

Raton centerfielder to play softball at Trinidad State

By Tim Keller
The Chronicle-News

Raton High School's senior centerfielder Maggie Honeyfield has signed with TSJC softball coach Steve Swazo to play ball for TSJC next year. She'll receive a full scholarship.

"We are very excited to get a player like Maggie," Swazo says. "She has something that you really can't coach and that is great speed. We look for her to challenge right away for a spot in our outfield next year."

Besides using her speed around the bases, Honeyfield has used it for the past three years at Raton to cover the game's biggest piece of real estate, centerfield. "The centerfielder has to cover the shortstop and second baseman, as well both the other outfielders," Honeyfield



MAGGIE HONEYFIELD

'I bought my own tools when I was in the fifth grade, and used them to create my own shop. I really like doing that kind of work.'

says, "so I do a lot of running. The centerfielder is usually the fastest player on a team."

From centerfield, she watches every pitch closely, noting location and spin, largely able to predict where the ball will go even before the batter swings.

"I'm good at watching the ball come off the bat," she says, explaining how she's able to get a jump on a line drive.

Swazo says, "I happened to see Maggie play a year ago at the Las Vegas Showcase City Lights Tournament and was very

impressed. We believe she can become an even better hitter with us and are excited that she chose Trinidad State Junior College to further her education career as well as her softball career."

Although she's just beginning her final season of high school softball, Swazo has already been giving batting pointers to Honeyfield. Although she counts batting as the weakest of her skills, it hasn't kept her from piling up honors during her high school career. She was named All-District in her freshman and junior years. In her sophomore year, she and her teammates became the first Raton girls' team to play in a state championship game, taking second in state; Honeyfield was named First Team All-State, an honor she earned again

in her junior year.

She learned her work ethic early, starting to work with her father, Raton contractor Mark Honeyfield, when she was five years old. "I opened my own bank account when I was in the first grade," she says. "I bought my own tools when I was in the fifth grade, and used them to create my own shop. I really like doing that kind of work. I wasn't raised like a normal girl."

She'll study pre-engineering in college before going into construction management.

While she credits her dad with introducing her to the work she loves, she gives her mom credit for her athleticism. Kathy Honeyfield is the longtime owner and teacher at Raton School of Dance where daughter Maggie studied and danced for ten years.

It's also where Maggie built her woodshop back in the fifth grade.

Although she wants to live in a warmer climate when she settles down to begin a career, she purposely chose to stay close to home when she starts college. She was considering attending a softball powerhouse back east when, last November, her grandmother, Lena Musso, died at 87. "I didn't want to go away so soon and have my mom lose two people."

And besides, her mom once attended TSJC. Coach Swazo sealed the deal by offering an attractive scholarship. Beginning next fall, Maggie Honeyfield will be sprinting across the ball field in a TSJC uniform.

If she and Swazo have their way, she'll be batting the ball into hard-to-reach places, too.

Anaheim rallies to squeak out win against Avalanche

Associated Press

ANAHEIM, Calif. — The Anaheim Ducks cut it a little closer than they wanted in their fifth straight victory.

Bobby Ryan scored twice, Jonas Hiller made 43 saves and the Ducks survived a late Colorado rally to beat the Avalanche 3-2 on Sunday night.

Captain Ryan Getzlaf scored on a power play early in the third period and assisted on Ryan's second goal to help the Ducks beat the team they're trying to catch in the standings.

Hiller made 28 saves through the first two periods and was working on his third shutout of the season before Ryan O'Reilly and Milan Hejduk scored late in the third period.

"You worry for a second, but you realize there is a bigger task at hand," Ryan said. "We still had the lead. The urgency was there. We realized that there were two points we needed to get and didn't want them to slip away."

Jean-Sebastien Giguere allowed the three goals on 18 shots against his former team. Giguere spent 8 1/2 seasons with the Ducks and helped them win the Stanley Cup in 2007.

Colorado was coming off a 3-1 victory at Los Angeles on Saturday night.

"I thought we deserved a better fate. We obviously played a good game," Giguere said. "We had a couple of breakdowns that

they capitalized on."

