

Former Bronco players boost young athletes

G-CLUB, from Page 1

are a role model in the school. You have a responsibility to stay in school and do well — get the grades. The young ones are watching you, and they will try to be just like you.”

He told the students that they must remain strong in the face of pressure. “What image are you going to set?” he said. “It is left up to you. Pressure? Yes, there is pressure, but it is part of the package.”

While coaching at Tabor, Upchurch said, he was having trouble recruiting good student athletes because, while they might be talented, they did not have the grades to get into college.

“I went back to the counselors and told them they were not doing these young people any favors by giving them easy classes,” he said.

He told the seniors, “Make sure you are taking charge of your life. Be that role model.”

He also gave advice to the younger students and their parents.

“You’re next in line,” he told the younger athletes. “Mom and Dad stay on them as you will be the most influential. You are the true role models.”

Upchurch said his sports camp will hold a football camp in Goodland on June 19-23. Besides teaching basic football skills, he said, the camp will also help kids connect on a more personal level.

“We give out hugs,” he said. Accompanying Upchurch was fellow Bronco Greg Boyd, who also works with Rare Breed. Boyd said he is looking forward to the football camp in June.

Boyd was a linebacker who played with the New England Patriots, Broncos and Green Bay Packers. He was known for his versatility. After 10 years in the NFL, Boyd turned to acting and wrestling in the World Wrestling Federation. He is also an accomplished singer, having performed at the Paramount Theater, Moulan Rouge and in Vienna, Austria.

The former football player said he loves working with children.

“I have found that my calling is to inspire and exhort young people,” Boyd said. “That is what I do. I am proud of the time I have put into young people.”

He said he wants to help young people feel good about themselves.

“Many young people come to me wondering if they are good enough,” he said, “and I try to give them some encouragement. They are the future of this country.”

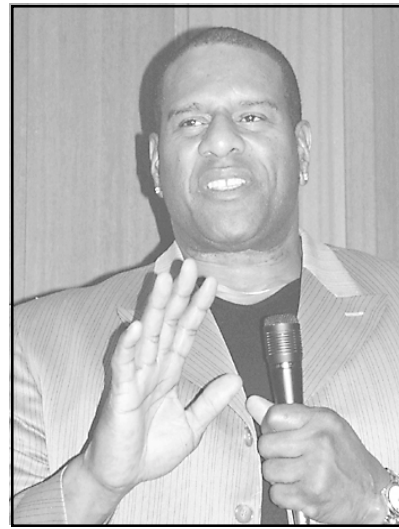
Boyd told the athletes that they must be disciplined to achieve their goals.

“Sports is a discipline and you have to be committed to it to excel,” he said. “It is hard.”

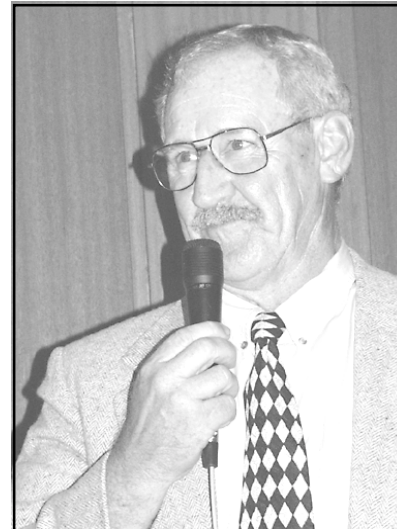
After the speakers, Athletic Director Dick Liess presented several special



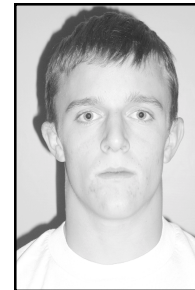
Rick Upchurch



Greg Boyd



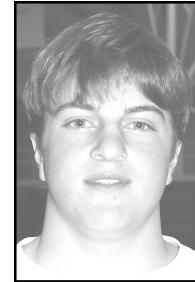
Wallace Hansen



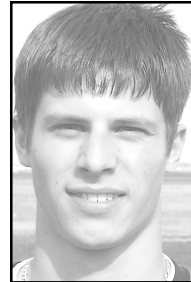
Abbey



Mentzer



Stone



Billinger

awards The Todd Sieck and Gary Dean Laughlin Memorial awards went to senior Bryce Abbey and the Ralph Topfiff Memorial went to senior Matt Mentzer.

