



GOODLAND STAR-NEWS

Colby's David Kinderknecht watched one of his serves at the Goodland meet April 19. Colby placed in only one category at Ulysses Monday. Kinderknecht and Jeremy Harter took third in number-one doubles. "The weather was a big factor," said coach Jordan Sharp. "The wind affects everything." Colby hosts the Colby Invitational 9 a.m. Saturday at Fike Park.

## NFL teams: Character counts

CINCINNATI (AP) — A psychologist who helps NFL teams assess a draft pick's character shakes his head when a troubled player is chosen, then turns out to be nothing but trouble.

"I've been telling teams for 25 years the same deal: You can't afford to take a guy like that," Robert Troutwine said.

Teams are listening — for one weekend, anyway.

Commissioner Roger Goodell's crackdown on player misconduct, and his new policy holding franchises accountable when things go wrong, likely will make teams squeamish about taking draft-day risks.

Goodell made examples of Titans cornerback Adam "Pacman" Jones and Bengals receiver Chris Henry. Jones got a season-long suspension, and Henry got an eight-game punishment for misconduct.

Team executives got the message.

"They're going to run the risk that the commissioner may carry a heavy hand when it comes to teams that draft people who have known character issues," said Floyd Reese, the former Titans general manager who drafted Jones last year. "As a franchise, you're probably putting yourself in harm's way if you draft somebody with character issues."

The Cincinnati Bengals are the best example of how draft-day risks can deflate a franchise. They had nine players arrested during a nine-month span, six of them draft picks

from the last two years. Two of them — Henry and linebacker Odell Thurman — are suspended by the league.

Coach Marvin Lewis said the Bengals will look more closely at character in this draft, but he thinks talk of teams being frightened away from players is overblown.

"I don't know that it's going to affect the teams quite as much as people think it's going to," Lewis said. "I think it will affect the players, because they have seen (Goodell) deal with things swiftly and harshly."

The San Diego Chargers are a close second to the Bengals in misconduct — six players arrested, including linebacker Steve Foley, who was shot by an off-duty officer and released by the team in March.

General manager A.J. Smith said Goodell's crackdown hasn't changed the way his team evaluates draft picks.

"It didn't affect us at all," he said. "Everything with us and our investigative process is extensive. We do the best we can. We bring in good

people with good character."

They can't say they don't have enough information.

The NFL does background checks that include school discipline, arrests, court cases, driving records and limited financial records. The checks are done on players invited to the league's combine, and the information is made available to teams.

Teams use various other methods to get information. This year, six NFL teams — the Colts, Patriots, Eagles, Jets, Rams and Panthers — are using Troutwine & Associates, Inc., to develop profiles on players. Troutwine, an industrial psychologist, uses a 75-question assessment that provides insights into a player's temperament, judgment and attitudes.

Other teams use other psychologists or questionnaires to gain insights.

"Character is important," said Troutwine, whose first NFL draft work came in 1985. "Ultimately, you win with those people. I don't understand why people overlook that."

## Colby grad directs A&M hoops

**From Texas A&M University COLLEGE STATION, Texas** — Mike Rohn has been named director of basketball operations at Texas A&M, first-year head coach Mark Turgeon said April 17.

Rohn is a 1985 graduate of Colby High School.

"Mike is a tireless worker and is an unbelievably loyal guy," Turgeon said. "He'll be a great asset to Texas A&M basketball. He's highly organized, is a tremendous recruiter and because we've been together so many years, he'll be like a right-hand man for me."

"I'm so excited to have the opportunity to come to Texas A&M and continue working with coach

Turgeon," Rohn said. "I've heard so many good things about Texas A&M and the community. This is the opportunity of a lifetime."

Rohn spent the last seven seasons as an assistant coach under Turgeon at Wichita State. Prior to that, he served three seasons as head coach (1996-00) at Dodge City (Kan.) Community College, where he built a 55-38 record, including a 21-10 mark in 1999-00.

Rohn was an assistant coach at Dodge City from 1993-96. Rohn was a graduate assistant coach at Fort Hays State (1991-1993) while earning a master's degree in Sports Administration and Coaching.

He also served as an assistant

coach at Colby Community College (1990-91) after one season as an assistant at his alma mater, McPherson College (1989-90).

Rohn earned a bachelor's degree in physical education in 1990 from McPherson, where he was a two-time all-conference selection. He was named the league's newcomer of the year as a junior and was the conference player of the year as a senior. He also was named McPherson's Male Athlete of the Year in 1989.

Rohn transferred to McPherson after playing two seasons at Dodge City Community College.

Colby Free Press contributed to this story.

# MASTER STROKES

BY PHIL FRANK WITH TOP 100 GOLF INSTRUCTORS

## TODAY'S TIP

### Try The Forward Press

Many golfers freeze over the ball because they don't know how and when to start the swing, causing the club to jerk away from the ball and throwing off their rhythm and timing. To achieve a smooth, flowing backswing, initiate the takeaway with what is called a "forward press." The best way to forward press is by gently flexing your back knee in toward the ball. Then the clubhead movement is triggered by the knee rebounding back to its starting position. Think forward press to make the backswing automatic.

Keith Lyford, Top 100 Teacher  
(as rated by Golf Magazine)  
Auburn C.C. CA

For more golf tips and advice, buy "Master Strokes: 401 Proven Lessons for Mastering Every Golf Shot" (Running Press).

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