

He's safe!



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

Brent Suing, a sophomore from Omaha, Neb., tried several times during Sunday's game with Dodge City to take a lead off of first base. Suing eventually did steal second and assisted the Colby Community College Trojans in their 2-1 win over the Conquistadors.

Four teams celebrate fall season

The winter athletic awards nights for Colby High School have been set for the boys and girls basketball teams, the wrestling team and the dance team.

The girls basketball team's will be Friday at 6:30 p.m., the boys basketball team's on Monday at 7 p.m., the wrestling team's will be next Thursday at 7 p.m. and the dance team's will be next Friday at 6:30 p.m.

All four award nights will be held in the high school commons area and will be potluck suppers. The events are open to players, parents and the general public.

"Each family is asked to bring a dish to share and their own plates and silverware," said high school activities director Jeff Quenzer. "The drinks and cups will be provided."

For questions about any of the awards presentations, call the high school at 465-5300.

Horse Show team finishes regular season

The Colby Community College Intercollegiate Horse Show Team completed their regular season with the regional show hosted by New Mexico State University in Las Cruces on Feb. 28 and March 1.

Four Western riders and one English rider qualified for the event. Open rider Amy Rice of St. Francis won the reining and Sarah Pippenger of Clay Center received second in her intermediate class. Rice received a belt buckle and traveling trophy for her win in the reining.

She and Pippenger will now go on to compete in zone competition, which will also held at New Mexico State.

They will compete with students from Texas and Oklahoma. If they are in the top two at zone competition, they will travel to Nationals at Murfreesboro, TN in May.

Rice also received fifth in the open rail class. Katie Strifler of Westmoreland also competed in the intermediate division and Nick Olsen of Wisconsin received fifth in



Pippenger



Rice

the beginning class. Andi Dosek of California participated in novice fences. The college team received fourth in overall standings for the year.

Head coach for the college horse show team, Marie Skolout, said the team travels to 10 English and 10 Western shows in the fall and spring.

They compete against teams in Zone Seven Region One which include: Colorado College, Colorado State University, Laramie County Community College, University of Colorado, University of Wyoming, Eastern Wyoming College, New Mexico State University, United States Air Force Academy and Nebraska College of Technical Agriculture.

The Intercollegiate Horse Show Association was established in 1967 and Gary and Sue Webb started a team at Colby College in 1992. Students compete both individually and as a team in both the English and Western divisions. Levels range from beginner walk trot through advanced and open riders.

Horses and riders are paired up randomly by drawing, this enables riders to compete on an even keel and truly test their horsemanship ability.

In order to compete at the regional show the student must earn 35 points in their respective class and open riders must earn 28 points. In a competition, first place is worth seven points, second is worth five and so on, said Skolout.

The Intercollegiate Horse Show Association is a recognized member of the USA Equestrian and the American Quarter Horse Association. Because of this, the association is actively involved with the top professionals in the industry and all horse shows are judged by USA Equestrian and American Quarter Horse Association recognized officials.

Jayhawks battle Duke in Sweet Sixteen match-up

By DOUG TUCKER

AP Sports Writer

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — When Kansans are asked to compare their proud basketball program with Duke's, the truth hurts.

At least it does for anyone willing to see the truth. The Blue Devils, who meet the Jayhawks Thursday night in the NCAA tournament's West regional semifinals, stand taller by almost every measure.

Kansas takes a backseat to no one in the their own stomping grounds in the Midwest. The Jayhawks have gone 30-2 the past two seasons in the tough Big 12, which has three teams in the round of 16. They've won the conference championship four times in seven years.

But over the years against Duke, they're a paltry 1-6.

Kansas coach Roy Williams is flush with success in 15 years, winning more than four of every five games. He won more games in his first 14 years than any other coach in NCAA Division I history.

Yet, time after time, he finds himself out-recruited by Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski.

Kansas fans are busting their buttons over the fact they've made the NCAA's round of 16 now for the third time in a row. But Duke is there for the sixth straight year.

If the second-seeded Jayhawks should beat No. 3 seed Duke Thursday night, it will only be Williams' first victory in four games against the Blue Devils.

"I have great respect for Mike and what he's done with his program, and the way they've done it, with true student-athletes," said Williams.

"They're awfully difficult to recruit against. I can tell you that because we haven't had much success recruiting against them.

"Nick Collison is the only player we ever got that they wanted. They've got a lot of the other ones that we wanted."

The 6-foot-9 Collison, voted by Big 12 coaches as the conference player of the year, narrowed his list to Kansas and Duke when he was a highly sought high school senior four years ago.

He admits the team he chose is not as highly regarded around the nation as the team he turned down.

"Duke has more titles. So until teams win as many titles as them, people will always hold Duke higher," Collison said.

"Recruiting-wise, they do better than anybody else. And they get the most players. I think people see Kansas (as being) close. But (Duke) is probably on top right now in terms of what they've done in the past. What is it? Six straight Sweet 16s? That's pretty impressive."

One reason Collison picked Kansas was geography. It's a lot closer to his Iowa home than North Carolina.

"I think it was one of the few times our location was very helpful," Williams said.

But another big factor was Will-

iams.

"They really presented themselves well," said Collison, who is averaging almost 19 points and 10 rebounds. "I can see why a lot of kids would want to go there. They make it seem like it's the obvious choice, all the things they tell you. The bottom line was I trusted coach Williams a little more."

Sophomore guard Keith Langford, who's averaged 20.5 points in the first two NCAA games, held his fingers about a half-inch apart when asked to compare the two.

"Even though Kansas is really up there, I think Duke is like that much higher," he said. "With the players they've had, and six straight years in the Sweet 16, they've really been successful. Kansas is just now starting to get that national prestige."

As a longtime assistant of Dean Smith's at North Carolina, Williams is keenly aware of how powerful the Blue Devils are. He's labored for 15 years to elevate the Jayhawks to a level footing with Duke.

"They have no holes. Academically, they're one of the leading institutions in the country," he said.

"We've gotten better being able to get those top quality students. The first several years I was here it was really hard for us to get those kind of students."

Plus, he said, it's not helpful being from a school that non-Midwesterners feel is stuck in the middle of some backwater prairie town.

Duke benefits from media centers in Washington and Atlanta "and all up and down the East Coast," Williams said. "The people on the East Coast think we still go to class in covered wagons."

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