

Colby coach steps down after 20-year run

By Philip Finley

Jeff Krzycki, long-time coach of both Colby K-18 and Colby American Legion baseball along with Colby recreational teams, will not coach the 2014 season to spend time with family.

The father of three will continue to coach Colby High girls' softball next spring.

His passion for baseball really began in Columbus, Neb., where three teams of age 15, 16 and 17-18 played Legion baseball.

At age 16, Krzycki pitched two years and advanced to the Seniors Legion team where he played outfield and pitched for another two years.

After graduating from high school in 1982, Krzycki attend Peru (Neb.) State College where he pitched four years from 1983 to 1987.

He developed a curveball and change-up to go with his fast ball that was clocked at 85 miles per hour.

Graduating from Peru in 1987, Krzycki continued pitching for the Columbus town team as part of a semiprofessional baseball league. He pitched hundreds of games through the summer of 1989, including two 11-inning games and a 13-inning contest.

Jeff and wife Shelly Krzycki then moved to Colby in 1990



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press
Jeff Krzycki will continue to coach Colby High softball in 2014.

where they would own and operate the Taco John's franchise. The couple became parents to daughter Jordan upon arriving in Colby.

Since there were no semi-pro baseball teams closer than Denver, Jeff "sat out" for two years.

However, that's when Krzycki discovered his love for coaching. He directed a Colby recreation team in 1992 and 1994 before

beginning a 13-summer stint of coaching K-18 baseball from 1995 through 2007.

During '07, Krzycki also coached American Legion Post 363 teams with local attorney John Gatz, who was general manager and coach.

In 2009, Gatz retired so Krzycki became both general manger and coach through 2013.

At one point on short notice, he became interim coach of another American Legion team which promptly won eight consecutive games.

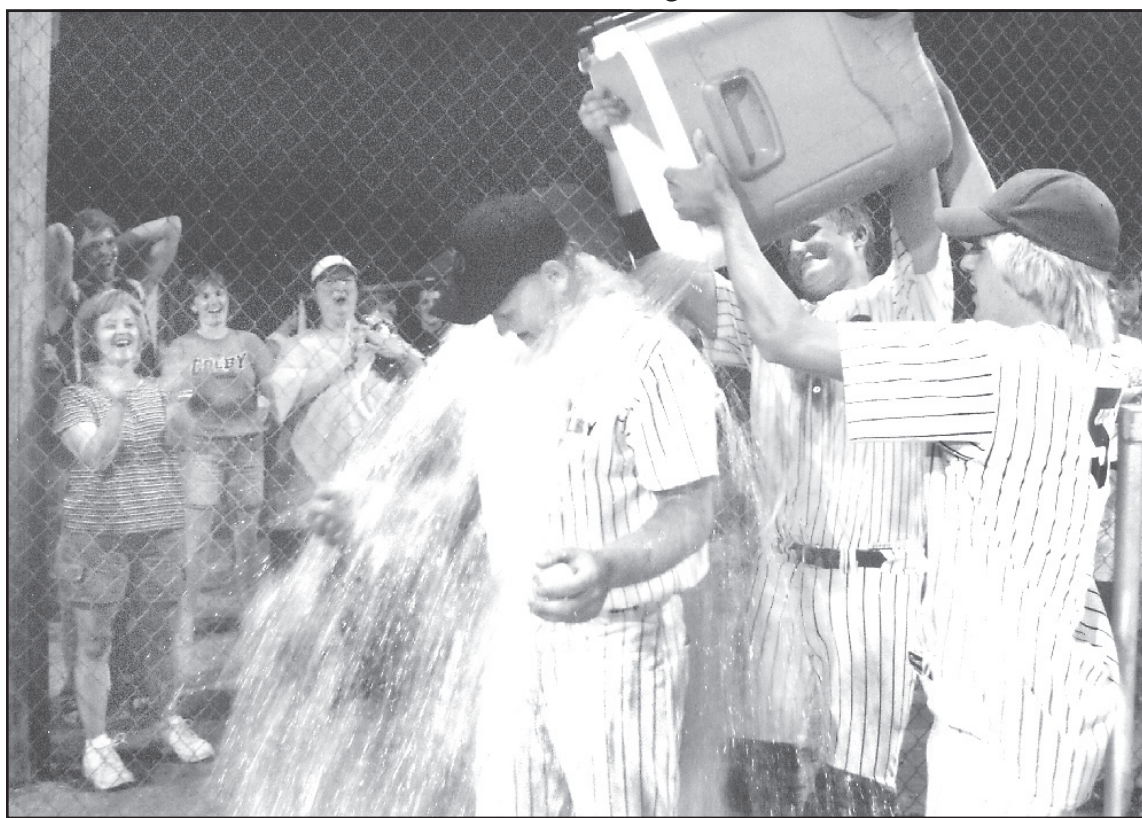
Volunteer coaches — whoever they may be — give time, energy and personal donations to make it possible to field teams.

