

Trojans are pre-season favorites

By LES BROWN

Colby Free Press

The NJCAA has released its pre-season wrestling rankings and the Colby Trojans now find themselves to be the most highly regarded junior college wrestling team in the nation. The rankings are compiled by Mark Ostrander, head wrestling coach at Iowa Central Community College, and are based upon input provided by the nation's NJCAA wrestling coaches. The preseason poll only lists the top teams, but subsequent releases with also rate the top wrestlers at each respective weight class.

Coach Steve Lampe is pleased to know his team is held in such high esteem by his peers, but views the honor with cautious optimism. Lampe feels "this team is deserving of Colby's first ever number one national ranking" and concedes that "if we are able to stay healthy and can continue to improve, we will be a tough team to beat. But, with that said, I will continue to coach and believe that rankings are designed only for media and fan interest."

Lampe then made reference to the piece of paper that is posted above his office doorway. Handwritten on that piece of paper is an analogy that compares a collegiate wrestling season to a marathon race. The text mentions the many difficulties that inevitably occur along the way and goes on to explain that how one starts the race is of far less significance than how one finishes. Lampe then admitted the preseason accolade was nice, but explained, "this is only the start of the season and it is important to understand that the only ranking others will measure this year's team by will be the number of team points on the board at the end of the day on March 1st, 2003, which coincides with the conclusion of this season's national tournament".

Complete rankings, along with the college's location and last year's finish at the NJCAA national tournament are provided below.

NJCAA Pre-Season Wrestling Rankings

- 1). Colby Community College, Colby, 6th
- 2). North Idaho College, Coeur d' Alene, Idaho, 3rd
- 3). Iowa Central Community College, Fort Dodge, Iowa, 1st
- 4). Neosho County Community College, Chanute, 2nd
- 5). Northwest College, Powell, Wyo., 9th
- 6). Ellsworth Community College, Iowa Falls, Iowa, 5th
- 7). Pima Community College, Tucson, Ariz., 4th
- 8). Lassen College, Susanville, Cal., 10th
- 9). Labette Community College, Parsons 16th
- 10). Muskegon Community College, Muskegon, Mich., 8th

Michigan takes team out of post-season

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — Michigan punished its men's basketball program, imposing a postseason ban for 2003 and forfeiting all victories from four seasons because of a scandal involving a former booster.

The school announced the penalties in a letter to the NCAA, hoping to head off more severe action by the NCAA. It would also return to the NCAA \$450,000 — money it earned for appearing in the postseason.

Former booster Ed Martin pleaded guilty in May to conspiracy to launder money. Martin said he took gambling money, combined it with other funds and lent it to former Michigan star Chris Webber and other players, as well as their families.

Royals coach gets apology from kid who attacked him

CHICAGO (AP) — Kansas City Royals coach Tom Gamboa said he accepts the apology of a 15-year-old fan who attacked him on the field during a game and hopes the boy learns from his "tragic mistake."

Gamboa said Thursday he would like to see the boy receive probation and community service because he was already held for a month after the September attack at Comiskey Park.

The boy apologized to Gamboa during the start of the hearing in juvenile court.

Up for grabs



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Colby 8th-grade Eagles Donnie Binder (43) and Erik Paulsen (44) were down low fighting for a rebound against the Burlington Cougars during the first game of the basketball season Thursday afternoon at the Colby High School gym. The 8th-grade 'B' team lost 33-18; the 'A' team won its game 47-22. In 7th-grade action, the Eagle 'B' team beat the Burlington 'B' team 12-10; the 'A' team lost 33-32. The middle-school hoopsters are back in action next Tuesday at home against Atwood at the elementary gym.

Wildcats lose in exhibition

MANHATTAN (AP) — Mike Elliott scored 26 points to lead the EA Sports All-Stars past Kansas State 91-81 on Thursday night in the Wildcats' first exhibition game of the year.

Tim Ellis hit a 3-pointer with 6:52 remaining to bring Kansas State within four at 72-68, but Fred Vinson made two 3-pointers in the final six minutes for EA Sports to hold off the Wildcats.

Vinson scored 19 for EA Sports, while Bennett Davidson scored 13, Damien Cantrell had 12 and Billy Knight had 10 for the team of former college basketball players.

Frank Richards had a double-double with 13 points and 10 assists for Kansas State. Matt Siebrandt also scored 17 points, Ellis had 15, and Jarret Hart and Pervis Pasco each had 10 for the Wildcats.

In three seasons at Kansas State, coach Jim Wooldridge has a 1-4 record in exhibition games.

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Colby Eagle cross country team hands out awards

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

The Colby Eagle cross country team held its awards ceremony Thursday night at Colby High School. Earning varsity letters were: Rocky Baalman, Zach Baird, Nathan Harter, Eric Luedke, Carson McKee, Jamie Quenzer, Jason Schwindt, Landon Stover, Erika Erickson, Joshua Houtz, Talitha Nye, Amanda Seemann, Shane Stover, Valerie Vanetta, Jami Williams, Matt Augustine, Jared Dinkel, Mackayla Dougherty, Derek Elliott, Chris Finley, Lauren Kaiser, Marcia Kaus, Emily Sloan, Clarissa Unger, Zanae Baird, Andrea Barker, Shannon Oard, Jessica Stephens, and manager Ivy Ramsey.

Other team members were: Christopher Griggs, Breann Hart, Brandon Williams, Christopher Gordon, Todd Ohlrogge, Jordon Cranston, Travis Powell, Pat Toth, Stuart Aiken, and Jared Simmering.

Special awards were given to: Josh Houtz, Rookie of the Year (male); Jessica Stephens, Rookie of the Year (female); Shane Stover, Best Runner (male); Jessica Stephens, Best Runner (female); Nathan Harter, Outstanding Attitude (male); Jamie Quenzer, Outstanding Attitude (female).

Monday night, Nov. 11, the Colby High School volleyball team will hold its awards night at the high school, in the commons area, at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Former Nugget helps new team beat Denver, 89-63

DENVER (AP) — Chauncey Billups scored 21 points, including five 3-pointers, and the Detroit Pistons beat the Denver Nuggets 89-63 on Thursday night.

Billups, who shot 5-of-8 from 3-point range, had 10 points in the third quarter to help the Pistons increase a 10-point lead to as much as 27. He did not play in the fourth quarter.

Richard Hamilton added 15 points, and Ben Wallace had 13 rebounds.

James Posey led Denver with 21 points, and rookie Nene Hilario came

off the bench to score 10.

Detroit, the NBA's top defensive team, held Denver to within two points of the franchise record-low of 61 points.

Billups, who starred at Denver's George Washington High School and at the University of Colorado in addition to playing for the Nuggets from 1998-2000, keyed a 9-0 run in the third quarter that padded the lead to 58-37.

Billups had three 3-pointers in the period, the last of which put Detroit up 69-42.

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