

Tennis team takes first in WaKeeney

The Colby High School junior varsity boys tennis team started its season off with a bang Tuesday, taking first place overall in a quad tournament in WaKeeney with Trego Community, Scott City and Russell.

In individual results, Zane Winger in No. 1 singles had some hard-fought matches, Coach Gene Rothfuss said, swept all three to take first place.

Matt Dickman, at No. 2 singles for Colby, defeated Scott City and Trego, but lost 8-5 to the Russell player.

In the No. 1 doubles slot, Chase Hartwell and Daniel Myers played well together in their first match as partners, Rothfuss said. They defeated Scott City and Russell handily, but had to go to a 7-point

tiebreaker in order to beat Trego after the game score tied at 7.

Freshman Tyler Oren and sophomore Angel Aguilar were playing together for the first time as well, and Rothfuss said Oren was brand new to the game.

The boys had some hard-fought matches, losing twice in 7-point tiebreakers. Although they played well, they ended up 0-3, the coach said.

"I am proud of our guys," Rothfuss said. "They not only played hard and competed well, but they had great attitudes going into the match."

"With all the snow delays preventing practice, they worked extra hard to get in shape physically and sharpen their tennis skills. I'm looking forward to a great year."

Sliding safe



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press

Sophomore Courtney Reilley slid safely into third base Tuesday during a Colby High varsity softball game at the city ball fields.

Wichita State hopes to make run at history

By Dave Skretta
AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA — Jerry Reimond remembers the captain coming over the speakers in the airplane cabin, asking a bunch of wide-eyed kids from Wichita State to gaze out the windows.

On one side, Mount Rainier climbed to the clouds. On the other, snow-capped Mount Hood.

They were on their way to the school's first Final Four, played that year in Portland, Ore., and a date with John Wooden and his powerhouse program from UCLA. They'd made it without their two best players, and a team featuring five blacks in an era of segregation, oblivious to exactly what they had overcome — something that would take the Shockers nearly 50 years to repeat.

"We had a police escort to the airport, and I remember that was the first time we'd had a police escort," said Reimond, a backup forward on the team. "It was a beautiful flight, and then Portland was so green. Everything about it opened our eyes."

"Then I remember stepping on the court that first night," Reimond said, "and what struck me as a kid at that time was that it was sort of a rarified or electric feeling in the air. The sounds were louder, they were sharper, the colors were more vivid, brighter, more intense...."

The surprising Shockers are finally back in the Final Four this year, facing Louisville on Saturday night in their first national semifinal since 1965, and you can bet they'll be feeling many of the same sensations on the elevated floor of the Georgia Dome.

But while this year's team has

been a longshot from the start, the Shockers of yesteryear were title contenders from the beginning of the season, returning nearly everybody of consequence from a team that lost to Kansas State in the previous year's regional finals.

Then, everything threatened to unravel in a few short weeks.

Their best player, two-time All-American Dave Stallworth, exhausted his eligibility at the semester, and senior center Nate Bowman was declared academically ineligible in late January.

The Shockers started five Kansans the rest of the season, none over 6-foot-5.

"We anticipated Dave was going to lose his eligibility, and when Nate had some personal problems, it was a shock," said John Criss, who played guard. "We had to start all over again, but that last semester was probably the best team basketball we had ever played."

The Shockers managed to win their first outright Missouri Valley Conference championship, and that automatically qualified them for the NCAA tournament. But they were no longer the sure bet to make it to Portland, just one of 23 teams trying to survive and advance.

"We had the best team that year, if we had a complete team," said Mohamed Sharif, a guard then known as Kelly Pete. "Others did step up real good, and we were able to accomplish more than most people thought we would. I still hear guys we played against back in that time, they're still amazed that we were able to go that far with the kind of talent we lost."

The Shockers began their tournament run by beating SMU, and

then used the trademark press that they learned under former coach Ralph Miller and honed under Gary Thompson to baffle a team from Oklahoma State that was led by another icon of the game, Henry Iba.

"That," Criss said, "was my greatest thrill of the tournament."

The result was a trip to the Final Four, even back then a big deal, where they were to meet a Bruins team that featured Gail Goodrich and Edgar Lacy. The Bruins were well-respected by then, the defending national champions, but had yet to earn the mystique of Wooden's later teams.

Even without Stallworth and Bowman, the plucky Shockers held their own at first, their game at Portland's old Memorial Coliseum tight until midway through the first half.

Goodrich and Lacy were too much for the Shockers, who lost 108-89.

Kansas Barnstormers will play here once again

The Kansas Barnstormers basketball team will be coming to Colby again this year, featuring big-name seniors from the University of Kansas basketball team.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thomas County is sponsoring the game at 5 p.m. Sunday, April 21, at the Colby Community Building.

The Barnstormers will feature KU seniors Jeff Withey, Travis Releford, Kevin Young and Elijah Johnson playing against the Northwest Kansas Boys High School Senior All-Stars.

Tickets, \$10 per person, can be purchased at participating sponsors: Palace Drug Store, Farmers and Merchants Bank at Dillons, the Sports Shoppe, J&B Meat Market, People's State Bank in Colby and Farmers State Bank in Atwood.

Tickets will be sold until they are gone, and there is no guarantee they will be available at the door.

"On call" tickets can be purchased by mailing a check with your reserve "on call" name for each ticket, made out to Big Brothers Big Sisters, Box 52, Colby, Kan., 67701.