One observer estimated Krzycki's hours of loving labor for Colby youth baseball teams added up to 3,000 with a minimum of \$24,000 donated for the programs since 1993.

Jeff and Shelly Krzycki's three children — Jordan, Preston and Tessa — have literally grown up on baseball diamonds.

Preston was a member of the Colby High 4A baseball team and played for those 2008 American Legion state champions.

The 2008 Colby Legion team delivered a 21-game winning streak en route to that championship. The hitting power of those players and the stamina of those



Colby Free Press
Coach Jeff Krzycki, left, got a victory shower from his 2006 Colby baseball players after a big win.

pitchers, who could throw 60 pitches in a game and return to pitch the next day, made that 2008 team terrific champions.

All the volunteer coaches in Colby through the years have taught not only how to win baseball games, but how to be good

sportsmen and citizens, win or lose. Jeff Krzycki will be remembered along with those other excellent Colby community volunteer baseball coaches.

Thanks, Jeff, and best wishes.

The new Colby American Legion baseball general manager

and coach will inherit a team that many believe can repeat that 2008 team's state championship effort. The new leader must begin in February to prepare for the 2014 season.

Who will replace the great Colby coach Jeff Krzycki?

Trojans take apart KSU-Salina again

Life in the 70s suited Colby Colby Community College just fine Tuesday night during a 132-48 victory over KSU-Salina.

The Trojans shot 71.4 percent (55 for 77), scored 72 second-half points and exceeded a 131-75 triumph over these same Salina foes last month.

Sophomore Jeremiah Ingram needed only 28 minutes to deliver a triple-double: 23 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists.

"We got back on the winning track," coach Rusty Grafel said about his team snapping a recent three-game losing streak. "That's good going into a game tonight against a good (Air Force Prep) team."

Air Force Prep visits the Colby Community Center for a 7 p.m. contest tonight that will complete the pre-holiday break schedule.

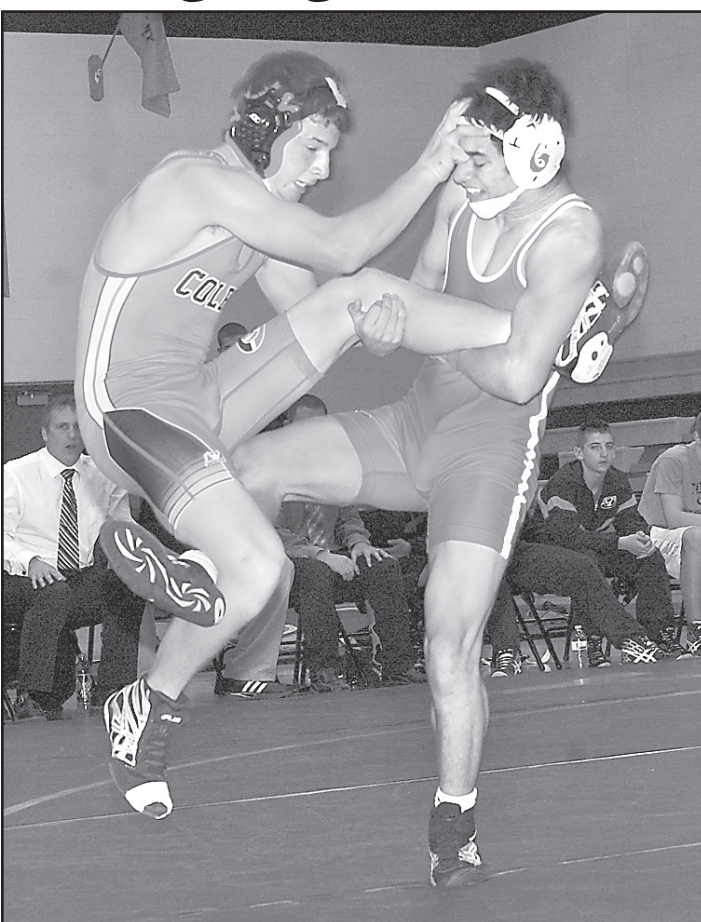
The Trojan men won't play again until Jan. 7 against Trinidad (Colo.) State.

