



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press

The Colby High football team practiced special teams drills Thursday on the field behind the high school. The boys will see their first action at 8 p.m. tonight when they play a "drinks only" scrimmage at Dennen Field.

Colby football team signs up 54 players

By Kayla Cornett
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The Colby High football team's number of players are up this year, with 54 boys going out for the squads.

Coach Chris Gardner said he's feeling good about the upcoming season and said practices are going well.

"We've had a pretty good fall camp so far," he said.

This year, the team is composed of about 18 freshmen, 14 sophomores, nine juniors and 12 seniors.

Gardner said he lost six seniors to graduation, but said that's just the way it goes.

"That's kind of the nature of the game," Gardner said. "You get used to them being around and then they're gone."

Michael Tubbs, Konnor Kriss,

Leighton Koel, Andrew Elling, Braden Sager and Trevor Strutt graduated in May.

He said he has a nice core group returning this year, however, including senior Beau Brown.

Brown was the Eagles' leading rusher last year with 1,201 total yards. His performance was a good highlight for the 2-7 team.

Gardner said he's feeling optimistic about this season, though.

"I'm feeling pretty good, that's the beauty of football," he said, "you've got a new group of guys, they worked their tails off this summer and you feel good at this time of the year."

The other coaches helping out this year, Gardner said, are the same as last year: Matt Sims, Brad Wildeman, Ed Schmitt and Thomas Wieland.

As for the matchups, the Eagles will be playing two new teams this year, Oakley and Norton. Gardner

said this is the first meeting between the Colby and Oakley football teams in four years.

He said it's been longer since Colby's played Norton because he can't remember the last time they met.

The team's first action will be at 8 p.m. tonight when they play a sports drink scrimmage at Dennen Field.

The volleyball girls will also be holding a sports drink scrimmage at 6 p.m. tonight in the high school gym.

There is no admission charge for these scrimmages; a bottle sports drink will get you into the games.

The first game of the season will be at 7 p.m. next Friday in Oakley. The first home game will be the following weekend when the Eagles will play Scott City at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 7, at Dennen Field.

Cyclist faces loss of seven Tour de France titles

By Jim Vertuno
AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN, Texas — Never one to back away from a fight, Lance Armstrong is finally giving in and the cost of quitting is steep: His seven Tour de France titles could be gone as soon as today.

The superstar cyclist, whose stirring victories after his comeback from cancer helped him transcend sports, chose not to pursue arbitration in the drug case brought against him by the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency. That was his last option in his bitter fight with the agency and his decision set the stage for the titles to be stripped and his name to be all but wiped from the record books of the sport he once ruled.

Travis Tygart, the agency's chief executive,

left no doubt that was the next step. He said Armstrong would lose the titles as soon as today and be hit with a lifetime ban, even though he is retired and turning 41 next month.

Tygart said the International Cycling Union, the sport's governing body, was "bound to recognize our decision and impose it" as a signer of the World Anti-Doping Code.

"They have no choice but to strip the titles under the code," he said.

Today, the International Cycling Union said not so fast. The union, which had backed Armstrong's legal challenge to the agency's authority, cited the same World Anti-Doping Code in saying that it wanted the agency to explain why Armstrong should lose his titles.

The union said the code requires this in

cases "where no hearing occurs."

Armstrong clearly knew his legacy would be blemished by his decision. He said he has grown tired of defending himself in a seemingly never-ending fight against charges that he doped while piling up more Tour victories than anyone ever. He has consistently pointed to the hundreds of drug tests that he passed as proof of his innocence during his extraordinary run of Tour titles from 1999 to 2005.

"There comes a point in every man's life when he has to say, 'Enough is enough.' For me, that time is now," Armstrong said Thursday night, hours before the deadline to enter arbitration.

"I have been dealing with claims that I cheated and had an unfair advantage in winning my seven Tours since 1999," he said. "The toll this has taken on my fam-

ily and my work for our foundation and on me leads me to where I am today — finished with this nonsense."

The agency treated Armstrong's decision as an admission of guilt, hanging the label of drug cheat on an athlete who was a hero to thousands for overcoming life-threatening testicular cancer and for his foundation's support for cancer research. Armstrong could lose other awards, event titles and cash earnings, and the International Olympic Committee might look at the bronze medal he won in the 2000 Games.

"It is a sad day for all of us who love sport and athletes," Tygart said. "It's a heartbreaking example of win-at-all-costs overtaking the fair and safe option. There's no success in cheating to win."

