

Colby fighter about to begin pro title quest

By R.B. Headley
Colby Free Press

His toughest Colby teachers should all be proud of how Danny Mainus is making a positive impact far beyond the mixed martial arts ring.

Because almost every day, this Kansas wrestling state champion helps Denver-area students overcome being broken, beaten down and the "butt" end of bad jokes.

"It's anti-bullying month, so we're involved in that," he said about his work as a professional fighter with "The Grudge" training center that also employs former Ultimate Fighting Champions heavyweight champ Shane Carwin.

"I also teach a mixed martial arts class," Mainus added. "We've seen people involved with drugs and gang life. We've helped pull them out and now they're providing for their families."

Some of those students will likely join many Colby friends and fans who will be cheering on Mainus next month.

After winning two of his first three amateur bouts, Dan and Sylvia Mainus' son will make his Mixed Martial Arts professional debut on Nov. 22 at the 1st National Bank Center in Broomfield, Colo.

It will begin a four-fight deal Mainus recently signed with the Resurrection Fighting Alliance (RFA).

"It's a feeder league for the UFC (Ultimate Fighting Championships), and my goal is definitely to not only reach the UFC, but win a bantamweight championship by the time I'm 35," the 29-year-old proclaimed.

Ironically, the ultimate fighting world features more than one Colby connection.

Brian Miller was a Colby Community College assistant coach when Mainus wrestled for the Trojans.

He's now the wrestling coach in Denver fighter Scott Ingram's camp — and Ingram will be Mainus' opponent on Nov. 22.

"I'm a lot different from those (college) days," Mainus said while snickering about whether Miller might have some "inside" knowledge about his fighting skills. "It's



A look of pain has also brought smiles for Colby native Danny Mainus. He'll make his professional Mixed Martial Arts debut at Broomfield, Colo., Nov. 22.

cool to see others from Colby involved. And to have a huge following from Colby means a lot. Seeing all those hometown people I know motivates me even more."

Without Colby motivation, Mainus would probably never even begin pursuing his dreams.

He reached his 4A state champion dream as a junior at Colby High — only to see the following season quickly become one painful nightmare.

"I broke my hip just before my senior season began," Mainus recalled. "Just a freakish accident in practice."

A freakish event still being felt five years later, because Mainus didn't wrestle again during that time. He was pursuing work in the automotive business, but former Colby Trojans coach Steve Lampe could see Mainus was exhausting away some talent.

"I saw others I knew having success, so I decided to get back into it," Mainus said as he eventually reached No. 3 nationally in his weight class. "Up to that point, wrestling was a dead-end sport. But the UFC changed all that."

Pro possibilities motivated Mainus to learn other fighting skills like boxing and Brazilian jiu-jitsu. It led to a freelance career that featured two wins and one painful split-decision loss to Zac Chavez at the same Broomfield location on March 22.

"It was one of the worst. I was a bloody mess. I broke my nose, took several elbows to the head and got my elbow snapped (hyperextended) in an armbar," he recalled. "I couldn't hold down much (nourishment) for two or three days after that. But I and a lot of others thought I won that



The referee raised Danny Mainus' arm in victory after his 46-second submission win over bantamweight foe Kyle Carver (second from right) during "Shark Fights 19" in Independence, Mo., earlier this fall. Carver brought a 2-0 mixed martial arts record into the bout.

fight."

Even worse was how internationally-known Australian announcer Michael Schiavello was constantly mispronouncing

Mainus' name during the AXS television broadcast.

Suddenly, Mainus was indeed on a wrong end of internet jokes that even reached The Jimmy Fal-

lon late-night TV show.

"It was like salt in the wounds at first," Mainus recalled about sounding like a certain body part. "But you learn to roll with the

punches. Maybe I can get a Preparation H sponsorship out of it."

Mainus' positive outlook has paid off again. His effort against Chavez also drew the attention of Resurrection Fighting Alliance executives, who offered him a four-fight contract shortly after this loss.