Besides Ingram's terrific Tuesday effort, 6'10" center Ramon Johnson scored 20 points on eight-for-10 shooting.

Freshman David Tait also delivered one of his finest collegiate games so far with 19 points, eight rebounds.

Colby (132) — Jeremiah Ingram 23 points, Ramon Johnson 20, David Tait 19, Gage Deis 14, Jamal Jones 13, Branden Williams 11, Joey Meyer 10, Terry Starks 6, Justin Talley 6, Kyle Summers 5, Anthony Barley 3, Sager Grafel 2. Three-point goals: Williams 2, Jones, Summers. Rebound leaders: Ingram 11, Williams 11. Assists: Ingram 10, Meyer 8. Steals: Meyer 3. Blocked shots: Starks 2, Ingram 2.

Who's going down?



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press
The Colby High wrestlers fought off 6A Top 10 Dodge City during their season debut last week. Now Colby is home for a triangular today (5 p.m.) followed by this weekend's Eagle Dual Invitational. The invite schedule appeared Wednesday.

Bulldog boys lose opener to Bobcats

By Judy Rogers
Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains Bulldogs tipped off their basketball season in Ransom Friday night when where they faced the Western Plains Bobcats.

Starting for the Bulldogs were seniors Shane Ryburn, Grant Spreser, Tristan Schwarz and Zach Spreser along with sophomore Kade Wessel.

The Bulldogs put up six points to the Bobcats' seven in the first quarter.

The Bobcats stepped up their defense in the second to hold the Bulldogs to three while putting up 14 of their own claiming a 21-9 at

the half. The Bulldogs switched baskets for the second half and finally got some shots to fall with 10 points in the third finishing with 14 in the fourth.

The Bobcats, however, held on with 11 and 15 to claim the 47-33 win over the Bulldogs.

"Overall, we played well together," Wessel said. "Our shooting needs to improve in order to get where we can put ourselves in position to win multiple games."

Ryburn's 10 points paced the Bulldogs followed by Schwarz with seven, Grant Spreser's six, Benny Martinez's five, Koi Wessel's three and Kade Wessel with two.

Area football trio gets all-state honors

Colby High senior Andrew Taylor, Triplains-Brewster senior Seth Smith and Golden Plains junior Benny Martinez earned All-State football honorable mention in Sunday's *Topeka Capital-Journal*.

Taylor was both the leading tackler and rusher for Colby High this fall.

Martinez became the area's leading tackler with a combined 136 stops, and Smith played both lines for Triplains-Brewster's 6-3

team.

Basketball scholars

Colby High senior basketball players Marc Bremenkamp and Abby Friesen were named to the 31st annual Hays Shootout All-Academic team.

Eagles cheerleader Victoria Rall earned this same all-academic honor. Colby cheerleaders supported both the girls and boys teams through a busy six-game opening weekend in Hays.

Baseball banning collisions

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP) — Major League Baseball plans to eliminate home plate collisions, possibly as soon as next season but no later than by 2015.

Sources tell ESPN's Buster Olney that there is a strong desire for MLB's rules committee to fast-track the specific rule changes in time for next season.

Golden JV girls win

By Judy Rogers
Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains junior varsity girls easily won their first game of the season against the Lady Bobcats of Western Plains on Friday.

"We started a little rough," sophomore Ana Bermudez said. "But eventually we got it together."

The girls jumped on the Lady Bobcats early with a three-point shot from Gabrielle Schiltz and held a 9-0 lead through one quar-

ter. Their lead reached 19-7 by halftime.

With one more quarter in this three-quarter game, the Lady Bulldogs kept control for the 28-9 win.

Scoring for the Lady Bulldogs were Gabrielle Schiltz with a game-high 12 points, Maddy Walz four, Brittany Fringer three, Morgan Ritter three, Bermudez two, Rachael Ritter two and Carmen Sepulveda two.

The junior varsity girls will next play Weskan on Friday, Dec. 20 in Rexford.

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