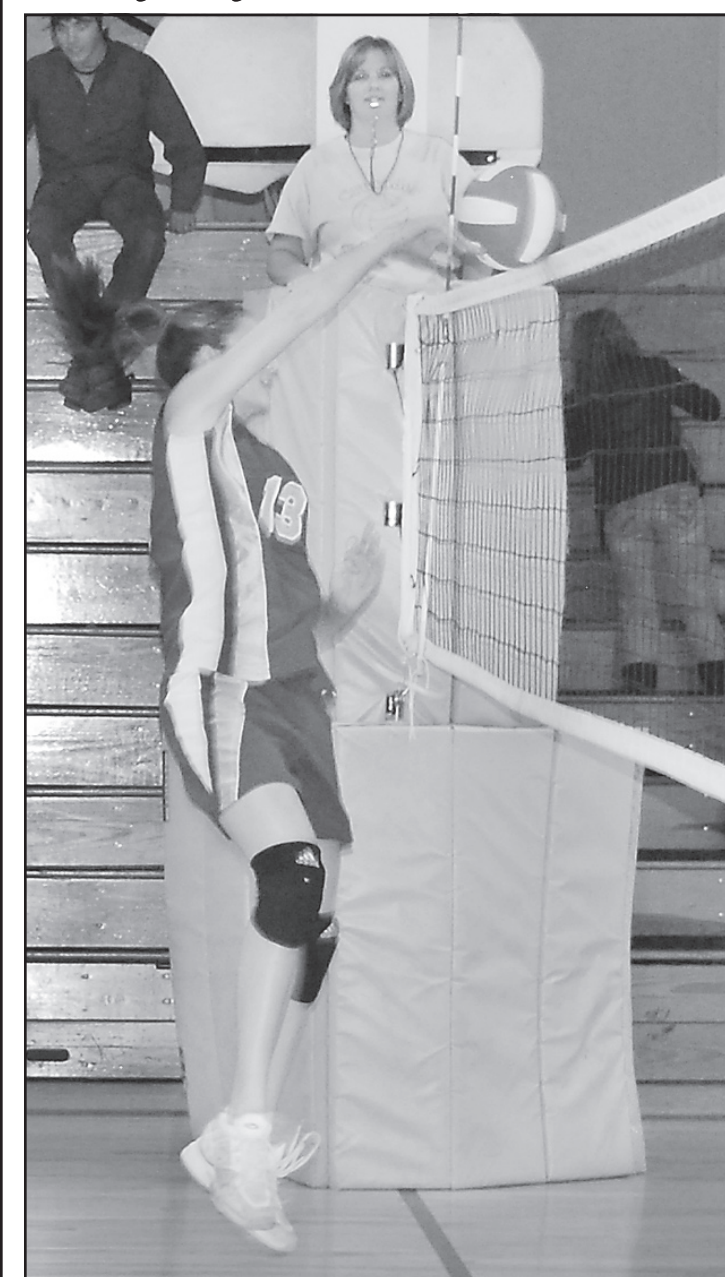


Just for fun



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press
Heartland Christian volleyball player Alexi Regier spiked a ball in a pickup game versus other students and adults at the schools' Fall Festival on Oct. 31.

Brewster-Triplains team says goodbye to five players

By Coach Lee Odell
Triplains High School

I walked off that field with mixed emotions on Oct. 27. As we had our last huddle and I looked into the faces of each of those young men, I knew they felt it too; relief in the sense that we had survived the season without serious injury, yet sadness for those who had to move on.

The terms "brotherhood" and "family" are thrown around quite often in sports, especially at the youth and high school levels. While I have been part of teams where it felt as though a bond was being forced, this was never an issue with this particular team. Over the past several weeks I saw this group of eight young men develop a closeness that cannot be coached. In the grand scheme of life, the memories created, the brotherhood, the camaraderie: these things will stay with them forever.

This Titans team saw improvement with each game, finishing the season even stronger than when they began. Facing adversity not seen by any other team in the state, our Titans took it as an opportunity to persevere. This year's team essentially quadrupled the offensive output from a year ago, with the overwhelming majority of that production coming in the second half of the season.

A team that began the season

struggling to produce a first down, the Titans became an offensive unit that not only picked up first downs, but sustained offensive drives and put scores on the board. Defensively, the Titans produced double-digit sacks on the season and forced multiple turnovers. Gang tackles is a stat not kept, as every player who assists on a tackle is not credited with the tackle; however, if that was the case, there were numerous occasions in which four or more Titans could have been given an assisted tackle in the stat column. This is just another example of the guys' willingness to go that extra mile for each other.

Jerry Nichols and Gus Lamb played their final game as Titan seniors. I am proud not only for

what they accomplished on the field, but also the character they display on a daily basis. These two young men possess the qualities that not only helped them succeed athletically, but will also help them succeed in life. Patricio Salinas, Luiz DeArruda and Erick Valle also played their final game as Titans and very possibly their last football game on American soil. Their contributions have been invaluable. Each of these three had encouraging words to say to the team after our final game and their sentiments are shared among us all.

The other three Titans who finished the season are Seth Smith, Randy Colling and Jesse Gaskill. Seth is a sophomore and will see two more seasons as a Titan. Ran-

dy and Jesse are both juniors and will join us again next season as seniors. Simply put, Seth is dependable and durable. His toughness has been pointed out by opposing players, coaches and even referees. Both Jesse and Randy took leaps and bounds this season, improving with every snap. They have the experience to come into next season with confidence for continued success.

