

Hut, hut, hike!



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
Colby High assistant football coach Ed Schmidt (back to picture) had two little Eagles sprint out of a four-point stance during little-league camp on Wednesday at the high school practice field.

Cross country squads optimistic about year

By Andy Heintz

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Colby High senior sisters Katherine and Katrina Kaus hope to put an exclamation point on their already successful cross country careers this fall.

The girls have a combined five appearances in the Class 4A state championship race – three by Katrina, two by Katherine – in their three years running for the school.

Katrina will be looking to improve on her 27th-place finish at state last year and Katherine will be looking to make it to state after not qualifying for the first time last season. She finished 35th at state as a sophomore.

Katrina was fighting a cold during her last three meets of 2009. She still took first in the Northwest Kansas League Meet and qualified for state at regionals by placing fifth. Katrina finished 23rd her sophomore year. She said she wants to finish in the top 15 or 20, because the top 20 places win a medal.

Katrina said she thinks her team had a chance of winning regionals this year.

"I think we will place high in most meets," she

said.

Katrina said she thinks juniors Christina Ostmeier and Emilea Finley will be going out for the team this year. Finley is a star athlete on the girl's track and field squad.

Senior Sara Martin and junior Andrea Torres will also be returning to the team this season.

The boy's cross country team's top three runners from last year – sophomores John Faber and Dustin Reed and junior Jared Nally – will all be returning. Reed almost advanced to state last year, taking 15th at regionals with a time of 18:27. Nally took third at the league meet.

Coach Bob Mannebach said Reed would be tough this year now that he has one season under his belt.

"What he lacks in size, he makes up with determination and desire," Mannebach said.

Reed said his main goal is to make it to state this year. He added that he thought his team would be really good.

Sophomores Brad Schroeder, Blake McNinch, Henry Schuette will also be returning. Junior Jordan Rasmussen may or may not return, Reed said.

The team's first meet will be Friday, Sept. 3, at Goodland.

Seven Colby High golfers returning for fall season

By Andy Heintz

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The Colby High girls golf team has seven out of eight players from last year returning this season, including two who qualified for the state tournament last year.

Junior Kaylee Keck and sophomore Karly Kriss advanced to state by placing ninth and 11th at the regional tournament at the Meadow Lake Golf Course last fall.

The Lady Eagles had several young golfers who made a lot of progress last season. Keck was having a great season until she got sick and had to miss several meets. She took third at the Sublette tournament, finished second at home and was five strokes away from a medal at state.

"She has a really good golf swing," said Williams. "She is getting better at course management, but she still needs to work on her putting."

Kriss had a solid freshman year. Aside from quali-

fyng for state, she finished second overall in a quad meet at Oakley she took third at the team's home invitational.

"She's a strong, athletic girl," the coach said, adding that Kriss kept improving throughout the season.

The highlight of incoming senior Abby Miller's season was shooting a 50 at Oakley, the lowest score in the quad. Senior Bailey Koerperich, a newcomer to the game last year, also made some significant strides. She took seventh in the Oakley quad and was in the hunt for state after shooting a solid front nine at regionals. She fell out of contention after having a couple of bad holes on the back nine.

"That's pretty incredible, considering it was her first year of golf," Williams said.

Seniors Kelsey Shields, Kate Ostmeier and Kayla Ziegelemer will also be back this season. Williams said he expects three or four new girls to join the team.

The coach said he expects this year's team to be better than last year's.

Kansas State Wildcats coach looking for top quarterback

MANHATTAN (AP) – Usually when a coach has several quarterback candidates and says no one is standing out, it means no one is outstanding.

In Bill Snyder's case, that does not always hold true. Starting in the early 1990s when he practically raised Kansas State's program from the grave, Snyder has consistently come up with productive winners at that key position.

Players like Jonathan Beasley, Michael Bishop, Ell Roberson and Chad May never went on to start in the Pro Bowl. But Snyder was able to hone their skills and burnish their talents, and package it all into an effective attack that took the once-woeful Wildcats to 11 straight bowl games.

Now in his second season after a three-year retirement, the 32nd and 34th head coach in Kansas State history again finds himself

with a challenge. He's moving with customary caution while deciding among Carson Coffman, Collin Klein and Samuel Lamur for the quarterback job.

Coffman may have a slight edge, since he started four games last year before giving way to Grant Gregory, a sixth-year senior who had transferred as a graduate student.

"I would say that when we take the reps, Carson takes the first rep, Collin takes the second rep and Samuel takes the third," Snyder said. "We aren't going to invest that kind of repetition unless there is a belief that they are on an equal stage and will remain competitive for the spot."

Whoever winds up under center will not be the hub of the offense. That job falls to Daniel Thomas, the Big 12's leading rusher in 2009. Though hampered by a sore shoulder

that he hurt on the last play of the season opener, Thomas wound up with 1,265 yards, the fourth-largest harvest in school history. The rugged 6-2, 228-pounder got this year's preseason nod as Big 12 offensive player of the year.

Thomas proclaims himself "100 percent."

"I think the sky is the limit for us," Thomas said. "We have a lot of playmakers on offense so I think we can be as good as we want to be."

Thomas' consistency and toughness has made him popular with teammates.

"I think he's the best running back in the Big 12," said Coffman.

Four of the five starting offensive linemen who helped open holes for Thomas are back. But the loss is a big one – all-conference left tackle Nick Stringer.

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