

Colorado State gives up hope

I was going over my notes about the 2006 Kansas Shrine Bowl a few nights ago and remembered that Goodland senior Mark Starr, who will play in the game, has committed to Colorado State University.

That led me to look up the Rams' 2006 schedule to see who they play next fall. I realize with the college football season over four months away, this might be a bit early to start griping, but here goes.

It looks like Colorado State has already given up any hope for a national title next season. To be the national champion, a team usually has to win all its games, although there have been exceptions. This has to be done impressively. Sure, every team will have a bad day or might run into an opponent having an exceptionally great day, but on the whole, a champion has to dominate.

Playing an NCAA Division I-AA opponent doesn't fit into that plan. Many Division I-A teams, like Colorado State, will open against a "double-A" opponent, looking for that easy win early to build momentum.

I understand some of the arguments: Let the players beat up on a lesser foe to build confidence. Give the fans a thrill with a lopsided victory early so they'll come back. The bigger school is doing the smaller one a favor, giving it a chance to share the gate receipts and maybe get some television time.

Whatever the reason, the school that does this simply will not be in the hunt for the national title and will have little chance for a Bowl Championship Series game. They'll be enough teams that will play only against Division I-A opponents.

As I understand it, to qualify for any bowl game, a team must win at least six games against NCAA Division I-A opponents. Colorado State finished 6-5 last year after fac-

ing 11 Division I-A teams.

The Rams were 5-5 going into their last regular season game, on the road, against the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. They scored on a 75-yard punt return in the fourth quarter to win 31-27. Too close for comfort, but they got their post-season trip to the inaugural San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl, where the Rams got bombed by the Midshipmen of Navy 51-30.

Back to the point, Colorado State will open its season on Sept. 2 against Weber State University (Utah), a I-AA school which went 6-5 last year. The following week the Rams, will play their annual "knock down, drag out" with the Colorado Buffaloes in Denver.

The Buffaloes are doing the same thing, opening against Montana State University, which went 7-4.

Neither Colorado State nor Colorado is after a national title this season. Some supporters will say both are using the season to rebuild and can afford to "take it easy a bit."

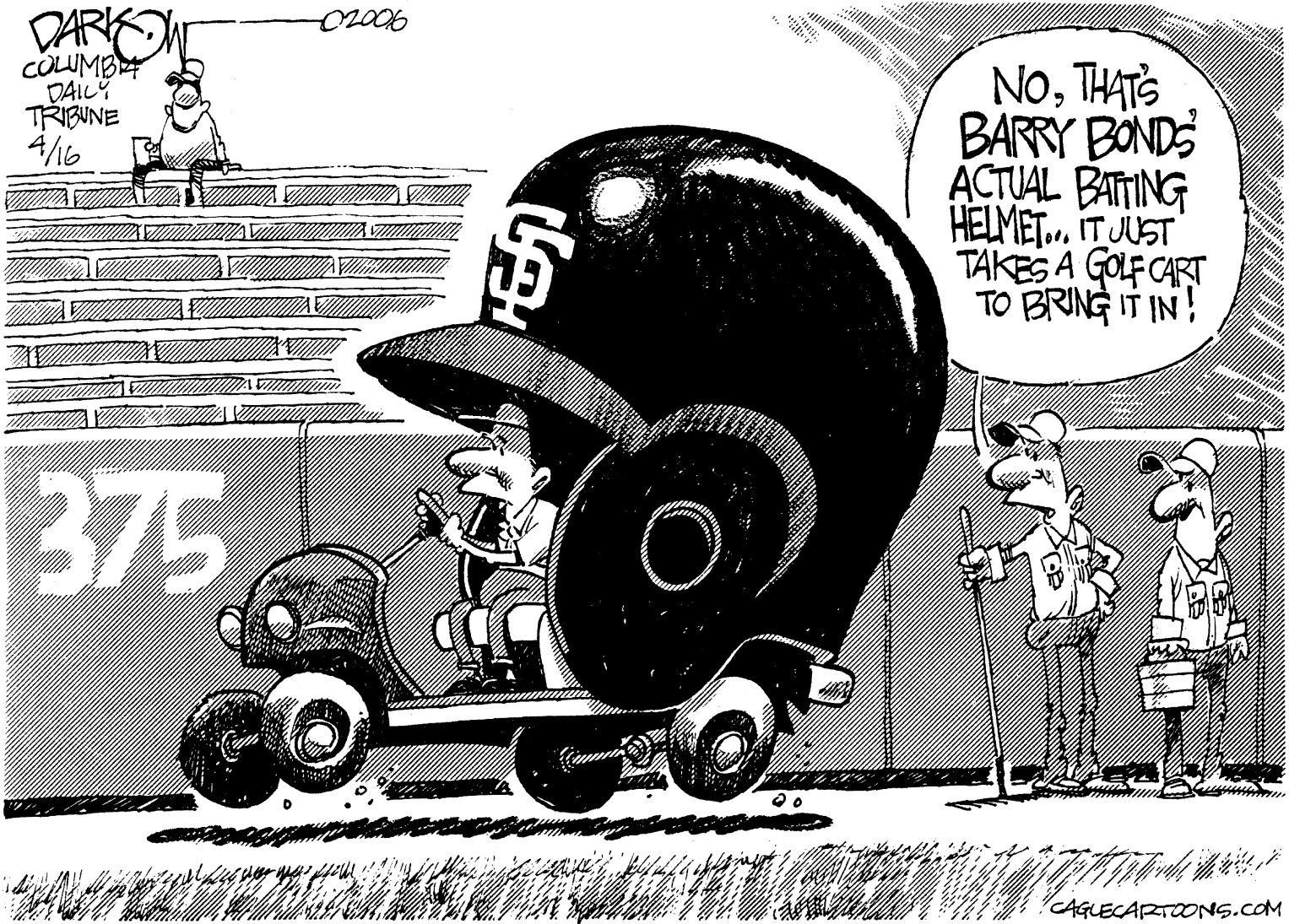
I'm not buying it. NCAA Division I-A football has turned into a business, and any school not prepared to go all the way, all the time should not play at that level.

