

Colby Eagles get new football coach

By TISHA COX
Colby Free Press

Greg Koenig will take over the Colby High School football program this fall. He was hired by a unanimous vote of the Colby School Board at its meeting last Monday. He said he's excited to be coming to Colby and is looking forward to new challenges. "I'm looking forward to building relationships with the kids, making a positive impact in their lives and of course the competition," Koenig said. "I have high expectations and I'm coming in with a very optimistic attitude."

Koenig has 12 years experience as a coach and he's spent the last six

seasons as head football coach at Las Animas High School in Las Animas, Colo. His overall record as head coach is 22-26 and he's had success rebuilding a team.

In 1998, the year before he took over, the Trojans went 0-9. During the 1999 season, his first as head coach, the team went 2-7. His second year in 2000 brought a 4-6 record and Las Animas' first play-off berth in nearly 10 years.

The 2001 season yielded an 8-3 record in which the Trojans were league champs and made it to the state quarterfinals. Koenig said it was the first time since 1976 the team had earned that distinction.

Las Animas had a 6-3 record in

2002 and was tied for second place in a three way tie but missed the playoffs because of a tie-breaker.

This past fall, Koenig said the team went 2-7. "We only had 16 kids on the team," he said. "That was actually pretty productive."

The team had so few players, Koenig said, because the school's enrollment dropped by almost 45 students.

In the early 1990s, he said the team averaged 40-45 kids but in the last several years, the numbers had dropped to 28-32 because the high school has lost enrollment due to a shrinking population in the community. Koenig attributed that to the loss of a Veterans Administration

hospital that was shut down, and drought conditions.

He said Las Animas is a 1A school. "Our classifications are a little different," Koenig said. "There are 145 kids in the high school."

Koenig started teaching and coaching in Colorado straight out of college in 1990. His first year in Las Animas he served as an assistant middle school football coach and also as an assistant high school basketball coach.

In addition to his coaching duties, he'll also teach junior English. "I can't wait," Koenig said, adding he was partly attracted to the Colby job because he'll also get the chance to

delve in to American Studies.

He said it's a combination of U.S. history and literature and he'll probably be working with another teacher on it. He will also teach weight classes.

On the personal side, Koenig was born in Seattle, Wash. but grew up in North Dakota. He attended Valley City State University in Valley City, N.D. and graduated in 1990.

He and his wife Rhonda have three children, 17-year-old Jeremy who will be a freshman at North-eastern Junior College in Sterling, Colo., this fall; 16-year-old Jada who will be a high school sophomore and 14-year-old Zack who starts eighth grade this fall.

Koenig said Rhonda is a senior vice president in charge of compliance at First National Bank in Las Animas.

He didn't play sports in school but he's always had the interest and was happy he got the chance to start as a coach in Las Animas. He also enjoyed working under Mark Bliss who is getting ready to leave coaching in Conway Springs for a job in Florida.

Koenig is looking forward to meeting and working with the faculty, students and said the community appears to be "successful and progressive."

"Our family's excited about the move," he said.

sports shorts

Weskan native drafted by pro basketball team

Todd Okeson, a senior guard for the University of Nevada basketball team, was chosen 11th in the first round by the Dodge City Legend during the United States Basketball League draft on April 13.

Okeson, a 2000 graduate of Weskan High School, was the Kansas Class 1A Player of the Year as a senior. He played two seasons at Dodge City Community College before transferring to Nevada. He is the son of Darrel and Connie Okeson of Weskan.

Okeson started all 34 games for the Wolf Pack this past season, lead-



Todd Okeson

ing his team to a 25-9 overall record, the most wins in school history, and an appearance in the NCAA Division I "Sweet Sixteen." He lead the team in assists and steals, and was third in scoring, averaging more than 11 points per game.

Twice during the national tournament he was named the CBS/Chevrolet Player of the Game.

In the 2002-2003 season, as a junior, Okeson started 21 of 30 games and averaged 10 points per game.

The United States Basketball League comprises 11 teams that play a 30-game schedule. Dodge City is 3-2 for the season and were to host the Kansas City Cagerz Monday. The Legend will host the Oklahoma Storm

Wednesday at the Dodge City Civic Center. Tipoff is at 7 p.m. (Central Time).

Sheep Dog Trials Saturday

The sixth annual Cottonwood Ranch Sheep Dog Trials will be held Saturday and Sunday at the Cottonwood Ranch State Historical Site, west of Studley on U.S. 24, about 18 miles west of Hill City and 15 miles east of Hoxie.