All league honors went to senior Luke Stone for both football and basketball, and Mentzer received all league for basketball.

Special recognition was given to Mike Burke for his years as assistant wrestling coach.

Wallace Hansen, who has been a coach and G-Club sponsor for eight years, was surprised with an honorary membership and letter jacket.

Recipient of a special G-Club schol-

arship was senior Tyler Billinger.

Three seniors were honored for having lettered in three sports and maintaining a 3.2 plus grade average: Mentzer, Jeremy Stefan and Shandon Wolak.

Eight Cowboys were honored for lettering in a sport for four years: Abbey, wrestling; Billinger, golf; Matt Gattshall, cross country; Mentzer, tennis; Stone, track; and Curtis Swager, Kyle Whisler and Wolak, all for wrestling.

Nine were honored for lettering in three sports this school year: (football (FB), basketball (BB), golf (GF), wrestling (WR), track (TR), and tennis

(TN)) Billinger, FB, BB, GF; Taylor Brack, FB, WR, TR; Bryan Mai, FB, BB, TR; Andrew Melia, FB, BB, TR; Mentzer, FB, BB, TN; Kris Rubio, FB, BB, TR; Stefan, FB, BB, TR; Stone, FB, BB, TR; and Wolak, FB, WR, TR.

Swager, outgoing president, said the club had a good year and that they sent a donation to Hoisington High School to help with tornado damage.

He introduced the officers for the year. Stefan, vice-president; Whisler, secretary; Danny Rasure, treasurer and Billinger, student council representative.

Incoming G-Club President Brian Bauman introduced the officers for

next year and presented the seniors with plaques and paddles. Officers for next year are Max Saint, vice-president; Melia, secretary, Brian Mai, treasurer; and Bryce Bahe, student council representative.

Seniors receiving plaques were: Abbey, Billinger, David Briney, David Crutcher, Bernie Fisher, Tim Franklin, Gattshall, Tyler Henderson, Tyson Livengood, Mentzer, Rasure, Jason Showalter, Stefan, Mickey Steiner, Stone, Swager, Nathan Thompson, Whisler and Wolak.

Rockies break losing streak with victory, 12-4

DENVER (AP) — Kevin Appier was well aware of the adventures of pitching at mile-high altitude. He just wasn't around long enough to get the full experience.

Appier lasted only two batters into the second inning, his shortest outing in nearly five years, as the Colorado Rockies ended a three-game losing streak with a 12-4 victory over the New York Mets on Tuesday night.

“I’ve pitched here before in the minor leagues and I was aware it changes and alters stuff,” said Appier, who spent the first 12 years of his big league career in the AL before signing with the Mets last winter.

“We’re down 5-0 in a heartbeat and our pen winds up having to pick up almost the whole game. I was extremely disappointed.”

Neifi Perez was largely responsible for Appier's troubles, going 4-for-5 and matching his career high with four RBIs.

“Is there a better shortstop? I don't know,” Colorado manager Buddy Bell said. “He brings energy every night and I know I wouldn't trade him for anyone else.”

Perez singled twice, doubled and tripled to raise his batting average to .395. He is 21-for-59 (.356) since coming off the disabled list April 24.

“I feel like I never was on the DL,” said Perez, who missed 13 games after tearing a ligament in his left thumb. “I was taking a lot of batting practice and a lot of groundballs, so I never got out of good shape.”

Colorado starter Pedro Astacio (4-2) allowed four runs and eight hits in 6 1-

3 innings to win for the first time in three starts.

Desi Relaford homered twice, the first multihomer game of his career, and Edgardo Alfonzo added a solo shot for the Mets, who had won five of seven.

After allowing five runs and six hits, Appier (2-3) has given up 14 earned runs in 18 2-3 innings and remained winless in four road starts.