Johan Bruyneel, Armstrong's longtime

coach, said the Texan is a victim of a legal process run amok.

"Lance has never withdrawn from a fair fight in his life so his decision today underlines what an unjust process this has been," Bruyneel wrote on his personal website today.

While Tygart said the agency can strip the Tour titles, Armstrong disputed that, insisting his decision is not an admission of guilt but a refusal to enter an arbitration process he believes is unfair.

Armstrong's comments notwithstanding, the agency has exercised its power to sanction athletes and strip their results regularly. Its website shows that it has issued 21 sanctions in 2012 so far in sports ranging from cycling to track to boxing to judo, with 17 of the athletes losing their results.

Kansas sets sights on opener

By Dave Skretta
AP Sports Writer

LAWRENCE — Charlie Weis and his new-look Jayhawks are closing in on their first game of the season, now just over a week away, and the push is on to get everything ready in time for South Dakota State.

One thing that's already set: the depth chart.

Even though Weis won't release it until next week — and won't even tell his players — the former Notre Dame coach said Tuesday that about "90 percent" of the depth chart is set, and the only remaining gray area involves a couple of players who arrived late to fall camp.

"That's where you hope to be by now," Weis said. "You hope to know who you're going with, because I think the one thing that happens in training camp is you don't get a ton of continuity, because you're rolling people in and out so much."

The most entrenched starter is Dayne Crist, the once highly sought quarterback who slipped off the radar at Notre Dame and opted to rejoin his old coach at Kansas.

Weis has praised Crist at every opportunity, even stopping in the middle of a question about the competition for the backup job to talk about his starting signal-caller. Crist has taken on a unique leadership role with the Jayhawks having worked with Weis in South Bend, Ind.

"It's a continual working relationship with Coach Weis with what we're doing well, what we need to improve upon. I'm just working within the framework of what he's giving me," Crist said.

Weis ultimately did address the backup quarterback job, giving

Mike Cummings the edge over junior college transfer Turner Baty. Cummings was recruited by former coach Turner Gill, but sat out last season and has impressed the coaching staff enough to get reps with the second team.

"Right now, Michael is ahead of Turner, and if we were to play a game this week, Michael would be No. 2," Weis said. "He's just played better."

The pecking order at running back has also shaken out.

Fleet-footed Tony Pierson has assumed the No. 1 job, and Taylor Cox has emerged as the backup ahead of Brandon Bourbon, who has dealt with several injury issues during his career.

Weis said that should remain status quo until Week 4, when James Sims is eligible to return to action. The junior running back has been the most impressive in practice, but he was suspended for the first three games of the season for violating team rules.

"Most of the jobs are settled. There's a little gray area with a couple of guys that got here real late," Weis said. "They know if they're still fighting. They're not blind. They can watch the tape and see who is playing better than the others, and who's getting more reps because of it."

The depth chart along the de-

fensive line could still receive a jolt when Ty McKinney arrives on campus. The 6-foot-3, 310-pound tackle has finished his course work at Trinity Valley Community College in Texas, but there's been a hang-up in allowing him to take his final exam.

Weis said that McKinney could arrive any day, and he's expected to provide valuable depth.

"It's going to happen sooner or later, even though it's already later from our perspective," Weis said. "We're in class (at Kansas), so what we can't do is let one of our young men fall behind academically. Let's just get him in class. Forget about football."

In the meantime, players on campus have already turned their attention to South Dakota State, the school from the Football Championship Subdivision that will open the season next Saturday.

Things pick up speed in a hurry after that — the Jayhawks face Rice the following week before playing No. 20 TCU, one of the Big 12 newcomers, at Memorial Stadium on Sept. 15.

Don't think for a second that Weis is looking that far ahead, though.

And don't think that he's letting anybody else look ahead, either.

Trojans add 13 to cross country roster

The Colby Community College men's track and cross country programs have added 13 to the roster for the coming seasons.

The recruits are from Kansas, Colorado, Texas, Louisiana, South Carolina, Pennsylvania, Bahamas and Grenada. The Trojans were looking to add recruits who will help them improve on yet another historic season.

"I'm very pleased with our new group coming in," Coach James Ortiz said. "We lost some great

sophomores and I think we did a good job finding guys that can come in and fill those spots immediately."

Last season, the Trojans finished in the top 15 nationally for all running sports (ninth cross country, 12th indoor track and field and 10th outdoor track and field).

"I think this class will help us maintain our status and be one of the better junior college programs in the nation," Ortiz said.

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