

# Wrestlers honor ‘prophet’

By **PATTY DECKER**  
*Free Press Editor*

Jim Murray, Colby, made a prediction nearly seven years ago that Colby High School’s wrestlers in the 2000-01 school year would win the 4A state championship — and they did. The prediction was written down, sealed in a bottle, and then locked away for safe keeping, he said. “After all those years, I actually had forgotten all about the prediction.”

But unbeknownst to Murray, members of the wrestling squad hadn’t forgotten and on Wednesday night they surprised him with a “crystal ball.”

Murray, who has been one of the Kids Wrestling coaches for 13 years, said he was “completely surprised” when the presentation was made.

Overwhelmed by the gift, Murray said that the idea of writing down his predication was prompted after talking with Murray Anderson, former high school wrestling coach, about it years before.

“I forgot about the prediction, but then after the state competition ended last winter, Gary Lindberg, another parent, reminded me about the note,” he said.

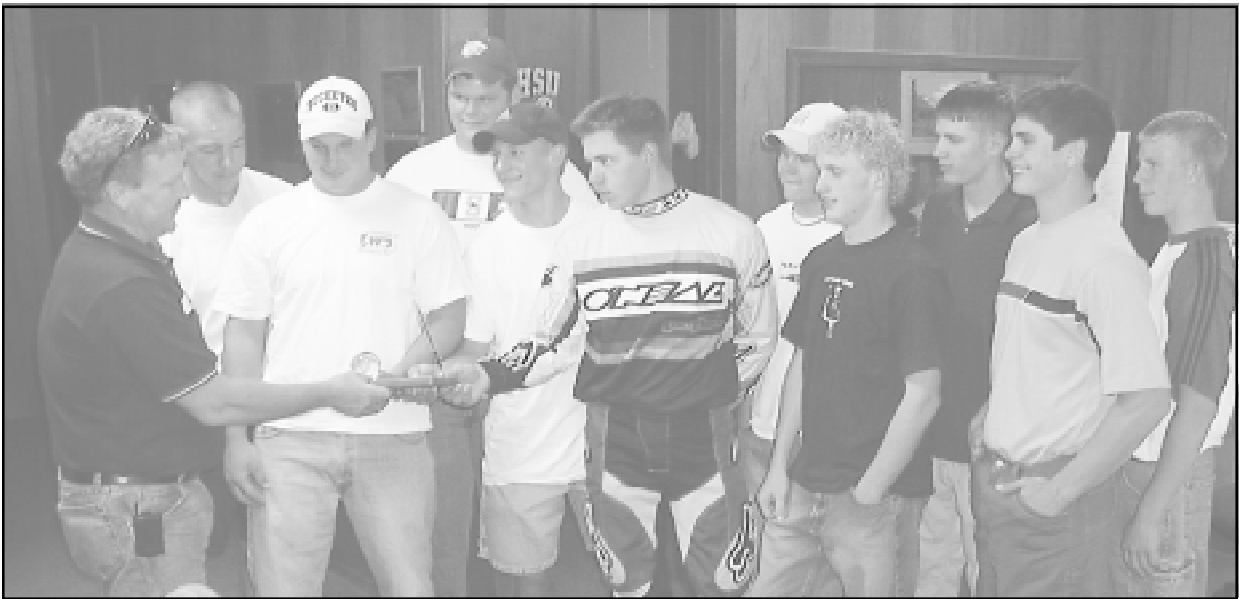
Murray’s son, Matt, who took first at state and will be wrestling with Colby Community College next season, read the prediction at the homecoming party when the 12 wrestling qualifiers returned home.

The engraving on the crystal ball pen set says, “With sincere appreciation for your skills and knowledge with kids wrestling and the foresight to see champions in the class of 2001.”

Murray added that it he wanted to thank people like Calvin Sharpe and Dennis Herl, who also put a lot of energy into seeing these kids succeed.

When presenting their token of appreciation, the wrestlers said, Murray was the one person, though, that played an integral role in the whole program and their success.

Wrestlers involved in the surprise included Matt Murray, Danny Mainus, Eric Luedke, Dean Herl, Drue Herl, Brooks Wederski, Schuyler Sharpe, Scott Lindberg, Bo Kleinsorge, Justin Finley and Damien Stephens.



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Zach Luedke, one of the Colby High School Eagle wrestlers who took state this year, handed Jim Murray an honorary crystal ball award on Wednesday night. Murray has been involved in kids wrestling for 13 years and predicted the Eagle wrestling championship about seven years ago. Others in the picture, from left to right, are; Murray, Bo Kleinsorge, Justin Finley, Dean Herl, Matt Murray, Luedke, Drue Herl, Scott Lindberg, Brooks Wederski, Damien Stephens and Schuyler Sharpe.

