



Intensity personified



Braden Sager, shown here firing a pitch during a game against Scott City, and the rest of the Colby American Legion team took second in a tournament at Goodland on July 10. They split two games at McCook, Neb., on July 14, losing the first game 4-3 but taking the second 12-8.

ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Cyclist says he has no regrets

PARIS (AP) – Lance Armstrong didn't want to go out this way. In his final Tour de France, the seven-time champion popped a tire, crashed and struggled up the mountains. Worse, he appears to be the target of a U.S. federal investigation into doping and fraud allegations while a rider on the U.S. Postal Service team. One Tour too many? Maybe. Still, he maintained he had no regrets despite the ignominious ending of No. 13 – nearly 40 minutes behind the leader, former teammate and rival Alberto Contador. "I wouldn't say that it's ruined," he said during an interview with a few reporters Sunday. "In 10 years, when I look back on the 2010 Tour, it won't be the memory that I have. "Obviously, I won't have a yellow jersey to remember – I'll re-

member the team, digging deep to win the team GC (general classification)," he said. "I'll remember having my son here for a week at the Tour," he said, referring to 10-year-old Luke. "I'll remember the bad luck, certainly – the crashes. But that won't be the thing that I'll take away." During the race, there were numerous published reports of a federal investigation led by Jeff

Novitzky, a special agent with the Food and Drug Administration, into claims about Armstrong and doping by former teammate Floyd Landis. Several former riders who race with Armstrong reportedly have been subpoenaed. Armstrong faced questions about those reports at the Tour. He said he had not been subpoenaed or contacted by Novitzky himself.

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Historic Colby athlete shares past memories

By Andy Heintz

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Jim Withers is the oldest living 12-letter winner from Colby High School.

Withers, 1954 graduate, played football, track and basketball while attending the school.

One hallway in his house is adorned with his medals, plaques and of course the 12 letters he earned, but the hallway is not just dedicated to Withers athletic accomplishments. The symbols of his accomplishments shares space with medals and plaques and other awards won by his wife Judie and their four children.

Colby only lost one game during his four years playing football, Withers recalls.

"We were a close bunch," he said about his teammates. Withers played running back,

offensive end and free safety. Teammate Don Ziegelmeier said Withers was a hard-hitting kid.

"He was a good football player; that's all there was to it," added another teammate, O.D. Calhoun.

According to the book, "Flight of the Eagles," by Gary Adrian, Withers said the most thrilling high school football game he played was when the Eagles squared off against St. Francis in 1954. In the book, he said Colby was down 7-6 with two minutes to go in a game filled with rain and sleet, when he fired a pass to Leon Roulier, who took it in for the touchdown.

Even though Withers threw the pass, he was not the team's quarterback, but the running back.

"We didn't just figure the quarterback would do it all," Withers said. "I threw most of the passes."

The Eagles went on to win 13-7.



Jim Withers

The Colby basketball team shared a co-championship in the Northwest Kansas League with Goodland during Withers' junior season. He played guard.

"Jim was a good shot from anywhere on the court," Calhoun said. "He was big and aggressive."

Calhoun said Withers was the team's most consistent player.

Withers said Colby won 16 straight league games and three Christmas tournament games during his senior season before they finally lost one. They went on to capture the league championship.

Withers did hurdles, long jump, pole-vault and relays on the track team. He said the hurdles were his best event., but he ran the 4-by-400 and medley relays. Withers ran in relay races with future Green Bay Packers player Nelson Toburen during his senior season. The track team won the league meet during his freshman and junior years.

Commissioner eases tensions

IRVING, Texas (AP) – A few days after the Big 12 was preserved, commissioner Dan Beebe brought together the athletic directors of the 10 remaining schools.

There were lots of things to figure out. There also was some healing to do.

Egos had been bruised, relationships strained in the whirlwind of a week since Colorado went to the Pac-10, Nebraska to the Big Ten and this conference's fate swung on Texas' decision to stay put.

Each AD had been under enormous pressure while deciding what was best for his school. Now each was sitting with nine other guys who'd been under the same stress, a reminder that they were in this together.

"We all looked at each other," Kansas AD Lew Perkins said, "and were glad we were there."

Beebe cut right to it. Everyone had something to say, so they might as well say it.

One at a time, the ADs went around the table get-

ting things off their chest.

"So many different things had been (reported)," Oklahoma AD Joe Castiglione said. "We needed to clear the air, to separate fact from fiction."

It didn't take long. Soon, there was a sense of gratitude for sticking by each other. Then came optimism as they discussed the league's new direction.

Voila. It was exactly what Beebe wanted – another good call by the man being hailed as "The Savior of the Big 12."

But, who is Dan Beebe?

And how the heck did he pull this off?

Beebe sat down with the Associated Press last week to help answer those questions, his first in-depth interview since things calmed down. Subsequent interviews with five athletic directors and league co-founder/executive Donnie Duncan painted a clear picture of Beebe.

He's a communicator, someone who can relate to anyone.

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