

# College team selected for good grades

The Colorado School of Mines men's swimming and diving team, including Colby native Kalen Rasmussen, was recognized as the second-ranked Scholar All-America Team in NCAA Division II for the fall 2012 semester.

Rasmussen, a sophomore majoring in chemical and biochemical engineering at Mines, in Golden, Colo., has a 3.733 grade average, making him one of seven swimmers and divers that carried an A- average or higher.

The 14 men sported a collective

grade average of 3.28 in the fall, earning the No. 2 team billing for the second consecutive semester after compiling a 3.42 grade average last spring.

Mines was one of just 22 programs nationally and the only Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference school to receive Scholar All-America distinction.

A total of 457 teams, representing 318 colleges, were acknowledged for team grade averages above 3.0 for the semester.



Colby native Kalen Rasmussen dove into the pool on a relay in the Colorado School of Mines men's swimming and diving team. February during a swim meet in Golden, Colo. Rasmussen is on

KARIN RASMUSSEN

# Varsity tennis squad third at Russell tourney

The Colby High varsity boys tennis team played at the Russell Invitational on Friday, taking third place with a score of 34.

Pratt won the tournament with a score of 70, Ellsworth was second with 44, Larned fourth with 33, Russell fifth with 31, Hoisington sixth with 25, Trego Community seventh with 20 and Ellinwood eighth with 20.

Michael Schiferl took third place in No. 1 singles after going 3-1 in his matches.

In No. 2 singles, Aaron Higerd finished fifth, winning two matches and losing one.

Zane Winger and Chase Hartwell, playing No. 1 doubles, came in fifth with a record of 2-1.

In No. 2 doubles, Billy Selley and Daniel Myers took sixth with one win and two losses.

The varsity boys will play at 3 p.m. Friday in Scott City, followed by a tournament at 8 a.m. Saturday in Garden City.

The Eagles will hold a home tourney at 3 p.m. Friday, April 26, at the tennis courts at Fike Park and Colby Community College.

Hays, Liberal, Scott City, Ullyses and WaKeeney will attend the tournament.

# College equestrian riders qualify for national show

Three members of the Colby Community College equestrian team rode at the Zone 8 Championships at the Colorado Horse Park in Parker on April 6 and 7, with two earning the right to go on to national championships.

To qualify for this show, riders placed in the top two at regional competition. The show included the five Intercollegiate Horse Show Association regions west of Kansas. Teams represented 30 universities and two-year colleg-

es. Colby has the only two-year program in Kansas.

"This show was special because it was hosted by our region - Zone 8, Region 5," said Coach Shanda Mattix. "Colby Community College is the Region President College, so much of the responsibility for this huge event fell on the CCC team."

"We received many compliments on a smooth-running show and the positive attitudes of all in our region."

Amanda Barnum, Colby, was zone champion in Individual Walk-Trot-Canter Equitation, qualifying her for the IHSA Nationals in Harrisburg, Pa., from Thursday to Sunday, May 2 to 5.

Chelsea Brady, Parker, was reserve champion in Open Equitation on the Flat. This qualifies her for the national show.

Brittany Normand, Fort Scott, placed eighth in Individual Novice Equitation over Fences.

# Denver Nuggets secure third seed with 118-98 win over Suns

By Arnie Stapleton

AP Sports Writer

DENVER - The Denver Nuggets finally got a chance to bask in the glow of their stellar season with the third seed in the Western Conference playoffs wrapped up and the best home record in the league secure at last.

"Thirty-eight and three," Karl said, letting the sweet sound of it all roll off his tongue after Denver's 118-98 rout of the Phoenix Suns on Wednesday night. "I don't know how many teams have won 38 games at home."

The Nuggets are the 11th, and Karl is the only coach to do it with two different teams. His Seattle squad accomplished the feat in 1995-96.

The Nuggets will face the sixth-seeded Golden State Warriors in the first round beginning Saturday in Denver.

"I think we can take tonight and just be really happy with what we've accomplished, how we've come together as a team," said Andre Iguodala, who scored 20

points to go along with Wilson Chandler's 21 as Denver extended its franchise record homecourt winning streak to 23 straight.

The Nuggets weren't sure who that would be as they left the arena, knowing only that he'd begin the playoffs at the Pepsi Center, where they eclipsed the old franchise record of 36-5 set in 1976-77, their first year in the NBA.

Hours later, the playoff seeds were finalized with a trio of late games on the West Coast and the Warriors earned the matchup against Denver by winning 99-88 at Portland.

After a hectic final week, Karl planned only a light workout Thursday for the Nuggets, who won an NBA franchise record 57 games overall, besting the 54-win seasons of 1987-88 and 2008-09.

Luis Scola's 17 points and 11 rebounds led the Suns, who wrapped up the second-worst season in franchise history with a mark of 25-57, the worst in the West. The only one that was worse for the Suns was their inaugural

NBA season in 1968-69, when they went 16-66.

The Nuggets have won 40 of 50 this calendar year, putting Karl and vice president Masai Ujiri in the conversation for coach and executive of the year honors, respectively barely two years after

Carmelo Anthony forced his way out of town.

"It's a great accomplishment to win that many games, especially with such a young team," JaVale McGee said.

Yet, he senses the Nuggets still have to prove themselves to a

skeptical public in the playoffs.

"I don't feel any expectations," McGee said. "I feel like we're underdogs and that people feel we're lucky with what our record is, but we'll show them."

Lacking a star, the Nuggets won more games than ever before by

relying on teamwork, ball movement and a deep roster that's so far withstood the losses of Danilo Gallinari (ACL), who's out for the season, and Kenneth Faried (ankle), whom they're hoping can return in the first round of the playoffs.

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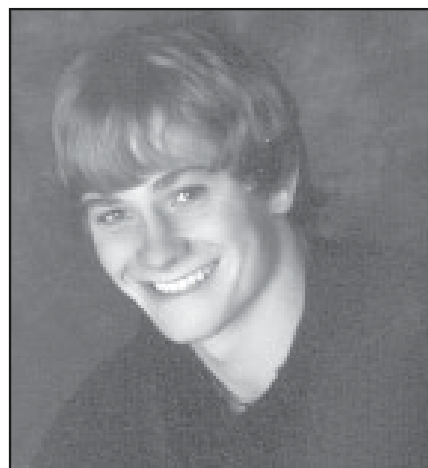
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The Colby Free Press is now planning the Senior Graduation Tab and will be giving parents a chance to put a baby picture in along with a short message from the family for a small fee.

We will automatically feature your student's picture and information, but this will be your chance to put in a baby picture to show how much your senior has really changed over the years!



Call Sharon or Kathryn, at **785-462-3963** for more information or stop by the office at 155 W. Fifth in Colby.

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