

New head coach leading volleyball team

By Kayla Cornett

Colby Free Press
colby.sports@nwksas.com

The Colby High volleyball team has a new head coach this year, Jerry McKee, who is taking over following the resignation of Lesley Wagoner.

McKee is no newcomer, however. He has been coaching volleyball along with several other sports for 29 years. He was the head volleyball coach at Atwood High School from 1976-1981 and head coach at Goodland High School from 1986-2008. From 1982-88, he was an assistant in Goodland.

McKee's teams have made 13 state-tournament appearances, made it to the final four nine times, in the state championship five times and won state twice, in 1988 and 2003.

McKee said he is the ninth winningest coach in the state of Kansas, but had been eighth at one time.

Other sports McKee has coached include girls and boys basketball, both high school and junior high, boys tennis and junior high track.

"I've sent several players into the college ranks to play," he said, adding that he also has former players coaching at colleges.

McKee said he has also coached the Kansas Twisters, a United States Volleyball Association traveling team, which he formed in 1999.

"It ran through 2005 and then we recently reactivated that club," he said.

He said the team played in the Rocky Mountain region out of Fort Collins, Denver and Colorado Springs, among other cities. McKee said they played wherever they were assigned.

Girls on the team were 18 and under and from surrounding schools, including Heartland, Golden Plains, Wheatland and Cheylin.

He said when he heard about the open position in Colby, he just had to apply.

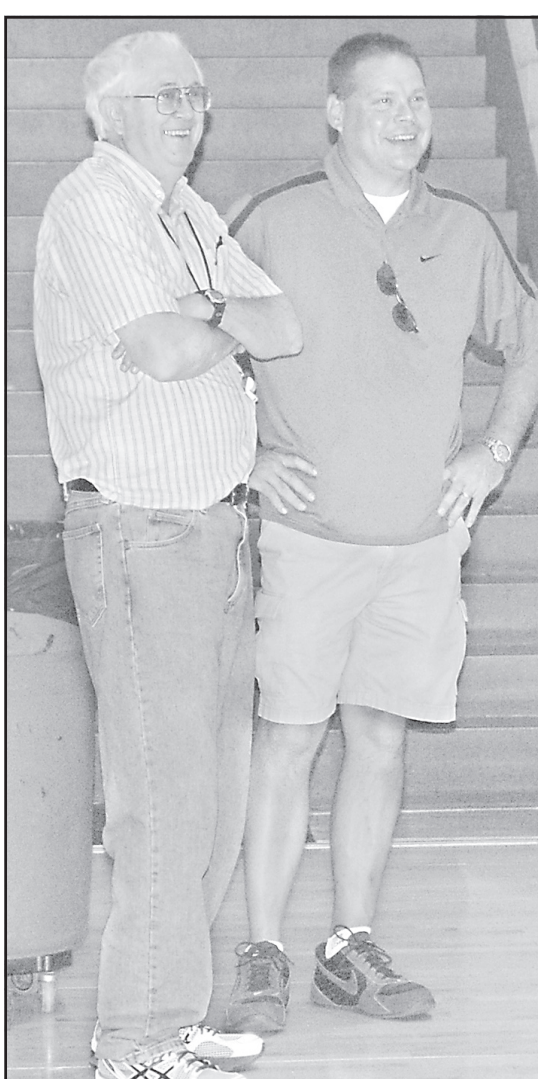
"I applied and happened to be lucky enough to get myself another coaching job," McKee said.

The Colby volleyball team began practice Monday, running two-a-days all this week.

McKee said he has 38 girls for the three squads, varsity, junior varsity and C-team. He said there are five seniors, five juniors, 11 sophomores and 17 freshmen.

"I'm very excited about where we're at right now," McKee said. "We're making good progress in our practices and the girls are adjusting really quickly, so we'll see where we're at for our first match."

McKee said the team will be working on a few things to help it be ready for the season.



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press
Colby High Volleyball Coach Jerry McKee (left) spoke with Dennis Tubbs Tuesday during practice at the high school gym. McKee was an assistant or head coach at Goodland High School from 1982 to 2008.

"We're hoping to increase our power level," he said, "build up the speed of our attack and just get our defense sound enough to seal in some matches."

McKee's assistants this year are Shirley Arberger, middle school volleyball coach, and Amanda Lewallen.

The C-team will play the first match of the season on Saturday, Aug. 25, in Phillipsburg. The teams' first home games will be on Tuesday, Aug. 28, with Holcomb, Norton and Osborne.

Recreation department plans tournament, race

The Colby Recreation Department has a couple of events coming up, including a coed softball tournament and a 10K relay race.

"Fitness is booming in Colby!" says Recreation Director Stacy Jasper.

