

Assistant promoted to head coaching job

By Kayla Cornett

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Rusty Grafel

Colby on Saturday. "Obviously, we had so many sophomores last year, so we're bringing in a lot of new guys, but they're excited."

One of Grafel's first duties was hiring an assistant coach, and he said he's decided to bring in his brother, Egan.

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Egan Grafel played at Cloud County Community College for two years, and then transferred to Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Ill., where he completed his degree.

Rusty Grafel served as assistant coach

for the men's program for three seasons, working with Dustin Pfeifer, who resigned earlier this month.

"I am very pleased that Coach Grafel has accepted the head coaching job," said Athletic Director Ryan Sturdy. "He has an excellent record as a great recruiter for the program. His performance over the past three years has proven he can handle all aspects of coaching. I know he will continue the college's commitment to excellence under his leadership."

Grafel played one year at Hutchinson Community College, helping the Blue Dragons to a Jayhawk West Championship in 2003-04.

He transferred to Fort Hays State University, where he played three years for the Tigers and was part of the 2005-06

Rocky Mountain Athletic Association Championship Team that was ranked No. 1 in the nation. Grafel stayed at Fort Hays as a graduate assistant coach for the 2007-08 and 2008-09 seasons.

When Dustin Pfeifer got the job as head coach here in 2009-10, he hired Grafel as his assistant. Pfeifer didn't say why he was resigning, Grafel said.

"He just took a different route with his life," the new coach said.

The Colby men finished the 2011-12 season 19-12 overall and 7-10 in the Western Division of the Jayhawk Conference.

Coach Grafel earned bachelor's and master's degrees in health and human performance from Fort Hays.

Grafel said it's always been in his plan

to become a head coach.

"I've always wanted to be a head coach," he said. "When I first decided I wanted to be a coach ... I knew I kind of fell in that realm."

Rusty Grafel said this is his brother's first college coaching job. After graduating, his brother said, Egan was thinking about playing overseas and traveled to various cities before settling down in Colby.

The coaches' parents are Keith and Roma Grafel of Council Grove, and their grandparents are Don and Joan Grafel of Herndon.

A fun fact, Grafel said, is that his dad, a long-time coach and teacher, played on the men's basketball team at Colby before graduating in 1969.

Practice begins



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press

Danielle Foster (left) and Bailey Terrell (jumping) of the Colby High volleyball team worked on increasing their speed Tuesday in the high school gym by jumping over stretch bands as fast as they could. The fall sports teams began practices Monday.

Sold-out baseball games sometimes aren't so

By Dave Campbell

AP Sports Writer

Sellouts in pro sports aren't always so.

In today's world of social media, fans often point out perceived inaccuracies in attendance figures, perhaps posting a photo on Twitter of vacant seats to back up their beef. What gives?

"I've been at places where they announce large crowds on a nice sunny day and the ballpark is half empty. That's when people question, and I'm OK with somebody asking me that question," said Lou DePaoli, chief marketing officer for the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Teams insist they're not trying to sugarcoat a smaller-than-anticipated crowd.

Like most of the other sports leagues, Major League Baseball tracks attendance by the number of tickets sold.

The league uses these figures in revenue sharing calculations, which help the game's competitive balance between large- and small-market teams.

"Attendance becomes as much as an accounting sheet for us as

anything," league spokesman Pat Courtney said. "We use those numbers as much internally as we do externally."

OK, so they're not trying to be sneaky, simply seeking consistency.

Lee Igel, an associate professor in the sports business and management department at New York University, doesn't quite buy this.

"If they announced the true attendance number it'd look like there's something wrong with the business that people aren't showing up," Igel said.

Rewording the line in the box score from "attendance" to "tickets sold" would appease some of the skeptics, perhaps even in Boston, where the Red Sox have claimed the longest sellout streak in the history of major American professional sports, a run that started in May 2003.

The *Boston Globe* sent reporters to a game this spring to try to crack the case, finding unsold seats both online and at each Fenway Park ticket window well after the first pitch that night.

The Red Sox are no different than their peers, though.

Follow this example, especially if you liked word problems in math class:

The capacity at a certain stadium is 40,000 — that makes 40K an official sellout.

But with standing room tickets, 41,000 people can fit in the friendly confines before the fire department steps in.

On one particular night, let's say 38,000 of the 40,000 seats have been sold. But another 1,000 standing room tickets were purchased by people looking for a cheaper alternative for taking in the game.

And the team has also given away 1,000 tickets, including 800 to local charities and 200 comps to wives of players, friends of front office executives and high school pals of the home plate umpire.

So 40,000 is the announced attendance figure for the night, an official sellout, even though 2,000 seats were still available to buy when the game began.

Fans used to have to find a knot-hole in the outfield wall to watch a sold-out game. Now they can just get out the credit card and go right in.

Meadow Lake holds golf nights

For ladies' night on Aug. 7 at Meadow Lake Golf Course, 11 women played a two-lady scramble golf game.

The results: Cheryl Edmundson and Kacie Goetz and Audrey Hines and Logan Wark tied for first, and Susan Wark and Pam Augustine took second.

The next ladies' night was set for Tuesday with the game to be determined. Tee off was at 6 p.m. and cost \$2 per person with a \$10 green fee for nonmembers.

Last Wednesday, 66 men played a three-man scramble, worst drive for men's night. The results: for the first flight, Augustine, Dennler and Goetz, first; Stithem, Molstad and Molstad, second; and White, Stroud and Kern, third.

For the second flight, Beringer, Arensdorf and Sharp, first; Jacobs, Schroer and Ritter, second; Bange, Rush and Arnberger, third; Williams, Williams and Bogardt, fourth; and Otten, Lyndon and McLaughlin, fifth.

The next men's night will be tonight where a three-man scramble with three of each person's drives will be the game. Tee off will be at 6 p.m. and cost is \$5 per person with a \$10 green fee for nonmembers.

For couple's night on Friday, the golfers played a two-couple scramble. The results: Quintin and Mary Beth Flanagan and Travis and Jessica Vaughn, first.

The next couple's night will be Friday and the game is to be determined. Tee-off is at 6 p.m. and cost is \$5 per person with a \$10 green fee per couple for nonmembers.

Meadow Lake will hold the Oakley-Colby-Atwood Tournament on Saturday. It will be a four-person scramble on 36 holes and will be played in Colby on Saturday and Atwood on Sunday.

Cost is \$85 per person or \$340 per team, which includes breakfast, a meal after play and lunch on Sunday. Registration will be held from 8 to 9 a.m. and tee off will be a 9 both days.

For information on the tournament, call Kevan Taylor at the clubhouse at 460-6443, and for information or to register for any activities, call Meadow Lake at the same number.

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