“Kevin couldn't get the low strike and brought it up,” Mets manager Bobby Valentine said. “When he brought it up, they hit it.”

The Rockies batted around in the first inning, scoring four runs. Todd Helton's two-run double was followed by RBI doubles from Greg Norton and Todd Hollandsworth.

Colorado chased Appier in the sec-

ond after Juan Pierre singled and scored on Perez's triple. It was Appier's shortest outing since going two-thirds of an inning on May 13, 1996, with Kansas City.

Colorado scored four times in the third against Tom Martin, highlighted by Perez's two-run double and an RBI double by Larry Walker.

Perez drove in his fourth run of the game with a two-out single in the fifth, making it 10-2.

Alfonzo's solo homer and Alex Escobar's run-scoring infield single — his first major league hit — pulled the Mets to 10-4 in the sixth.

“My biggest problem was with my offspeed stuff,” said Appier, who had previously pitched in Denver while with Triple-A Omaha. “It seemed like it was breaking pretty good low, but I couldn't get many calls and I couldn't get them to chase that pitch.”

Notes: The Mets placed CF Jay

Payton on the 15-day DL with a strained right hamstring. His roster spot was filled by Escobar, a 22-year-old outfielder from Triple-A Norfolk.

The last time Relaford had a two-homer game was against the Rockies' Double-A team at Visalia.

The Rockies placed LHP Brian Bohanon on the 15-day DL after X-rays revealed chips and spurs in his left elbow. They recalled RHP Robert

Averette from Triple-A Colorado Springs.

Colorado prospect RHP Tsan Chin Hui is scheduled for reconstructive elbow surgery May 23.

Colorado reached 200 runs in its first 32 games. Only the 1997 team (30) reached that mark faster.

Every member of Colorado's starting lineup, including Astacio, had at least one hit in the 18-hit attack.

Kings push Avs to seventh game

DENVER (AP) — Following their coach's prophetic lead, the Los Angeles Kings pushed the Colorado Avalanche to a seventh game that seemed implausible a week ago.

On the eve of the season's most important game, it was Colorado's turn to push back.

“You can get at the top of the mountain and start yelling all you want, but the action's going to be at the Pepsi Center at 8 o'clock,” Avs coach Bob Hartley said Tuesday. “I have lots of faith and lots of trust in my players. I like our chances and I like the challenge.”

A little swagger might be what Hartley and Colorado need as they prepare for Game 7 of the Western Conference semifinals Wednesday night. Bravado has served Los Angeles well.

After falling behind 3-1 in the series, Kings coach Andy Murray predicted Los Angeles would win the series if it could force a Game 7.

The Kings responded with two straight shutouts, but have scored only once in each game. They also must guard against a letdown against a franchise seeking its first Game 7 victory since 1985.

“If anything, they're going to feel like they're due in Game 7,” Kings defenseman Aaron Miller said. “It's our third Game 7 in a row, as far as we're concerned. I expect they're going to have their best game of the series. Our team is going to be ready. We didn't do what we did in the last two games for no reason.”

Los Angeles, the seventh seed in the West, has evened the series on the

strength of defense and the play of goalie Felix Potvin, who has blanked Colorado for more than eight periods, a span of 164 minutes, 28 seconds.

Hoping to gain a mental edge, Hartley reminded reporters of Potvin's playoff failures. Although the goalie is 3-2 in deciding games, he has twice allowed five goals in Game 7 losses.

“We know our history, but we also know Felix Potvin's history,” Hartley said. “We know this and I'm sure he remembers also. It's all in the past and I think it's worth what it's worth. People change and you learn from experiences. When the puck drops, I don't think that the past means anything.”

Athletes of the Week are:

Wendy's Athletes of the Week are Goodland High School track members: Hayley Jarmin and Andrew Melia. At the Colby Invitational, Jarmin placed second in discus, third in shot put and fourth in javelin. The Cowgirls are placing high individually and as a team. Andrew Melia was among the highest Cowboy placers, second in javelin at 157' 11.”

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