It was truly an honor and a privilege to coach this Titans team this season. Those who will move on at the end of the school year, I wish you all the success I know each of you will achieve. To those who will return, I look forward to coaching you again next season. All of you truly are Titans for life.

Trojan rider qualifies for regional horse show

Western riders on the Colby Community College equestrian team competed in a two-day show on Saturday and Sunday in Laramie, Wyo.

"Mariah Woolsoncroft won her class which qualified her for the regional horse show," said Head Coach Shanda Mattix. "The team rode really well this weekend, although it wasn't reflected in their placings. They continue to improve each show and have really stepped up their level of competition."

Individual results for the shows follow:

Open Reining, Show 1

William Wright, Louisburg, fourth
Heather Darling, Abilene, sixth

Open Horsemanship, Show 1

William Wright, Louisburg, fourth
Heather Darling, Abilene, sixth

Advanced Horsemanship, Show 1

Chelsea Brady, Parker, Colo., fifth
Jessica Fuson, King City, Mo., sixth
Savannah Isely, Bird City, reserve

Novice Horsemanship, Show 1

Morgan Harms, Franklin, Neb., third
Mariah Woolsoncroft, Salina, reserve

Intermediate 2 Horsemanship, Show 1

Amanda Barnum, Colby, first
Brittany Normand, Fort Scott, second
Randi Cressler, Hoxie, reserve

Intermediate 1 Horsemanship, Show 1

Kegan Vanover, Norton, second
Liz Leiker, WaKeeney, sixth

Beginner Horsemanship, Show 1

Kara James, Balko, Okla., first
McKayla Albertson, Colby, third
Breanna Hooker, Galena, fifth

Open Reining, Show 2

William Wright, Louisburg, fifth
Heather Darling, Abilene, second

Open Horsemanship, Show 2

Heather Darling, Abilene, sixth

Advanced Horsemanship, Show 2

Chelsea Brady, Parker, Colo., second
Jessica Fuson, King City, Mo., fifth
Savannah Isely, Bird City, reserve

Novice Horsemanship, Show 2

Morgan Harms, Franklin, Neb., fifth
Mariah Woolsoncroft, Salina, first

Intermediate 2 Horsemanship, Show 2

Amanda Barnum, Colby, reserve
Brittany Normand, Ft. Scott, reserve
Tayla Kimball, Medicine Lodge, fifth

Intermediate 1 Horsemanship, Show 2

Kegan Vanover, Norton, fourth
Liz Leiker, WaKeeney, reserve
Alexa Fitzsimmons, Sterling, Colo., second

Beginner Horsemanship, Show 2

Kara James, Balko, Okla., second
McKayla Albertson, Colby, sixth

The equestrian team will conclude the fall season on Saturday at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Penn State fires head coach

By Genaro C. Armas
Associated Press

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. — For the first time in almost a half-century, someone other than Joe Paterno is calling the shots at Penn State.

The winningest coach in major college football history was fired Wednesday night, sending angry students into the streets where they shouted support for Paterno and tipped over a news van.

Also relieved of duty was Penn State president Graham Spanier. Both were ousted by a board of trustees fed up with the damage being done to the university's reputation by a child sex-abuse scandal involving Paterno's one-time heir apparent.

"Right now, I'm not the football coach. And I've got to get used to that. After 61 years, I've got to get used to it," the 84-year-old Paterno said, speaking outside his house. "Let me think it through."

Paterno had earlier in the day announced his intention to retire at the end of the season, his 46th. It didn't matter.

"I'm not sure I can tell you spe-

cifically," board vice chair John Surma replied when asked at a packed news conference why Paterno had to be fired immediately. "In our view, we thought change now was necessary."

As word of the firings spread, thousands of students flocked to the administration building, shouting, "We want Joe back!" and "One more game!" They then headed downtown to Beaver Avenue, where about 100 police wearing helmets and carrying pepper spray were on standby. Witnesses said some rocks and bottles were thrown, a lamppost was toppled and a news van was knocked over, its windows kicked out.

State College police said early Thursday they were still gathering information on possible arrests.

The decisions to oust Paterno and Spanier were unanimous, Surma said. Defensive coordinator Tom Bradley will serve as interim coach, and the university scheduled a news conference with him for Thursday morning. Penn State hosts Nebraska on Saturday in the final home game of the season, a day usually set aside to honor seniors on the team.

Provost Rodney Erickson will be the interim school president.

Paterno had come under increasing criticism for not doing more to stop the alleged abuse by former defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky, who has been charged with molesting eight boys over 15 years. Some of the assaults took place at the Penn State football complex, including a 2002 incident witnessed by then-graduate assistant and current assistant coach Mike McQueary.

McQueary went to Paterno and reported seeing Sandusky assaulting a young boy in the Penn State showers. Paterno notified the athletic director, Tim Curley, and a vice president, Gary Schultz, who in turn notified Spanier. Curley and Schultz have been charged with failing to report the incident to authorities, and Pennsylvania Attorney General Linda Kelly earlier this week refused to rule out charges against Spanier.

Paterno is not a target of the criminal investigation, but the state police commissioner called his failure to contact police himself a lapse in "moral responsibility."

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