport will join me in saying, "What kind of call was

The Colby Free Press is looking for sports columns from fans, coaches and players. Send your column to colby.sports@nwkansas.com or by mail to 155 W. Fifth St. Include your name, address and phone number. Columns should be less than 600 words.

Kayla Cornett is the sports reporter for the Colby Free Press. She has been interested in sports her entire life and has been writing about sports since high school. She is a native Coloradoan.

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