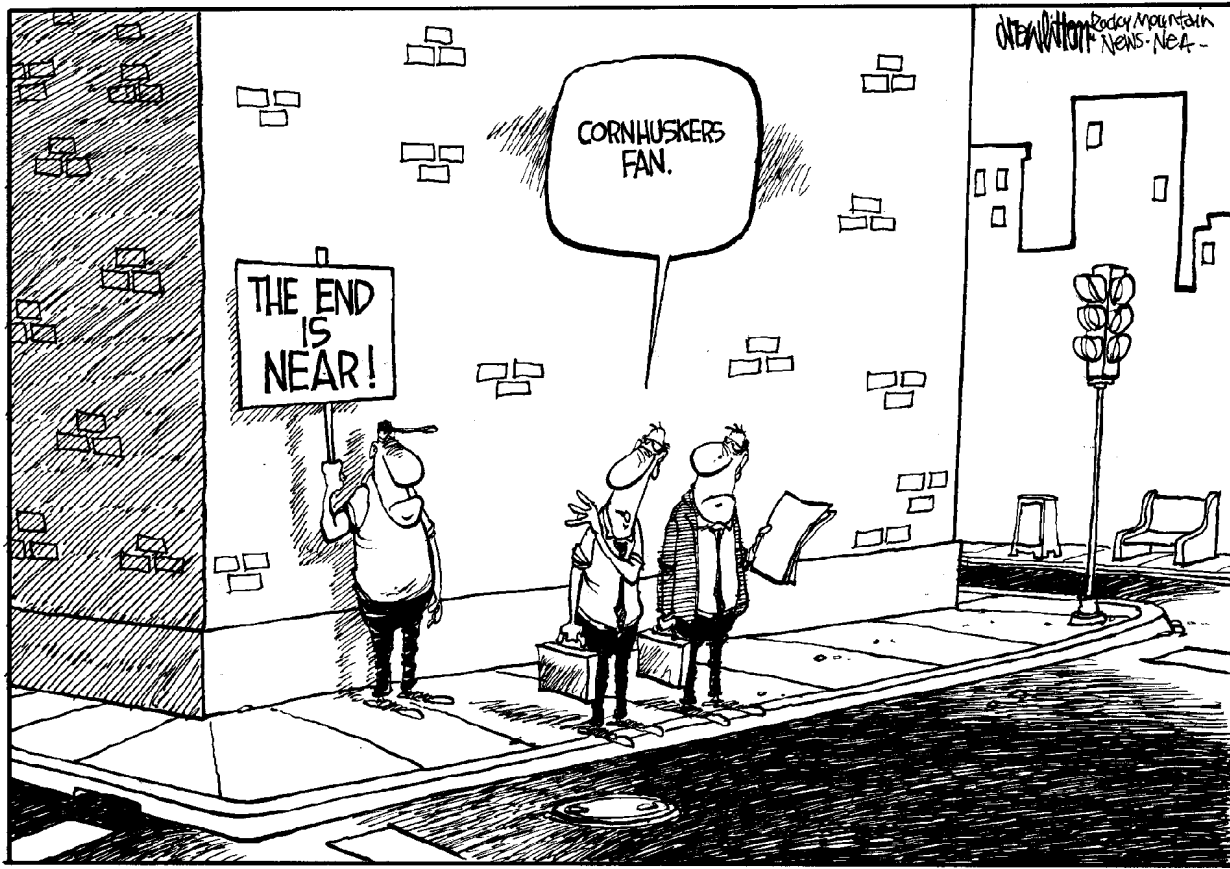


Brewster top team at regionals

The Brewster Bulldogs are the favored team at this year's Class 1A regional volleyball tournament starting at 2 p.m. Tuesday in Sharon Springs. Brewster ranked No. 1 with a 20-4 record and has a bye in the first round. At 2 p.m., No. 4 Sharon Springs (14-14) will take on No. 5 Triplains (11-12). At 3 p.m., No. 2 Grinnell (23-5) will play No. 7 Wheatland (9-21), and No. 3 Tribune (16-10) will play No. 6 Weskan (12-15) at 4 p.m. The winner of the Wallace County/Triplains match will play Brewster at 5 p.m., and the other quarter-final round will take place at 6 p.m. The semi-final round is at 7 p.m., and both teams in that match will head to sub-state Saturday, Oct. 26.



