



Colby tennis squad ready for first action

By Kayla Cornett
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The Colby High boys tennis team has been working hard over the past month and is feeling strong, with its first meet right around the corner. Coach Gene Rothfuss said the boys' first practice was Feb. 27, but they actually spent that day shoveling snow off the courts.

Since then, however, the players have been working on their game, the coach said.

"We are excited to see how our team will do," he said. "The guys have worked very hard already this spring, and our varsity team is shaping up to do very well at our early meets. We are especially strong in the No. 1, No. 2 singles and No. 1 doubles slots on the varsity."

There are 10 boys on the squad this year, with only one senior, Jaydon Bixenman, graduating last year.

KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press
Chase Hartwell, a member of the Colby High varsity boys tennis team, prepared to hit the ball at the Colby Invitational at Fike Park last year. Hartwell returns to the team this year along with nine other players.

This year's seniors are Zane Winger, Matt Dickman, Aaron Higerd and Daniel Myers. There are also three juniors, Bill Selley, Michael Schiferl and Chase Hartwell; two sophomores, Sterling Miller and Angel Aguilar; and a freshman, Tyler Oren.

Rothfuss said last year was a rebuilding year for the Eagles, with several players "brand new to the game," but two experienced players played well for Colby.

"Our experienced players, Michael Schiferl and Aaron Higerd, who played No. 1 and No. 2 singles for last year's team, did very well at most of our meets," he said.

The junior varsity squad will have its first meet on Monday in Garden City while the varsity's first meet will be Tuesday, April 9, in WaKeeney.

Each squad will hold a home meet in April. The junior varsity will play here at 3 p.m. Tuesday, April 16, and the varsity will have teams here at 9 a.m. Friday, April 26. The date of the varsity meet was changed from Saturday, April 27, to Friday, April 26, due to a conflict with the state music festival in Andover.

Both meets will use courts at Colby Community College and Fike Park.

WaKeeney woman crowned Ms. Wheelchair

Angel Shaver of WaKeeney was crowned 2013 Ms. Wheelchair Kansas during a weekend ceremony at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Topeka.

She received her crown after participating in four judging sessions, as well as other activities, throughout the three-day event March 15 to 17. The weekend concluded with a formal crowning, where Shaver was chosen as the new titleholder and fellow contestant Jessica Soderlund of

Oakley, formerly of Oberlin, was named runner-up.

More than 70 family, friends and community members attended the crowning. The event comprised platform speeches by each contestant, as well as two on-stage questions.

The audience enjoyed a slide show of memories from the weekend; a keynote speech from Ms. Wheelchair Oklahoma 2012, Jesa Lopez; and a farewell from the 2012 Kansas titleholder, Emily

Evans of Bucklin.

Shaver, the new titleholder, says she does not let her disability define who she is and what she can do.

Although she has been through many challenges, including nerve damage and a traumatic brain injury in 2004, Shaver said, she has not let this stop her from living a full life.

She is a wife, mother of two children and proudly wears the label of "domestic engineer,"

also known as a stay-at-home mom. She also is the secretary at the WaKeeney Church of God, a bookkeeper and piano teacher. On top of that, she volunteers as a LeadHer coordinator, Moms in Prayer leader and a member of the Parent-Teacher Organization.

Shaver holds a Master of Science degree in family therapy from Friends University and a Bachelor of Science degree in behavioral science and Bible/theology from Mid-America Bible Col-

lege in Oklahoma. An avid reader, she loves to travel and has a goal to one day visit all 50 states.

Shaver said she hopes to empower and support other women, as well as serve as a role model, encouraging people to not let challenges prevent them from reaching their goals and accomplishing much in life.

Shaver will represent Kansas in the Ms. Wheelchair America competition in Houston this July, competing for the national title

alongside 31 women from other states. Follow Shaver's year by reading her blog at www.mwks13.blogspot.com.

To schedule an appearance or presentation by the new Ms. Wheelchair Kansas, contact Carrie Greenwood, state coordinator, at (785) 267-5982 or mwheelchairkansas@yahoo.com. For information, go to www.mwheelchairkansas.org.



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