## Don’t bet on Series until September

Baseball season is starting to shape up. I don’t watch much before June, mainly because of other commitments, but also because the teams are still getting the bugs out.

With the season only a third over, the important games are just beginning. Remember a couple of years ago when the New York Post reported that Joe Torre would be the first manager fired because of the Yankees’ abysmal start?

Then they won 23 straight, 125 games in the season and swept the series. An area farmer told me the other day that no one in his right mind would make corn harvest predictions in the spring.

I would add that no one in his right mind makes World Series predictions before the end of September!

Given a choice, though, I prefer the semi-pro game. The skills are there, but the players still have something to prove. It’s hard to maintain a hunger for winning in an age where losing teams pay stars \$200 million.

In semi-pro, the best the players can hope for is a good living while they play. Most won’t even accomplish that and will work other jobs. The play because they love the game.

I was stationed in Norfolk, Va. in the 1980s and remember the Tidewater Tides. They are now the Norfolk Tides, but they are still the Triple-A team for the New York Mets.



Jay Kelley

• Weekend Warrior

I was, and still am, a Yankees fan, so I didn’t like a Mets farm team all that well. But, I was a young sailor with little money and the games were cheap, about \$2, I think.

They played in a dilapidated stadium, not far from one of the main drags in Norfolk. There weren’t any luxury boxes and the only concession stand pretty much sold hot dogs, cotton candy and funnel cakes. Gourmet catering was not available.

I remember watching a couple of rookies come up through the system. One of them was Dwight Gooden and the other was Darryl Strawberry. I thought, wow! These guys are Hall of Fame players!

And they were, until the drugs and the fame became too much.

I still like to watch the Yankees, and I get World Series fever about mid-way through September, but nothing will replace watching the Tides.

## Area Briefs

- The Colby Jaycees are hosting youth mud volleyball on Saturday at noon. Cost if \$5 if preregistered, \$7 on Saturday. Call Lori at 462-6557 or 462-9011 or Doug at 462-3627 for details
- Colby High School volleyball camp is scheduled for June 27-28 at the high school gym for girls going into grades 9-12. Contact Lesley Wagoner at 462-7959 for more information.
- Kansas State University is hosting

a father and son basketball camp for grades K-8 on June 15-16. K-State coaches will teach fathers, who will teach their sons, drills and techniques.

• Kansas State University will be holding their second annual Summer Camp Basketball Camp at Kansas State University. The two sessions will be June 17-20 and July 29-Aug. 1. The camps are open for boys 8-18. Call 785-532-6531.

## Avs force seventh game

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Adam Foote had a goal and two assists and Patrick Roy turned aside a flurry of early New Jersey shots as the Colorado Avalanche prevented the Devils from clinching the cup with a series-tying 4-0 victory.

The Avalanche’s dominating effort forced the first Game 7 in the Stanley Cup finals since the New York Rangers beat the Vancouver Canucks in 1994 and only the fourth since 1967. The Avalanche, also getting goals from Ville Nieminen, Chris Drury and Alex Tanguay, became the first team since the 1964 Toronto Maple Leafs to win a Game 6 on the road when trailing 3-2 in the finals.



## Baseball Scoreboard

American League									
East Division									
	L	Pct	GB						
Boston	33	24	.579	—	Minnesota	37	20	.649	1/2
New York	32	25	.561	1	Chicago	24	31	.436	12 1/2
Baltimore	27	30	.474	6	Detroit	23	32	.418	13 1/2
Toronto	27	31	.466	6 1/2	Kansas City	20	37	.362	17
Tampa	16	42	.276	17 1/2	West Division				
Central Division					W	L	Pct	GB	
	W	L	Pct	GB	Seattle	46	12	.793	—
Cleveland	37	19	.661	—	Anaheim	28	29	.491	17 1/2
					Oakland	28	29	.491	17 1/2
					Texas	20	38	.345	26
National League									
East Division									
	W	L	Pct	GB					
Philadelphia	36	21	.632	—	Milwaukee	29	28	.509	6 1/2
Atlanta	31	26	.544	5	Houston	28	28	.500	7
Florida	27	30	.474	9	Cincinnati	23	35	.397	13
New York	25	34	.424	12	Pittsburgh	18	38	.321	17
Montreal	23	36	.390	14	West Division				
Central Division					W	L	Pct	GB	
	W	L	Pct	GB	Arizona	35	24	.593	—
Chicago	35	21	.625	—	Los Angeles	33	26	.559	2
St. Louis	32	26	.552	4	Colorado	30	28	.517	4 1/2
					San Francisco	30	29	.508	5
					San Diego	27	32	.458	8

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