These tickets can then be picked up at the "on call" desk at the Community Building the day of

the game. Checks must be received no later than Friday, April 19.

Doors will open about 4 p.m. and ticket holders can get autographs and purchase Kansas Barnstormers T-shirts from 4 to 4:45 p.m. downstairs in the Little Theater. Neither the team nor Big Brothers Big Sisters can guarantee an autograph, however.

Posed pictures with the players are not allowed during the autographed session, and the team asks that players not be approached for pictures or autographs after the game.

Big Brothers Big Sisters will be selling concession items. No food, drinks or alcohol may be brought into the building.

Sponsors for the event include KRDQ-KXXX Radio, the Colby Free Press, Leroy's Printing, J&R Marketing, the Colby Public Schools, the City of Colby and KTCC-FM and KGCR radio stations.

For information or questions, call Big Brothers Big Sisters at 460-9125 or Doug Finley at 462-3308.

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Scholarship Benefit Auction
Saturday, April 13, 2013 • Comfort Inn Convention Center

RSVP by Monday,
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Doors Open 4:45 p.m. • Buffet Dinner 5:30 p.m. • Live Auction 7:00 p.m.

LISTED BELOW ARE A FEW OF THE ITEMS DONATED:

Tracy & Relda Galli, Lyle & Nancy Saddler, Kenton & Sheila Krehbiel, and Leland & Roxy Wilson.....	NFR Package for Two (includes air, hotel, and tickets to 2 performances)	Jim's Electric, Inc.....	Cross Tour LED Light
Baalman's Funeral.....	Hot Diamonds Necklace	Logan County Imp.....	NAPA Wrench Set
Bankwest.....	Solid Oak Bench	Matt & Misty Mildenerberger.....	4 Piece Luggage Set
Bill and Janiece Dowell.....	Certificate 11/2" Diameter Tree	Mill & Seed.....	Gift Certificate
Campbell Concrete and Construction.....	Aspen Wine Holder	Mitten Inc.....	Steak Dinner for 2 at the Buckhorn Restaurant
Carousel Beauty Salon.....	1 Month Tanning	Northwest KS Physical Therapy.....	Alarm Clock
CCC Dental Hygiene.....	Electric Toothbrush- Bring to NICK	Oakley Vet Service.....	Gift Certificate for Rabies Vaccination, Heart Worm Test, and 6 months off Heart Worm Medication
CCC Trojan Backers.....	Flat Screen TV	Overtime Liquor.....	Liquor
CHS Inc. Colby Agronomy.....	120 Acres Sprayer Application	Peoples State Bank.....	1907 Colt Pistol
Colby Automotive, Inc.....	Model Cars	Personal Touch.....	Hair Care Basket
Colby Cross Fit.....	2- Gift Certificates for Personal Training	Pestinger Beverage Co.....	Mirror
Colby Free Press.....	Advertising	Plum Creek.....	Gift Certificate
Colby Glass & Sign Co.....	Mirror	Quality Inn.....	Free Night at the Hotel
Colby Police/Thomas C. Sheriff Office Impound Facility.....	BBQ Grill	Rocking M Radio.....	Country Stampede Tickets
Colby Rotary Club.....	Pool Pass to Colby Pool- Family & Individual	Sleep Inn of Colby.....	Free Night at the Hotel
Commercial Sign Co.....	Fishing Trip for 2 to Lake Texhoma (includes boat, guide, and stay at Texoma's Lakeside Motel)	Sport Shoppe.....	K-State Vest
Dillons.....	5 cubic foot Deep Freeze	Sport Shoppe.....	KU Windbreaker Jacket
Dr. Larry & Joyce Washburn.....	Rototiller	State Farm Insurance.....	18" Sterling Silver Necklace with a Polished Onyx Disc
Edward Jones.....	Flat Screen TV	Stephens Construction.....	Wayne Dalton-9600 Garage Door- 9'7", Brown in color, 2" Track, Insulated, Metal
Farm Credit of Western KS.....	1/4 oz American Eagle Gold	Stockton Pharmacy.....	Wall Hanging
Farmers & Merchants Bank/Farmers State Bank.....	K-State and Louisiana Tech	Swartz Veterinary Hospital.....	2 Free Annual Exam & Rabies Vaccinations
G & E Farms.....	Football Tickets- September 7th	Tails-A-Waggin Pet Grooming.....	Gift Certificate
Gambino's Pizza.....	2 Family Meal Deals	The Neighborhood Nook.....	Basket with Coffee Mugs and Coffee
Golden Harvest.....	8 Bags Golden Harvest Seed Corn H-8969 3122 RIB	Tubbs & Sons Ford.....	Miranda Lambert Concert Package
Golden Plains Garden Center.....	Wrought Iron Basket/Gift Certificate	Udderly Delicious.....	5 Gift Cards
Hairitage.....	Matrix Basket	Van's Body & Frame.....	Truck Alignment
Health Cottage.....	Gift Certificate	Vision Source.....	Revo Aviator Sunglasses
Office Works.....	Broyhill Sofa	Western State Bank of Colby.....	Tailgating BBQ Outfit- Grill, Bag, Utensils
Hoxie Concrete Co.....	Gift Certificate	Wilderness Spirit Taxidermy.....	Gift Certificate

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