Competition begins at 8 a.m. (Central Time) and end about 5 p.m. on both days. There are four classes of competition: open, pro-novice, novice and nursery. The open class is scheduled for early afternoon both days. Admission is free. Food and refreshments will be available.

The event is co-sponsored by the Kansas State Historical Society and the Friends of Cottonwood Ranch, and sanctioned by the American Border Collie Association.

For information, call Ed Matkke at (785) 743-2976.

Lady Trojan home run leader is former Cowgirl

Shanae Calkins, a freshman at Colby Community College, led the Lady Trojans softball team in home runs going into this weekend's conference tournament in Salina.

Calkins, a 2003 graduate of Goodland High School, has seven home runs for the season. She had a .303 batting average going into the tournament. Calkins also has one of only two triples hit by the Trojans so far this season. The other belongs to freshman Alissa Shields, also a 2003 graduate of Goodland.

Calkins hit her latest home run last Wednesday during Colby's 9-3 win over Cloud County Community College in the first game of a doubleheader. Colby also won the second game, 5-4 in eight innings, making the Trojans' overall record 20-36 going into Saturday's action.

Cowboy scores seven in All-Star contest

Cowboy senior Lance Tedford scored seven points for the Northwest Kansas All-Star basketball team against the University of Kansas Jayhawks barnstorming team Saturday in Grinnell.

The Barnstormers won 136-86 after leading 59-45 at half time. Brett Olson, a senior for the Jayhawks this past season, led all scorers with 50 points, followed by Jeff Graves, also a Jayhawk senior, with 38.

Cody Sattler, a senior at Oakley High School, led the all-star team with 11 points. Jered Sloan of Norton and Egan Grafel of Oberlin scored 10 each.

About 625 fans attended the game, hosted by Grinnell High School's Technology Student Association.

This was the third stop on the Barnstormers' seven game schedule. Their next game will be Thursday in Overland Park at Blue Valley West High School.



Lance Tedford

Turkey permits, tags available online

Turkey hunters can get their permits and game tags for the spring season, which ends May 31, online through the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks.

Hunters, resident and non-resident alike, can go to www.access-kansas.org/app/kdwp/game/ 24 hours a day. You need to have a printer available since the permits and tags will not be mailed. You will

asked to provide you date of birth and hunter education number.

Anyone wanting a landowner/tenant permit will be asked for the number of acres on their property. Those wanting an additional game tag must provide their permit number.

Each permit and game tag can only be used in the specified turkey management unit. Kansas is di-

vided into four units. Units 1, 2 and 3 permits are available online.

Payment can only be made by credit card, either VISA, MasterCard, American Express or Discover. The online service is for the spring season only and cannot be used to get Unit 4 permits or get a duplicate of a lost permit and/or tag.

Sherman and Thomas counties north of I-70 are in Unit 1 and south

of I-70 in Unit 4.

Replacement permits can be obtained by sending a letter, along with \$11, to: Kansas Dept. of Wildlife and Parks, 512 SE 25th Ave., Pratt KS 67124-8174.

Camouflage caps will be given by the department to 12 applicants who use the online service and provide their e-mail address.

Lounge Open

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Friday and Saturday

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Antique Tractor Benefit Pull and Show

Sponsored by:
Sunflower Spinners & Thrivent Financial for Lutherans
For Doug Hilty Medical Fund

Saturday and Sunday May 1 and 2

Sherman County Fairgrounds, Goodland

Registration for tractor pullers is from 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.; Pull begins at 11:00 a.m. MT both days.

For questions concerning the pull or show, call Marla Harrison at 890-2610.

- All proceeds up to \$2,500 (for a total of \$5,000) will be matched by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, chapters 30317 and 30371 from Northwest Kansas and Eastern Plains of Colorado
- Donations to Doug Hilty Medical Fund can also be made at the Western State Bank in Goodland
- A Bake Sale, sponsored by Thrivent, will be held in the 4-H building on Saturday, April 24, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
- Cub Scout Pack #142 will have concessions

Classifieds work!

Call 899-2338

Girls Basketball Camp

4th through 8th Grades
Saturday, May 8
9 a.m. - 12 p.m. MT

Instruction by National ranked Tom Stephens and the Lady Trojans

Goodland Activities Center

808 Main, Goodland, Kan
785-890-7242 • Contact James Foster

Brewster All-Star Booster Club

April 28 - May 4

Wednesday - Western Kansas Liberty League league meeting at Oakley 10:30 a.m.

Friday - High school track meet at Quinter 3 p.m.; junior high track meet at Quinter 10:30 a.m.

Saturday - Senior Prom; State Power Lifting at Quivera Heights-Bushtop

Monday - Spring Music Program 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday - High school track meet at Logan 12 p.m.

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