By the way, both Kansas and Kansas State open against "double-A" opponents, with the Jayhawks playing Illinois State and the Wildcats taking on Northwestern State (La.).

For those interested, the Gorillas of Pittsburg State University travel to Fort Hays State University on Oct. 14 to play the Tigers. This will be a good chance to go see former Cowboy Brock Lohr play during his first season after redshirting last year.

greg
stover

• greg's gripes



Former teammates meet in Hays

Two former Cheylin High School teammates got to compete at the same meet Tuesday when the Colby Community College track team took part in the Fort Hays State University Twilight Open.

Amanda Poore, a junior at Fort Hays, cleared 5 feet, 7 inches to win the high jump.

Sara Moore, a sophomore at Colby, had a busier time, competing in four events including finishing second in the discus with a throw of 119 feet, 3 inches. Moore

threw the javelin 105 feet, 6 inches for third place. She finished fifth in the shot put and was seventh in the hammer.

Poore is a 2003 graduate of Cheylin while Moore graduated in 2004.

Colby native Zach Brown, a senior sprinter at Fort Hays State, won both the 100- and 200-meter dashes, in 10.59 and 21.54 seconds. Brown also ran a leg of the Tigers' winning 4x100-meter relay team.

Tiger sophomore Jared Sloan, a

Norton Community High graduate, won the 110-meter high hurdles in 14.63 seconds.

Oberlin's Abby Ream, a sophomore at Fort Hays State, cleared 9 feet, 5.75 inches in the pole vault to place second. Her teammate sophomore Samantha Jueneman, who went to Golden Plains High in Rexford, placed fourth at 8 feet, 11.75 inches. Ream was fourth in the javelin with a throw of 102 feet, 9 inches.

Colby freshman Lauren Kaiser

placed second in the 400-meter dash in 1 minute, 4.92 seconds and was seventh at 200 meters in 28.73.

Jennings native Josh Davis, a sophomore at Colby, threw the javelin 144 feet, 6 inches to take third and threw the hammer 88 feet, 3 inches finishing 11th.

The Tigers are in Lawrence this weekend for the 79th annual Kansas Relays. Colby's next meet will be next Friday at the Highland Invitational.

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Crossword Puzzle

Giant Words

ACROSS

- Iowa college town
- Author Silverstein
- Pisa landmark
- Talk like 32-Down
- Vaulter's need
- Piano key material
- Not tricked by
- Pelvic bones
- Sibling's daughter
- Chow down
- Bullring VIP
- Bronte's Jane
- Not many
- CIO merger partner
- Menu pick
- Wedding party's spot
- Order to a rifleman
- Make sense
- Business card abbr.
- Filled beyond full
- Bisect, like a sheet of paper
- Lays turf on
- Painting on plaster
- Big, fat mouth
- "Absolutely!"
- Speaker in the Hall
- Boy in Archie comics
- Grope clumsily
- Fleshy-snouted beast
- Auction cry
- Valuable vase
- Unaccompanied
- Oscar winner Thompson
- Carmela player
- Ash or strawberry
- Like a buttinsky
- Clarinetist's buy

DOWN

- Flying high
- Sal of "Exodus"
- Fruity-smelling compound
- Fine china name
- "The Jeffersons," vis-a-vis "All in the Family"
- Links target
- Beethoven dedicatee
- Like lettuce or spinach
- Cost of a phone call, once
- Big Apple theater award
- "___ is me!"
- Ltr. accompanier
- Reuben bread
- "... man ___ mouse?"
- Surface calculation
- Popular corn chip
- Went for congers
- Joins with a torch
- Stone: Prefix
- Christmas poem opener
- Cartoon duck
- Be nuts about
- Runs without moving
- Beer, slangily
- Stephen of "Danny Boy"
- ___ May Clampett
- Formed a mental image of
- Standard
- English physicist Michael
- ___ capita income
- "Peer Gynt" dramatist
- Replay technique for short
- Pyle of Mayberry
- Tour giver
- Certain navel
- Barely beat
- Helsinki native
- Shade sources
- Treater's pickup
- The whole shebang
- Nanki-___ ("The Mikado" character)

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