

## Denver could host All-Stars

DENVER (AP)—NBA commissioner David Stern says he is pleased with the direction of the Denver Nuggets despite the team's struggles in recent years, and that the city would be an excellent site for the NBA All-Star Game.

Stern made his comments during an informal news conference before the Nuggets' game with the Detroit Pistons on Monday night. He was in Denver as part of a tour that will include stops in Portland, New Orleans, Utah and Seattle.

Stern said he is not concerned about owner Stan Kroenke's low profile because he believes new general manager Kiki Vandeweghe has the franchise headed in the right direction.

Denver has not reached the playoffs since 1995 and has finished no

higher than fourth in the Midwest Division for the last 12 seasons.

"I don't think it's about the owner, it's about the face of the franchise," Stern said.

"I think that in Kiki Vandeweghe, there's a very strong face to this franchise and I think that Stan has chosen well."

Stern also said the Pepsi Center, which opened for the 1999-2000 season, would be an ideal site for the NBA All-Star Game.

"We have no doubt between hotels, arena and, I don't want to give it away, but I know a community that isn't that far to ski either before or after, this is a very attractive (site)," Stern said. "I assure you that there are strong professional and personal emoluments that favor Denver, ultimately, as an All-Star site."

# Goodland to host wrestlers

By Doug Stephens

*The Goodland Daily News*  
Goodland will be swarmed this weekend by little, and not so little, wrestlers.

The district tournament of Kansas Kids Wrestling Club will be held Saturday at Max Jones Fieldhouse, where about 600 kids will compete in different age and weight brackets, said Terry Bahe, president of the Goodland club. Wrestlers range in age from 4 to 16, Bahe said.

There is no cost to watch the young wrestlers, and concessions will be sold. There are four districts in Kansas, Bahe said, and Goodland is in District 4. The subdistrict meet was held in Hays on Saturday.

He said the top four kids in each age/

weight group in their subdistrict meets qualified for the district meet. The four top wrestlers in each age/weight bracket in the district tournament will advance to the state competition Friday, March 29 in Topeka.

Aside from the regular district tournament, there will be a special division for kids 6 and under Saturday, Bahe said.

The regular meet's lowest age bracket is eight and under. Kids 6 or under can compete in that age bracket, or in the special division. If they choose the younger division, they can't go on to state.

"The special division is to make it fair," said Bahe, "so these little kids have a chance to compete against people their own age."

Goodland will be represented by 42 wrestlers in the regular tournament and 12 in the 6 and under division.

**Goodland Wrestling Club District Entries**

**Six and under:** James Dinkle, 43 pounds; Tanner Abbott, 43 pounds; Brook Bahe, 46; Cy Paxton, 46; Jazzmin Weis, 49; Shay Miller, 49; Colton Cooper, 52; John Peden, 52; Alex Nelson, 55; Ian Bonsall, 61; Ashlee Roeder, 64; Taylen Smith, 73.

**Eight and under:** Austin Avelar, 49; Seth Miller, 58; Laine Herl, 88.

**Ten and under:** Teather Dautel, 64; Timothy Roeder, 70; Nathan Deeds, 79; Paul Starr, 82; Keegan Smith, 90; Ryan Taylor, 95.

**Twelve and under:** Jordan Albers, 72; Preston Dautel, 76; Kerek Mason,

80; Michael Ledesma, 80; A.J. Stephens, 84; Ben Davis, 88; Aaron Deeds, 92; Phillip Bullington, 92; Brett Schields, 96; T.J. Hawkins, 115; Casey Henderson, 120; Josiah Goodley, 120; Nicholas Smith, 130; Bobby Doxon, 165.

**Fourteen and under:** Brett Bahe, 85; Brett Lalicker, 90; Brandon Zelfer, 100; Chad Normandin, 105; Dexter Deeds, 105; Brandon Hatfield, 130; Blake Saint, 135; Brandon Cowan, 150; Mark Starr, 155.

**Sixteen and under:** Brock Whitmore, 115; Blayze Bahe, 120; Matthias Goodley, 125; Tyrel Rall, 125; Malcolm White, 130; Dustin Klinge, 140; Taylor Brack, 160; Brandon Linden, 165; Jordan Bedore, 215; Landon West, 215.

## Kansas remembers loss to Illinois

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP)—Kansas coach Roy Williams remembers what happened a year ago, when Illinois manhandled the Jayhawks in the NCAA Tournament's round of 16.

He remembers that season-ending 80-64 loss — not to avenge it, he said, but to avoid repeating it.

"I'm sure it's in my mind that, 'They kicked our tails last year, and boy, we really have to be prepared,'" said Williams, whose team meets Illinois on Friday in Madison, Wis., in the semi-finals of the Midwest Regional. "Our players understand that they kicked our rear end last year, and they're not going to lose that memory."

"But the fact of the matter is, that game has nothing to do with the game we're getting ready to play now," Williams said Monday.

Kansas (31-3) is seeded first, Illinois

(26-8) fourth. The Illini have won 11 of their last 12 games.

"Their last 12 games, they've played as well as anybody in the country," Williams said. "But I also think we're better than we were last year."

Illinois, then the No. 1 seed, outrebounded fourth-seeded Kansas 45-30 in last year's meeting.

"It wasn't just that they beat us on the backboards," Williams said. "We've had teams beat us on the backboards and we've won the game. They beat us in every aspect of the game: offensively, defensively, rebounding."

Illinois' dominance on the boards did have one lingering effect, Williams said: "It provided our guys some motivation to work harder in the offseason and get stronger."

Williams said guard Kirk Hinrich, who had 15 points and eight assists in

Saturday's 86-63 win over Stanford despite spraining his ankle two nights earlier against Holy Cross, would take only limited practice time on Monday.

"If we had to play a game today, yes, he could play," Williams said. "The good news is that we don't have to play."

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Tuesday, March 19 - Little 8 League Meeting at Grinnell, 2 p.m.; Little 8 Scholars Bowl at Grinnell, 4 p.m.

Wednesday, March 20 - WKLL Speech & Drama at Jennings, 10 a.m.; WKLL Meeting at Jennings, 1 p.m.; WKLL Meal, 5:30 p.m.; WKLL All-League selection Meeting at Colonial Steakhouse, 6:30 p.m.

Friday, March 22 - No School; Teachers' Inservice.

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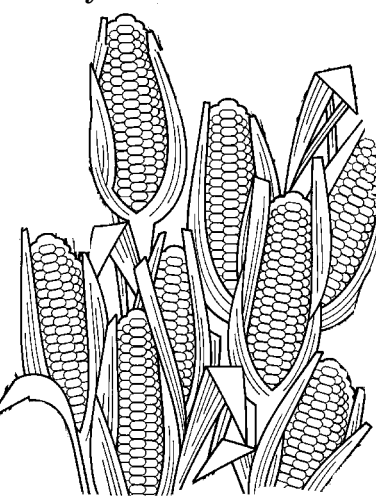
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