

BERNICE MURRAY/Colby Free Press

Colby's Matt Murray wrestled against Beau DeArmon of Oklahoma last year at the National Junior Duals.

Murray to wrestle for Nebraska

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

Matt Murray of Colby, who won two state high school wrestling championships as a Colby Eagle, has signed a letter of intent to wrestle at the University of Nebraska. Murray, who was a Junior College All-American last year wrestling for the Colby Trojans, said he's "nervous and excited at the same time," about going to Lincoln.



Murray

He chose Nebraska over Stanford and Oklahoma State, which were among the many Division I schools that were recruiting Murray. "I was really impressed with the

coaching staff," Murray said when asked about his reasons for choosing Nebraska. "It'll also be nice to be closer to my sister." Melissa Murray will be a senior at the University of Nebraska-Kearney.

Murray's declared major was architecture at Colby College, but he said he may switch to business at Nebraska.

He posted a 4.00 GPA last year at Colby Community College and was salutatorian of his class at Colby High School when he graduated in 2001. He was also a member of the National Honor Society.

Last year, wrestling as a Trojan, he won seven tournament titles and four Most Outstanding Wrestler Awards.

Going into the NJCAA Nationals, he had suffered only one loss, but was injured, and finished sixth. He was ranked #1 in the 141-pound weight class in the NJCAA rankings posted by themat.com.

One of Murray's goals is winning a national title. "Matt really wants to be a national champion," Murray's father Jim said. "We wanted him to stay here, but he feels he has a better chance to win a title if he has three years to do it."

The highlight for Murray wrestling as a Trojan was winning a match at the Regional finals against a European Olympian wrestler.

"And it was fun traveling with Coach (Steve) Lampe," Murray said. Matt Murray is the son of Jim and Bernice Murray of Colby.

Mobster arrested in skating scandal

NEW YORK (AP) — A reputed Russian crime boss was arrested on charges he fixed two figure skating events at the Salt Lake City Games by arranging a vote-swapping deal, yet another bizarre twist in a scandal that has tainted the sport.

Alimzan Tokhtakhounov, picked up

in Italy on U.S. charges, is accused of scheming to get a French judge to vote for the Russian pairs team, which won the gold medal. In exchange, he arranged for the Russian judge to vote for the winning French ice dancing team, according to a criminal complaint filed in Manhattan federal court.

Wiretaps used in a mob investigation captured a series of telephone calls between Tokhtakhounov in Italy and unnamed conspirators during the games that "lay out a pattern of conduct that connects those two events," U.S. Attorney James Comey told a news conference.

Sweeney hopes to be playing soon

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Kansas City Royals first baseman Mike Sweeney, who has not played since July 13 because of a bad back and pain in his left hip, hopes to return to the lineup by Aug. 9.

Sweeney leads the American League with a .355 batting average. He said he won't accompany the Royals

on a seven-game trip beginning Friday, but instead will report to Class AAA Omaha to work out and eventually play in games.

"Realistically, what we're shooting for tentatively is to be ready when we come back from New York on Aug. 9," Sweeney said Wednesday. "Hopefully, I'll be able to play by then and at a high

level. I'm going to go to Omaha real soon and take batting practice. It's tough when all I can be is a cheerleader."

Royals manager Tony Pena said Sweeney might need two weeks of games with Omaha on an injury rehabilitation assignment before he's ready to return to the majors.

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Chiefs tackle gets 17 stitches and two weeks off after fight

By DOUG TUCKER

AP Sports Writer

RIVER FALLS, Wis. (AP) — Tackle John Tait, whose teammate slammed him in the face with a helmet, is the latest casualty in a Kansas City camp that seems beset by new problems almost daily.

Tait, the starting right tackle, will miss two weeks after receiving about 17 stitches over his eyebrow ridge and the bridge of his nose following a bloody fracas with rookie defensive lineman Eddie Freeman.

Coach Dick Vermeil had originally thought Freeman hit Tait with his fist. "He had my helmet and hit me with it. It wasn't his fist," Tait said Wednesday, waving photographers away from his badly swollen face.

"It's common knowledge he had my helmet in his hand and he swung it back and hit me with it. I have a broken nose."

Vermeil said Wednesday he didn't know what caused the injuries.

"I still don't know if there was a helmet to the face," Vermeil said. "I'm not going to get involved in that."

Asked about disciplinary action, Vermeil said no, cursed and stomped away.

Freeman, a second-round draft pick out of Alabama-Birmingham, has been involved in several scuffles since the Chiefs opened practice on Friday.

Wednesday morning, about 14 hours after the fight, Freeman seemed out of sorts and was not playing well. Later, when talking with reporters, the 310-pound tackle was subdued.

"I'm the young new guy on the block. It was just in the heat of battle," Freeman said. "I'm going to talk to him today."

Asked if he regretted the incident, Freeman said, "Oh, very much so. You don't want to get in no scrapes and look bad upon your teammates. I've got to work with those guys. I've got to eat

with those guys."

He would not say what he planned to say to Tait.

"We'll keep it among ourselves," Freeman said.

Vermeil said he had not talked with Freeman, whom he called "a hothead." "But I talked with the team about it," Vermeil said. "Fights happen in football. You never know who threw the first punch."

Vermeil has said he did not plan any disciplinary action against Freeman, but Tait wasn't sure he agreed.

"He apologized to me yesterday. But it was right after it happened and I couldn't talk to him at the time," Tait said.

"It's not like I want to kill Eddie. But I definitely think perhaps some disciplinary action should be taken. Maybe even for myself."

"Hey, fights happen. People's adrenaline is going. I don't know if you ought to hit people with their helmet. "I don't think Eddie's a bad person down deep inside. Everybody makes mistakes. This one happens to be maybe a little bit costly."

Losing Tait for two weeks is a blow to the Chiefs, who are already missing All-Pro tight end Tony Gonzalez and No. 1 draft pick Ryan Sims in bitter contract disputes.

Gonzalez, a three-time Pro Bowler, is staying out of camp demanding more money.



But the impasse escalated sharply on Sunday when Chiefs president Carl Peterson withdrew an \$8 million signing bonus offer and said he would not consider a long-term contract until Gonzalez gives up his dream of a dual NBA/NFL career.

Sims, the sixth player drafted last year, had already been handed a starting job at defensive tackle, which was a weakness in the Chiefs' 6-10 season in 2001.

He, too, is demanding more money.

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