Season over after players break rules

PRETTY PRAIRIE (AP) — A few days after Pretty Prairie suffered its fourth loss of the year, coach C.T. Young interrupted practice to say that any player who had violated the school's substance abuse policy should step forward. First one player did, then another — 16 of the 23 Bulldogs in all. And with that, Pretty Prairie High School's eight-man football season was over, ending Oct. 8 with three games to play. "He did what he had to do and he was right," said team leader Matt Graber, who had been the second to step forward behind fellow team leader Zac Wilder. "The rest of the team doesn't blame him."

It was Graber himself, a senior nose guard who admits chewing tobacco, who had gone to Young about the problems.

Some players drank alcohol and partied heavily, even on game nights, while others smoked or chewed tobacco — all in violation of a zero tolerance policy adopted by the Pretty Prairie USD 311 school board two years ago.

Superintendent Bob King said the players "showed a lot of integrity by stepping forward and admitting they violated the rules."

"When the coach asked who had violated the policy, they could have looked the other way. They could have lied," King said, "but they were men enough to admit it and accept the consequences."

Young admitted that the scope of his players' honesty took him by surprise. "I expected just a few to step up, not a whole bunch," he said Thursday.

Young said the clearly worded substance abuse policy left little room about the decision he had to make.

Matt Graber's father, David, said the season's abrupt ending has been a shock to the Pretty Prairie community. He worries that it may affect his son's chances for a football scholarship, even though he admitted he knew his son chewed tobacco against policy.

But as difficult as it may be for his son, Graber ultimately supported the school board and the coach for not bending the rules.

"That's a hard lesson for these boys to learn," Graber said. "But I think the coach didn't have much of a choice."

Broncos helping out teammate

DENVER (AP) — Insisting that their teammate got a "raw deal," the Denver Broncos plan to chip in to help cover the salary Kenoy Kennedy will lose during a suspension.

Kennedy was suspended without pay for one game because of his helmet-to-helmet hit on Miami receiver Chris Chambers on Sunday night. The suspension will cost Kennedy \$25,294.

Including two earlier fines this season, Kennedy has been fined a total of \$42,794 — nearly 10 percent of his \$430,000 base salary.

"We're all going to chip in and help," cornerback Denard Walker said Thursday.

"We're going to help Kenoy as much as we can and try to get him through this. It's a tough situation to be in," said Walker, who also was involved in the play.

"Kenoy is a good person," fullback Mike Anderson said. "He doesn't play the game that way. He never comes out to intentionally try to hurt somebody. He plays aggressive and he's a guy who just loves to hit."

On Wednesday, coach Mike Shanahan showed the me-

dia slow-motion replays of the hit, saying Kennedy was lined up to hit Chambers in the chest before Walker, who was behind Chambers, pushed Chambers' head down just before the contact.

Shanahan's argument that Kennedy's suspension was too severe was rejected by Gene Washington, the NFL's director of football operations.

After looking at replays of the hit, Broncos receiver Rod Smith said he thinks Kennedy "got a raw deal."

"I'm a receiver and I don't like seeing receivers get hit like that," Smith said. "But when you look at the footage of what actually happened, with Denard pushing the guy in back, you would think with all this high technology and slow motion that we've got, they would take that into account."

"You can tell they didn't do that. You're appealing to the same guy who fined you, and I personally think that's a lose-lose battle."

Rookie Sam Brandon, a fourth-round draft choice from UNLV, will take Kennedy's spot in the starting lineup at Kansas City on Sunday.

Avalanche stop Los Angeles cold

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Colorado Avalanche ended another notable run by the Los Angeles Kings.

Colorado has eliminated Los Angeles in the postseason in the past two seasons, and Thursday it snapped the Kings' best season-opening winning streak in 14 years with a 4-1 victory.

Peter Forsberg powered Colorado's first victory of the season with two goals and an assist.

"This was a good win for us," said Patrick Roy, who made 26 saves.

"This is not a place where we've had success in the past. We didn't want to fall too far behind them in the standings."

The Kings had won a season-open-

ing three straight — one shy of the club record.

Forsberg opened the scoring at 4:03 of the first period on a power play, after a bad rebound by goalie Felix Potvin on Rob Blake's slap shot from the top of the right circle. It was Forsberg's first regular-season goal since March 11, 2001.

"You always need someone who can break a team's back or change the flow of a game, and that's what he does," Adam Foote said. "When he's on, he can definitely win you hockey games. We have that 1-2 punch with Joe Sakic, and if one guy's struggling and the other team is shutting him down, the other guy might get some more room."

Eric Belanger tied the score at 6:49 of the second with Los Angeles' first short-handed goal of the season.