Kick off your Labor Day weekend with the Colby Rec Marathon Coed Softball Tournament Friday, Aug. 31, and Saturday, Sept. 1. The tourney will begin Friday night and go through Saturday

morning. Team fee is \$100 and the tourney will be held at the Colby ball fields. To register, contact the Rec Department by Wednesday, Aug. 29.

Challenge yourself with the Colby Rec's newest competition, the 10K Relay Race, at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 22.

The race is for two- or four-person teams and costs \$15 per participant. The 6.3-mile course will

be marked roughly into 1.5-mile segments, so participants can run either a quarter or half the race.

"Recruit your friends and family for this winner-takes-all relay event," Jasper said. "There will be male, female, youth and coed divisions. Team uniforms are encouraged. Be creative."

Sign up by Wednesday, Sept. 5, to secure a spot for your squad. For information, call the department at 460-4440.

Hall of Fame to induct nine

The Kansas Sports Hall of Fame will hold this year's induction ceremony at 4 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 7, at the Boathouse in Wichita.

The Hall of Fame Class of 2012 includes Kansas State University All-American quarterback Michael Bishop; two-time national women's junior college basketball coach of the year, the late Kurt Budke of Salina; All-American quarterback David Jaynes from the University of Kansas; Sedgwick and Wichita State University Olympian and national champion

Harold Manning; K-State basketball All-American Willie Murrell; KU basketball All-Americans Wayne Simien of Leavenworth and Bud Stallworth; Legendary tennis coach David Snyder from Winfield; and softball All-American Brenda Stolle from Emporia State University. Budke and Manning will be honored posthumously.

For information on this year's class of inductees or to purchase tickets, go to www.kshof.org or call (316) 262-2038.

Royals rally for 3-2 win over Oakland

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Oakland's Brandon McCarthy pitched well enough to win his seventh straight decision Wednesday. Instead, McCarthy suffered his first loss since April 21, snapping his career-high six-game winning streak, as the Kansas City Royals rallied for a 3-2 victory over the Oakland Athletics.

"It stunk," McCarthy said. "It was a bad loss for us across the board. These are games we expect to win and games we have been winning all year."

The Royals scored two runs with two outs in the seventh.

"I'm not happy with myself," McCarthy said. "There are a lot of things I could have done better. Giving up runs, I don't like to do that. I don't like doing it late in the game. I don't like doing it with two outs."

McCarthy, who is 6-1 with a 2.45 ERA in his past nine starts, gave up three runs, two earned,

and seven hits in 6 2-3 innings, while walking none and striking out four.

Eric Hosmer, Lorenzo Cain and Chris Getz hit consecutive doubles, the first Kansas City extra-base hits of the game, in the seventh. Cain, who was in a 2-for-24 skid, doubled home Hosmer to tie the score. Left-handed reliever Sean Doolittle was brought in to face Getz. After fouling off five pitches with two strikes, Getz stroked an opposite-field double on the 11th pitch to bring home Cain.

"I tried everything," Doolittle said. "It's really frustrating when you locate. I thought I located pretty well. He fouled off a couple of breaking balls and a couple of pitches were down and away and he didn't take the bait, just off the strike zone."

Will Smith (4-4), a 23-year-old rookie left-hander, limited the A's to two runs and five hits, while striking out five and walking one.

In winning his past two starts, Smith has allowed four runs and 11 hits in 14 innings.

The Royals scored an unearned run in the first. Alcides Escobar, who reached on a fielder's choice, stole second and advanced to third on catcher Derek Norris' throwing error. Escobar scored on Billy Butler's grounder to Josh Donaldson, who threw home high and late.

The Athletics tied it in the second. Chris Carter led off with a double and he stopped at third on Donaldson's single and scored on Brandon Moss' single. Donaldson, who was recalled Tuesday from Triple-A, homered in the fourth to give the A's a 2-1 lead.

"Brandon pitched great," Donaldson said. "He was one pitch away from sealing the deal for us. They (Royals) weren't taking very good swings."

Good Holland worked around a single in the ninth to collect his fourth save in five opportunities.

K-State football coach, quarterback back for another season in Manhattan

By Dave Skretta

AP Sports Writer
MANHATTAN (AP) — Kansas State was picked to finish near the bottom of the Big 12 last year, and didn't do anything to change expectations with a last-gasp win over Eastern Kentucky to open the season.

By the end of it, the Wildcats were playing in the Cotton Bowl.

Much of the praise for the success fell on Bill Snyder, the wizard of the Flint Hills, who returned a few years back from retirement to rescue a program that he built from dust.

Just as much praise fell on Collin Klein, the Wildcats' gritty run-first quarterback, who doesn't seem to be truly in the game unless he has blood on his jersey, and whose late-game heroics led the program to more come-from-behind victories than could reasonably be expected.

