

Barton County rebounding from fraud

WICHITA (AP) — In a move to put the athletics scandal behind, Barton County Community College made public Thursday a final regulatory compliance report that gives the embattled Kansas college a clean bill of health for its efforts. The compliance review was done by an outside firm, The Compliance Group, hired by the college. It concluded the college had implemented significant changes in its policies and procedures over the past year.

It also praised the college for “a new attitude” created among its personnel that compliance with National Junior College Athletic Association regulations was a shared responsibility by various departments.

“We think we are a better college for it. We think we have processes in place and a renewed commitment to carry out our responsibilities,” said BCCC President Carl R. Heilman. “By doing this we are a better college for it, and our students will be better for it.”

A federal investigation involving financial aid and academic fraud in the athletics department led to the convictions of the athletic director and seven coaches and to the firing of the college’s president. Most of the cases were settled last year.

The charges, which varied among the defendants, included embezzlement, theft and mail fraud in a long-running scheme to use a federal work-study program and campus jobs to get around a conference ban on giving athletes full scholarships.

Student athletes were paid for work they did not do, and the scheme also involved falsifying academic records so that athletes at BCCC and other universities were eligible to play.

Heilman, who took over the presidency of the college eight months ago, said the actions of a few people cast “a dark shadow” over the entire institution.

In August, all athletic programs at the college except for men’s basketball were put on one-year probation by the NJCAA and the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference. The men’s basketball program already had completed the maximum two-year probation.

College officials hope the compliance report will boost their chances that the sanctions — which came up for review in April — will end at the end of the academic year.

Among changes the college has implemented since the scandal broke are new rules prohibiting coaches from supervising work-study students. A new time clock system has been installed requiring students to log onto a work-study Web site when they begin and end their jobs. Others spot check work sites where athletes are to be working, while the Human Resources Department compares class schedules with hours logged in for those work-study hours.

The college’s financial aid office also assumed responsibility for administering financial aid awards for students, and coaches were prohibited from serving as academic advisers.

Several new policies also were instituted, including a degree- and grade-revocation policy. The compliance report noted two students have had degrees revoked and three have had grades revoked and could also lose their degree.

Heilman estimated the compliance study, time clock system and staff time to correct the problems at the college has cost it between \$40,000 and \$50,000.

“I don’t know if it will ever be put behind us,” Heilman said of the scandal. “We are committed to comprehensive measures so what happened never happens again.”

SportsBriefs

BASEBALL
PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Former commissioner Bowie Kuhn, who lorded over baseball during 15 tumultuous years that saw players gain free agency and start the spiral of multimillion-dollar salaries, died. He was 80.

Kuhn died at St. Luke’s Hospital following a short illness, said his spokesman Bob Wirz.

Ready to take a hit



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Colby Community College Lady Trojan Hannah Liming went for a bunt at the plate Thursday. The softball team will play in a tournament at home this weekend.

Seward takes two from Trojans

Colby lost a doubleheader to Seward County Thursday in Colby. Seward one game one 6-0.

Amy Foster took the loss for Colby allowing eight hits, six runs, five of them earned, in seven innings.

Leading Hitter for Colby was Chloe Jackson who was 1-3. She had the only hit for Colby.

Seward won game two 10-1. Ninostka Amaro led Colby at the plate with 2-4 and one RBI. Colby had five hits.

Brittani Kage took the loss. “We had a few people step up and hit the ball hard but it was right at people,” said Colby coach Ryan Sturdy. “Our intensity needs to pick up if we want to compete with the

teams in the region and Jayhawk. We are letting our offense affect our defense.”

The upcoming schedule may be what the team needs said Sturdy.

“We have two conference games at home tomorrow against Pratt who we lost to in their tournament 2-1 last weekend. Maybe this will give us a little motivation to start playing hard.”

Jayhawks still feel sting of exits

CHICAGO (AP) — The sting lingers and the marks are still there — two black eyes that No. 2 Kansas can’t ignore.

Bucknell delivered one shot in the first round of the NCAA tournament two years ago. Bradley connected in the opener last season. Now, Niagara is hoping to unload on Kansas and make history when it meets the top-seeded Jayhawks (30-4) in a first-round, West Regional game Friday.

“It’s up to us not to make history,” Kansas guard Russell Robinson said. “We control our own destiny. We’ve got a talented team, and we’ve just got to go out and do the things we need to do. I think we’ll be fine.”

No. 1 seeds are 88-0 in first-round games, and Niagara needed to win a play-in game against Florida A&M to reach this point. Still, any Jayhawks fan could be excused for feeling a bit queasy.

Two years ago, a senior-laden Kansas team got the third seed and immediately got knocked out by Bucknell, 64-63. Last season, 13th-seeded Bradley drowned the Jayhawks with a flood of 3-pointers on the way to a 77-73 win and its first NCAA victory in 20 years.

Two first-round losses. Two black eyes.

Fair or not, the losses raised questions about coach Bill Self’s ability to lead a team deep into the postseason — a notion that makes him bristle. An Illinois team he recruited reached the NCAA final two years ago after Self had left. And he has coached Kansas, the Illini and Tulsa to the Elite Eight.

“We know that it has happened,” Self said. “We’ve had good success in the tournament. ... If you were to judge us over the last two years, it would be pitiful. If you judge our

whole body of work in the tournament — Tulsa going to the Elite Eight wasn’t bad, Illinois going to the Elite Eight wasn’t bad. The first team we had at Kansas wasn’t a great team that went to the Elite Eight. That wasn’t bad.

“But still, it’s not good enough,” he continued.

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College to honor former athletic director

Colby Community College will dedicate the softball field Saturday to the late Carl Adams who died in December.

Adams, who played baseball at the college from 1971-1973, returned to the school in 1984 and was involved in a variety of activities.

He was named softball coach in 1987. In 1999 he was named athletic director.

The dedication will be held after Colby Trojan’s first game of a doubleheader.

The Colby Community College Lady Trojan softball team will host the annual Colby Softball Classic Saturday and Sunday. The Lady Trojans will play three games each day beginning with Independence at 11 a.m. Saturday. The Trojans face Otero at 1 p.m. and Pratt at 3

p.m..

After the 1 p.m. game against Otero, Colby Community College will have the dedication ceremony. The softball field will be named the “Carl Adams Softball Field” and a presentation of Adams’ accomplishments will be read.

On Sunday, the Trojans play Lamar at 11 a.m., Independence at 1 p.m. and against Otero at 3 p.m.

Current Colby Community College staff is handling the athletic director duties. A new athletic director is expected to be named later this year.



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- **'95 GMC Topkick** w/Cat 3116, 170 hp w/Allison 4spd, 8'x12' flatbed w/5th wheel fixture
- '78 GMC Truck, Detroit eng, 10 spd, w/silage box, NEW eng OH
- '68 IH Grain Truck w/16' B&H
- '73 Chevy C60, V-8, 4x2 spd, 16' B&H, auger, RO tarp, 43,900 mi
- '58 Chevy Truck, 4x2, 13 1/2' B&H
- '80 Chevy 30 PU, 4 spd, steel flatbed w/cake feeder, 81,000 mi
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