

# Colby's football team ready for opener Friday

The Colby High School's needs of the team. football team held its preseason with a video scrimmage last Friday night.

Head football coach Chris Gardner talked about the scrimmage and how his team looked after two-a-days and the first weeks of practice.

few years.

"We had limited penalties and limited turnovers on Friday night. The overall effort and hustle from these guys was very good." Gardner noted that each year athletes are moved to dif- ball program, in both the playferent positions according to the ers and the coaches, is a positive

"There's been some switching around. We have people in new positions on both sides of the ball. The athletes have been working hard and are coming along really well.

"Our line is showing a lot of hustle, I'm impressed with "I would have to say this how the guys are not standing was the smoothest and cleanest around; they're getting to where scrimmage we've had in the last they need to be on both sides of the ball. Our skill guys, on both offense and

defense, are what we expected them to be. They're fast and running to the football."

The consistency of the foot-

I would have to say this was the smoothest and cleanest scrimmage we've had in the last few years."

other.

Chris Gardner, Colby High School's head football coach

coming freshmen.

brings out players helping each

"Things aren't new for every-

"Our seniors have been in this

body, it's just new for the in-

that Coach Gardner sees on and and workouts has been very off the field. good. Consistency in our players - going out year after year -

"Most of my staff have been together for three years. We have gained a new face here and there, and those people have fit right in to our program.

'The leadership from our upper classmen throughout camp

program for three years, competing for spots. They know what they're doing now and the consistency in our program contributes to that.

"We see athletes picking things up quicker.

These men know what each other can do; they trust each other and meld together as a team"

"It was great to see a big crowd at the scrimmage,," says Gardner, "We want to see the stands filled with Colby fans each game."

Colby's kickoff game will be against The Saint Francis Indians Friday at 7 p.m. in Saint Francis.

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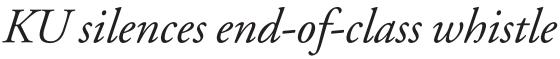
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classes.

Over the years, it became a familiar sound heard throughout the city and part of the university's traditions, along with the Rock Chalk Jayhawk chant and the Campanile bell tower that's a World War II memorial students on its Web site. pass through during graduation.

But the whistle-blowing tradition has been tossed aside by the university to save \$3,000 a year. School officials said Wednesday the money could be better spent elsewhere.

Vice Provost Don Steeples said the cost of blowing steam into the air every day prevents the university from spending money on necessities to keep the campus running.

"Our utility budget is over \$10 million a year, so \$3,000 out of \$10 million is not much," Steeples said. "But every \$3,000 that we

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LAWRENCE (AP) - For spend on blowing steam into the and steam pressure blew it off the nearly a century, the University air is \$3,000 that we can't spend roof the university power plant, of Kansas used a steam whistle on paint, or other things that are daily to signal the time to change necessary to keep the campus running. And the whistle is simply not necessary to keep the campus running."

News of silencing the whistle generated dozens of critical comments on the Lawrence Journal-World's reader comments section

"Just wait in a few days some big-money alum will step up and pay to restore the whistle," wrote one reader.

Another offered: "My child's out-of-state tuition is more than enough for KU to blow the steam whistle ... keep the tradition KU, what are you thinking?"

The original whistle first blew on campus in 1899 and started signaling the end of classes in 1912. It was replaced by another in the 1940s that came from a German freightliner and was dubbed the "Big Tooter."

But that whistle cracked in 2003

sending it 25 feet into the air. The bronze whistle is on display at the Kansas Union, where visitors can hear a recording of it tooting.

A university alumnus paid for the one that was silenced this semester.

Steeples said the university is working to cut costs, as leaders have been told to plan on a 2 percent cut in the current budget and perhaps an additional 5 percent for the next fiscal year.

But Gov. Kathleen Sebelius has said the university is overreacting and that her request to look at ways to reduce costs doesn't mean cutting the budget is a foregone conclusion.

"A lot of our traditions don't cost money," Steeples said. "The Rock Chalk cheer is a strong tradition that doesn't cost anything, so this really sort of boils down to budget and practicality on one hand trumping tradition on the other.'



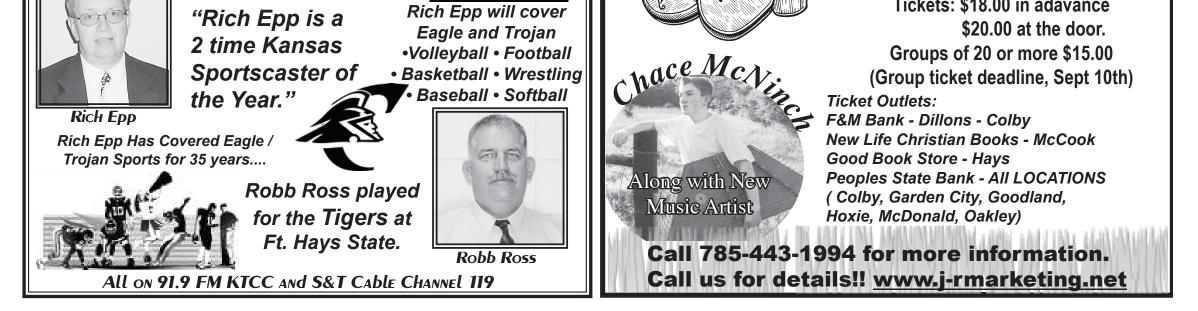
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