"The owner told me not to judge his company on the outcome of the fight," Mainus said. "And I didn't. Now it's like all the hard work is paying off. All those Tae Kwan Do classes Mom took me to when I was eight, and wrestling when I was about 10."

"It showed what Colby coaches told me long ago, don't put any limits on what you can achieve," he added.

Tickets for the Mainus-Ingram can be obtained at cagetix.com. Make sure to select Mainus as your fighter.

Oh by the way, Schiavello will again be announcing Mainus' bout on AXS TV.

"I kind of busted his chops about it during weigh-ins, but it's all in good fun," Mainus concluded. "He's kind of the voice of our sport, so I expect he'll be calling my matches a lot."

Trojans sweep Pratt out of playoffs

By R.B. Headley
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Hopes for a second straight upset of the Jayhawk League co-champion Colby Community College Trojans literally lasted less than 30 minutes Thursday night.

Colby's regional play-in match began at 6:30 p.m., and the Trojans had won two sets over visiting Pratt Community College by 7 p.m.

They needed just a little more time to finish off an impressive 25-15, 25-12, 25-15 win.

Freshman Adrianna Sosnowska drilled 15 kills to lead this latest Trojan victory and continue her climb up the National Junior College Association rankings.

Yet just as impressive was Colby's 14 ace serves from six different players. Sophomore Maisy Munson served four followed by Lorena Rosario with three, three



Colby Community College freshman Danielle Rodriguez smoothly received this serve Thursday night against visiting Pratt.

more from Savannah Gamble and Sosnowska's two.

Sophomores Taryn Lee and An-

djela Relic also served one ace apiece.

Together, they left no doubt

about whether the Trojans (24-8 overall) would advance into regional "Final Four" tournament play. Colby will join three other teams at Hutchinson on Nov. 10-11 to compete for the one national tourney berth.

Kills: Sosnowska 15, Rosario 8. Assists: Munson 73.

Digs: Danielle Rodriguez 12, Reljic 7, Sosnowska 7, Gamble 5. Stuff blocks: Lee 2, Kamryn Forrest 1.

Block assists: Lee 2, Munson 2, Forrest 2, Rosario 1, Sosnowska 1.

Cowboys in Colby tonight

Playoffs or not, what better way for any Colby season to finish than beating Goodland?

The Eagles will bet their chance in tonight's varsity football season against those visiting Goodland Cowboys.

Halloween kickoff is set for 7 p.m. at Dennen Field.

The Cowboys (5-3 record) are riding high after another victory, 43-0 over Concordia Friday evening. It clinched Goodland's playoff spot with a perfect 2-0 district record.

However, Colby (0-8) can spoil that perfection while also celebrating a victory to cap the football campaign.

The Eagles must rebound from a 43-6 loss against Clay Center last week. Before that contest, Colby had built 12-point leads over both Norton and Concordia before falling short in those second halves.

Colby's defense must deal with a balanced Cowboys attack.

Goodland gained 178 yards rushing and passed for 188 yards against Concordia.

Sophomore quarterback Trey Teeter completed 11 of his 16 throws including two touchdown strikes, while senior Garret Taylor carried 16 times for a team-leading 77 yards.

Titans' 20-point triumph keeps playoff hopes alive

By Bonnie Holm

The Triplains-Brewster Titans stayed in playoff contention with their 54-34 win over Heartland Christian Friday night at Brewster.

According to sources, the Titans (5-3 record) need some help from Tribune in tonight's regular-season finale against the 6-1 Weskan Coyotes. A Weskan loss of 17 points or more and a 19-point Titans victory over 2-6 Cheylin tonight would send Triplains-Brewster to next week's 1A playoffs.

On Friday, Heartland Christian and the Titans both brought 4-3 records into their annual football showdown.

Neither team could convert on their opening drives, and when the Titans took possession of the ball, a quick series of plays had them scoring, with quarterback Ryan Gfeller running across the goal line.

