

1962 tackle remembers Norton game

By Vera Sloan

Colby Free Press
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Richard Farmer, right offensive tackle, played football for the Colby Eagles in 1962 and graduated with the class of 1963.

One of his most vivid memories of football was their only loss for the year.

"We went to Norton on a Friday night," Farmer said, "and it started raining. As the rain drops hit the globe lights at the stadium, they began to pop, and before long they had all blown out, and the game had to be called. So we went back to Norton on Monday, and they beat us 13-6."

Farmer said he has been in the insurance business since graduating from college, and most recently has been director of workman's compensation at an insurance company, but is considering retirement.

He is married and has a son who works for the Kansas City Star and a son who works for an Internet advertising company in New York.

Player went on to college after '59 season

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Bill Watt was a junior in high school in 1959, the year Colby's undefeated football team was named state champions for class A schools says he doesn't have a vivid recollection of the details. The pivotal game, he said, was played in Goodland. It was a close game right up to the last minutes and Tom Thompson, center, was injured, and on the side line, but that he could probably give a blow-by-blow account of the entire game.

Watt went on to college after graduating from Colby. He said he didn't really plan on going, but ended up at Dodge City Junior College because of his high school football coach, Tom Cross. He said he made the team at Dodge City and they went on to be ranked the top junior college team in the nation.

"We were headed for the junior college 'Rose Bowl,'" he said, "but got beat out by a team from Oklahoma who were eventually disqualified because they had loaded their team with guys who had already graduated from a college somewhere in Florida."

Watt said from Dodge City he went to Arizona State to wrestle because of another coach, Kyle Mines. He said he made the team, but not the grades, so he quit wrestling, and ended up at Kansas State University. He stayed through graduation, got married and moved to Texas, where he got a job teaching in the Arlington Independent School District.

He said his next move was to King of Prussia, Penn., where he worked in sales for Curtis-Mathes TV and electronics.

Watt said he had a friend there who was in the furniture business, which was always something he was interested in, so he moved back to Texas in 1975 and opened his first of five large warehouses of retail for unclaimed freight and furniture liquidation. They are all located in Tarrant County, in the Ft. Worth area.

He has a daughter, in sales for a medical supply company in Texas,



Bill Watt played for the undefeated 1959 Colby Eagles football team before going on to college. He currently lives in Arlington, Tex.

and a son who is in the furniture business with him. He has three grandchildren.

Watt said he plans to be at the reunion.

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