



Colby High School hires basketball coach

By Andy Heintz
*Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansas.com*

The Colby School Board approved hiring a former Brewster High coach to lead the Colby boys basketball team during a meeting on Monday at the administration building.

John McKee was the varsity boys basketball coach at Brewster High School from 2002 to 2008 and assistant coach of the team in 1988 and 1989 and 2000 to 2001. The Bulldogs won the Class 1A state championship in 2000 and 2001 and finished third in state in 2006.

McKee said he wants his team to push the ball on offense as much

as they can. When they can't fast break down the court, the coach said, the team will run a structured offense mixed with freelance play. But, he said, the team's playing style will be influenced by his evaluation of individual players.

McKee said the Eagles will play mostly man-to-man defense. The teams' practices this season will be geared toward fundamentals, he said, because after you get fundamentals down, everything goes more smoothly.

McKee said the key ingredient a team needs to be successful is good chemistry.

The board also approved hiring Dean Anderson as assistant boys basketball coach. This will be his second stint as an assistant

coach for the team. He was assistant coach for a few years in the early '90s. Anderson coached the Brewster varsity girls basketball from 2006 to 2009.

McKee said he liked the way Anderson handled kids.

"He has a lot of experience and he can give us different viewpoints," he said.

Anderson said he expects to see a lot of aggression on defense from this year's team.

He said his stay in Brewster was excellent.

"It was an awesome venture," he said. "I appreciated my stay there very much. This was a tough decision."

Surprise leadoff hitter homers; Rockies defeat Nationals 4-3

WASHINGTON (AP) — Colorado Rockies manager Jim Tracy decided to give Carlos Gonzalez a shot at hitting leadoff.

That worked out pretty well. Then again, pretty much everything Gonzalez does lately is going right.

Moved up in the batting order Tuesday night, Gonzalez homered for the third consecutive game to break a tie and back Ubaldo Jimenez's latest strong start, helping Colorado beat the Washington Nationals 4-3.

"Like I tell everybody: It doesn't matter where you're hitting," said Gonzalez. "I take every pitch very important, because our team is in the race."

That it is: Colorado leads the NL wild-card standings, and Gonzalez is playing a key role after struggling early this season. Batting only .188 as of July 6, Gonzalez is now at .282. He has five homers and nine RBIs in his last seven games.

Gonzalez, who had been batting second, greeted Sean Burnett (2-3) by driving the lefty reliever's first pitch of the night into the Nationals' bullpen in right field to put Colorado ahead 3-2. On a windy night, the ball cut through the air on a straight line.

Burnett said he was hoping to sneak a first-pitch strike past Gonzalez with a breaking ball.

He also acknowledged he should have known better. Burnett is, after all, familiar with the outfielder: They were teammates in winter ball in Venezuela a couple of years ago.

"He's a very talented kid. He's got a lot of tools," Burnett said. "He caught my eye. ... I knew he was going to be pretty good."

And everyone in the park knew Gonzalez's swing against Burnett produced a homer.

"Gonzalez's ball was hit so sharp," Nationals manager Jim Riggleman said, "it was going to defy the wind."

Tracy juggled the top of his lineup, moving Gonzalez up from No. 2 for only the second game this

season, while Dexter Fowler dropped down a spot and hit second for the first time in 2009.

After Tuesday's victory, Tracy figures he'll leave things as-is for a bit.

"I don't know if there's a guy hitting the ball much harder right now per at-bat than Carlos Gonzalez," the manager said. "It goes without saying we have one very special player on our hands."

The same words would apply to Jimenez (11-9), who is 5-0 with a 2.49 ERA over his last seven starts.

"His fastball is really good — probably the best in the game," said Nationals cleanup hitter Adam Dunn, 0 for 4 with three strikeouts. "He's got really good movement. He located pretty good against me. And he's got a really good changeup, curveball and slider."

Jimenez gave up two runs and seven hits in his eight innings. Both runs came in the second, on an RBI double down the first-base line by opposing starter Craig Stammen and a single to left by Nyjer Morgan.

"I was arguing with myself," Jimenez said. "I was yelling at myself, 'Just calm down! Relax!'"

He listened, apparently, because he was still in the game in the eighth inning, and still throwing the ball in the high 90s mph.

"He's got a great arm," Riggleman said. "I'll tell you — I don't know if we've seen anything like that all year."

By the eighth, though, Jimenez had topped 100 pitches, so he gave way to Street for the ninth. Street eventually earned his 30th save in 31 chances, although not before allowing three hits, including Cristian Guzman's RBI single.

But with runners at the corners, Street got Ryan Zimmerman to fly out, allowing the Rockies to continue their push for the postseason, and ending the last-place Nationals' three-game winning streak.

Ryan Sturdy at 460-5548 to register.

The men's basketball team will host a Golf Tournament at 1 p.m. Friday, Aug. 28, beginning at the Meadow Lake Golf Course in Colby. The four-person scramble will include supper in the club house. For information or to register a team, call men's basketball coach Dustin Pfeifer at (785) 460-5470. Entry fee is \$65 per person.

Cradle that ball



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
Colby High School assistant football coach Ed Schmitt gave freshman Quade Woofert ball-carrying instructions at the high school practice field Monday evening.

Royals defeat White Sox 5-4

CHICAGO (AP) — If the Chicago White Sox don't win the AL Central, they'll look back upon their inability to handle the last-place Kansas City Royals.

"It is frustrating, disheartening," White Sox captain Paul Konerko said Tuesday night after his team lost to Kansas City for the seventh time this season. The 5-4 defeat dropped Chicago three games behind first-place Detroit.

"All you can do is keep grinding," Konerko said.

Billy Butler doubled three times, had two RBIs and scored the go-ahead run on Alberto Calaspo's fifth-inning single for the Royals, who are 7-7 against the White Sox — and 40-65 against the rest of the major leagues.

Kansas City also got a two-run homer from John Buck.

College athletic department plans two fund raisers in August

The Colby Community College Athletic Department has two fund raisers planned this month.

The Lady Trojans softball team will hold the Second Annual Duck Soup Tournament Saturday and Sunday at the City Recreation Complex.

The double-elimination competition will start at 6 p.m. on Saturday and 1 p.m. on Sunday. Games will be six innings with 12-member teams, six men and six women. Entry fee is \$100 per team. Call coach

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