The Crusaders answered with a score of their own, tying the game at 6-6.

It would be the last time the Crusaders scored until the fourth quarter, as the Titan defense stepped up and squelched Heartland Christian's speed.

With 1:08 left in the first quarter, the Crusaders attempted an on-side kick, which was recovered by the Titans on their own 25 yard line. Gfeller successfully completed a pass to Justin Culwell for a 24-yard gain and a first down.

Jace Jorgensen sped around the



The Heartland Christian Crusaders were even with Triplains-Brewster for awhile Friday night, but quarterback Ryan Gfeller (4) and those Titans huddled up to plan several scoring plays during their 54-34 victory in Brewster.

left end on the next play to score for the Titans, increasing their lead to 12-6.

The second quarter saw the Crusaders try to get something going offensively with their passing game, however, Skylar Hansen tipped the ball on a pass attempt and then sacked the quarterback on the next play, sending a strong defensive message to the Crusader team.

Heartland was forced to punt, and Jace Jorgensen returned the

ball to the 26 yard line. Nathan Jorgensen took a handoff from Gfeller and romped 55 yards for a Titan touchdown.

Jace Jorgensen darted into the endzone for a successful 2 point conversion, giving the Titans a lead of 20-6.

When the Crusaders started moving the ball downfield on a series of running plays, it looked like they had their offensive game going, until Nathan Jorgensen intercepted a pass, giving the Titans

the ball on the Crusader 31-yard line.

Gfeller threw the ball to Culwell, putting the Titans in scoring position on the eight-yard line. Gfeller eluded tacklers to cross the goal line for another Titan touchdown, making the score 26-6.

The Crusaders' opening drive in the third quarter didn't last long, as Gfeller intercepted a pass and advanced the ball to the 23 yard line.

After successful runs by Nathan and Jace Jorgensen, and a pass from Gfeller to Culwell, the Titans were set to score from the five-yard line. Nathan Jorgensen powered up the middle and into the end zone for a commanding 32-6 advantage.

The fourth quarter saw the Titans with the ball on the Crusader 23-yard line, and Nathan Jorgensen once again powered around the right side for a Titan touchdown.

Freshman Tad Holm caught a pass from Gfeller in the corner of the end zone to score on the extra points, increasing the Titan lead to 40-6.

Jace Jorgensen ran 20 yards into the end zone for the Titan touchdown after Fred Schertz had recovered a Heartland on-side kickoff.

Coleton Rogge caught a pass from Gfeller for the extra point conversion and 48-12 margin.

The Titans started their next scoring drive on the 29-yard line,

Red Sox finish World Series at Fenway

BOSTON (AP) — The old ballpark was packed for a celebration nearly a century in the making.

Players danced around the infield with their families.

Fans remained in the stands, savoring a long-awaited moment generations of New Englanders had never been able to witness in person.

David Ortiz and the Boston Red Sox, baseball's bearded wonders, capped their remarkable

able turnaround by beating the St. Louis Cardinals 6-1 in Game 6 on Wednesday night to win their third World Series championship in 10 seasons.

When it was over, Ortiz took a microphone on the field and addressed the city, just as he did a week after the Boston Marathon bombings in April.

"This is for you, Boston. You guys deserve it," the Series MVP said. "We've been through a lot

this year, and this is for all of you and all those families who struggled."

And the Red Sox didn't even have to fly the trophy home. For the first time since Babe Ruth's team in 1918, Boston won the title at Fenway. The 101-year-old stadium, oldest in the majors, was packed with 38,447 singing, shouting fans anticipating a party building for more than nine decades.

"Maybe they won't have to go another 95 years," said John Farrell, a champion in his first season as Boston's manager.

Shane Victorino, symbolic of these resilient Sox, returned from a stiff back and got Boston rolling with a three-run double off the Green Monster against rookie sensation Michael Wacha. Pumped with emotion, Victorino pounded his chest with both fists three times.

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