Both are back for another go-around, and expectations are far higher this season, even if the old coach and his veteran quarterback refuse to believe it.

"I wouldn't say there's any kind of different feeling," Snyder said. "It's always improve day-in and day-out as a player, a teammate, an individual — across the board.

"If you improve," he said, "then you'll help us be a successful team."

Hard to argue with that after last season.

After Klein rescued the Wildcats from a potentially embarrassing loss in Week 1, they just kept getting better — the dramatic win at Miami, when a video review gave Klein the winning touchdown run on the final play, and the comeback victory over Robert Griffin III and Baylor.

The Wildcats would go on to win 10 games for the first time since claiming the Big 12 title in 2003, during Snyder's first tenure as coach.

"We were a better team at the end of last season than we were at the beginning," Klein said, "a better team at the end of spring than we were at the beginning of spring, and we've just got to make sure we're a better team at the end of camp than we were at the beginning."

Simple in theory, but many teams seem to struggle with it.

Perhaps it's Snyder's exacting attention to detail, a by-the-book, old-school way of teaching the game that startled just about everyone in the program when he returned.

Or maybe it's the fabric of a team full of guys no other major programs wanted.

Klein was recruited by a handful of schools when he decided on Kansas State, but he's flourished into one of the most mesmerizing quarterbacks in college football. He threw for 1,918 yards and 13 touchdowns last season, and had 1,141 yards and 27 TDs on the ground.

Now, his picture is showing up on billboards along Interstate 70.

"It's a different dynamic," Klein said. "Sometimes that exterior stuff just disappears, and it should, because it's not what's most important, and that's just getting ourselves as well prepared as we possibly can."

Klein certainly isn't the only

leader who emerged last season.

Pint-sized running back John Hubert, an under-the-radar guy like Klein, showed he could take a pounding in the Big 12. Wide receiver Chris Harper, a transfer from Oregon, caught 40 passes for 547 yards and five touchdowns — impressive numbers in a ground-based offense.

On defense, linebacker Arthur Brown — another transfer, this time from Miami — put up one of the best statistical seasons in school history. Along with a slew of tackles, he also showed big-play ability when he picked off Griffin to rally Kansas State past Baylor.

Brown could have declared early for the NFL draft, but he opted for one more season.

"He's come out of his shell a little bit," defensive back Nigel Malone said of the team's defensive wrecking ball. "It's good for the team to see that, somebody who's high-profile like that. The best thing about him is that he's stayed the same even through all the success."

Malone was pretty successful, too. He picked off seven passes, broke up 10 more and has shown up on just about every All-American watch list this season.

Kansas State opens the year against lower division Missouri

State on Sept. 1, and then welcomes Miami in the return of their home-and-home series. The Wildcats' final non-conference game is against North Texas before diving right into the Big 12 with a road trip to Oklahoma.

The schedule doesn't get much easier with trips to newcomers West Virginia and TCU, but after last season, there's a sense that it doesn't matter who the Wildcats play, or where.

They're going to provide a tussle regardless.

D&R PUMP SERVICE, LLC
Domestic, Stock, Windmill,
Solar, Submersible, Irrigation,
Repair and Sales.
With over 30 years of experience!

Ron Shipley - (785) 675-1422 state licensed Kansas and Nebraska member of the Kansas Groundwater Association
Devan Castle (785) 657-7217

Building a Legacy

MORTON BUILDINGS

For the Generations
For over 100 years, Morton Buildings has provided quality products and exceptional service to our customers. Whether you are thinking about a new machine storage building, farm shop or livestock building, we'll help you get a functional, dependable structure.

Eight offices serving Kansas
800-447-7436
mortonbuildings.com

New to the area? Join a long list of Morton building owners who know the value of a quality building.

300-447-7436 • mortonbuildings.com

Fluorescent NO HUNTING SIGNS

50¢ or 3 for \$1

COLBY FREE PRESS
155 W. Fifth, Colby KS • 785.462.3963

Rick Schroeder Memorial GOLF TOURNAMENT
Sponsored by: **The Hi-Plains Shrine Club**
Invites you to join in a day of Golf Fun!
Open Golf Tournament - ALL WELCOME
Saturday, August 25, 2012
Meadow Lake, Inc.
Four Person Scramble...Ladies Welcome
8:30 a.m. Shotgun Start
Limited golf carts available, please make your own cart arrangements.
Coffee & Rolls - Sack Lunch
Hamburgers after Play
Help Shriners Help Children • \$240 per Team
To Sign Up Call:
Lou Hines: 462-6755 Robert/Leon Schroeder: 586-2258
Albert Ball: 694-2791 Ken Christiansen: 694-2644
or sign up at Meadow Lake