Foote scored the go-ahead goal for Colorado with 13:28 remaining. As the Avalanche defenseman left the penalty box, he snuck behind Kings defenseman Lubomir Visnovsky.

"I didn't know how much time was left on the penalty," Larsen said. "It just worked out right because he was coming out of the box. I wish I could say it was a great play, but it was lucky timing. That's all."

Forsberg made it 3-1 with 7:32 left, taking the puck behind the net and tucking a wraparound shot between Potvin's legs.

rec results

- City-County Recreation Co-Ed Volleyball Wednesday, Oct. 16**
- American Family Insurance over ADM/ Collingwood Grain 15-8 and 15-10.
 - Killa B's over Alex Radiator & Repair 15-3, 15-0.
 - Killa B's over Alex Radiator & Repair 15-3, 15-0.
 - Killa B's over First National Bank II 15-11, 15-3.
 - Pirate Electric/Brewster Frontier Equity over Alex Radiator & Repair 15-3 and 15-3.
 - Duell Farms over First National Bank I 15-12 and 15-11.
 - American Family Insurance over Duell Farms 15-12 and 15-11.
 - Century Feeders over First National Bank I 15-7 and 15-9.
 - Pirate Electric/Brewster Frontier Equity over Century Feeders 15-7 and 15-4.
 - Scared Hitless over First National Bank II 15-3, 14-16 and 11-8.
 - ADM/Collingwood Grain over Scared Hitless 15-8 and 15-8.

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901 Broadway	1506 Center	1003 E. Hwy. 24	117 Main (U/C)
403 & 411 Cherry	125 E. 6th (reduced)	(Commercial)	4.6 acres - East 8th
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Wildcats excited over Texas match

MANHATTAN (AP) — The word "Texas" on the uniform of Kansas State's next opponent should be enough to get 17th-ranked Wildcats energized for Saturday's game.

If Kansas State beats the No. 8 Longhorns, it could set a path for a special season and put the program back in the national spotlight — and that has the Wildcats doubly excited.

"Every game from here on out is a turning point for us because if we lose one more, we're out of the Big 12 championship," offensive lineman Nick Leckey said. "The fact that they are a top-five school would really put us on the map — and they are Texas."

If history is any indicator, it won't be an easy task. Under Coach Bill Snyder, the Wildcats are 2-22 against teams in the top 10. The Wildcats are 1-7 since 1997, when Kansas State began a four-year streak of 11-win seasons.

"This will be the game of all games," offensive lineman Steve Washington said. "This is for pride and exposure. You have to take this a lot more serious. Texas is one of those programs that everyone is gunning for."

In its two games against top 10 teams last season, Kansas State was competitive, but let the game slip away with mistakes. The Wildcats had 17 penalties for 139 yards in a 38-37 loss to

Oklahoma. Quarterback Eli Roberson threw two interceptions, one that was returned for a touchdown, in a 31-21 loss to Nebraska.

"You can't do that against good teams in big games," said strong safety Rashad Washington. "Everybody was up for those games, but it just didn't go our way. The team that makes the less mistakes will win the game."

Linebacker Terry Pierce admits that Kansas State hasn't fared well against top 10 teams, but he said the Wildcats aren't alone. Texas has lost its last four against teams in the top 10.

"This is the next step we have to take," Pierce said. "But I think they (Texas) have the same problems."

Although Kansas State's players attempt to prepare the same for each game, Pierce said it's hard to ignore the implications of this weekend's game against Texas.

"Theoretically, it shouldn't matter who you're playing," Pierce said. "But the fact that we have a lot of Texas players and all the other hype, contributes more than their ranking."

For the Longhorns, it's going to be a matter of overcoming the emotional hangover of their loss to the second-ranked Sooners last week in Dallas. Year after year, the Texas-Oklahoma game is the most emotionally compelling on either team.

Quarterback still hobbling

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Kansas City quarterback Trent Green was still hobbled with a sore ankle Thursday and backup Todd Collins took most of the snaps in practice.

Coach Dick Vermeil said his Wednesday estimate it was about "60-40" that Green would play on Sunday against Denver was still valid.

"He did limited work. Todd Collins did some good things," Vermeil said.

"Overall, it wasn't a good practice today. I'm disappointed."

Green, who leads the NFL with 15 touchdown passes, injured his ankle near the end of the first half last week at San Diego. With the ankle taped, he finished the game.

"I think he's planning on playing (on Sunday) and I think we'll plan on playing him," Vermeil said. "He took limited reps today, that's all I can say."

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