The Ducks are 8-0-1 in their past nine games to move within 11 points of the Avalanche for the No. 8 spot in the West. Anaheim next faces Dallas, which holds a seven-point lead in the standings, on Tuesday in the final game before the All-Star break.

"Our goal going into this was to win out going into the All-Star break," Ryan said. "Every two points going forward is monumental."

Hiller has been the key to the Ducks' recent run. He is 6-0-1 with a .947 save percentage and 1.50 goals-against average in his past eight appearances.

"The whole team is playing its best lately, so that makes it easier on me," Hiller said.

The Avalanche outshot Anaheim 15-2 in the first period, but still found themselves down 1-0.

The Ducks scored on their first shot, taking advantage of O'Reilly's turnover at the Avalanche blue line. Ryan picked up the puck and beat Giguere with a wrist shot on a short-handed breakaway at 2:49.

Getzlaf scored at 20 seconds of the third period with Colorado's Shane O'Brien off for delay of game for sending the puck out of play late in the second. The Ducks won the opening faceoff and Teemu Selanne raced down the right side, wrapped behind



Associated Press

Anaheim Ducks' Cam Fowler (4) and goalie Jonas Hiller (1), of Switzerland, celebrate after defeating the Colorado Avalanche in an NHL hockey game in Anaheim, Calif., Sunday. The Ducks won 3-2.

the net and fed Getzlaf. A video review confirmed that the puck crossed under the sprawled Giguere.

Getzlaf then set up Ryan's goal at 3:56 with a

pass from deep in the Anaheim zone. Ryan has 19 goals this season. He extended his points streak to eight games and has 14 points in his last 13 games.

The Ducks won their

sixth in a row at the Honda Center, second only to Detroit's current run of 16 straight at home.

"It wasn't our prettiest game but we found a way to get it done," Getzlaf said.

Woman skis across Antarctica

Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — British adventurer Felicity Aston became the first woman to ski alone across Antarctica on Monday, hauling two sledges around crevasses and over mountains into endless headwinds, past the South Pole and onward to the coastal ice shelf, persevering for 59 days in near-total solitude.

She made it to her destination ahead of schedule, using nothing but her own strength to cover 1,084 miles (1,744 kilometers) from her starting point on the Leverett Glacier on Nov. 25 to Hercules Inlet.

The most surprising thing about her journey, she said, was how emotional it proved to be, from the moment she was dropped off alone, through every victory and defeat along the way.

"I'm not a particularly weepy person, and yet anyone who has been following my tweets can see me bursting into tears," she said in an interview with The Associated Press on Monday while waiting for a plane to pick her up.

"When I saw the coastal mountains that marked my end point for the first time, I literally just stopped in my tracks and bawled my eyes out," she added. "All these days I thought there was no chance I was going to make it in time to make that last flight off Antarctica, and yet here I am with three days to spare."

Aston also set another record: the first human to ski solo, across Antarctica, using only her own muscles. A male-female team earlier skied across Antarctica without kites or machines, but Aston is the first to do this alone.

Aston, 34, grew up in Kent, England, and studied physics and meteorology. A veteran of expeditions in subzero environments, she worked for the British weather service at a base in Antarctica and has led teams on ski trips in the Antarctic, the Arctic and Greenland.

But this was the first time she traveled so far, so alone, and she said the solitude posed her biggest challenge. In such an extreme environment, the smallest mistakes can prove treacherous. Alone with one's thoughts, the mind can play tricks. Polar adventurers usually take care to watch their teammates for signs of hypothermia, which is easier to diagnose in others than yourself, she said.

She thought she was done for when her two butane lighters failed high in the Transantarctic Mountains, where it got "really very cold."

"Suddenly I realized that without a lighter working, I

SPORTS BRIEFS

Associated Press

Obama salutes Stanley Cup winners

WASHINGTON — President Obama saluted the NHL's Boston Bruins for their 2011 Stanley Cup championship on Monday, citing the city's run of professional team championships in recent years.

The Bruins won their first Stanley Cup title in 39 years last June after a bruising seven-game final series against the Vancouver Canucks.

It was the latest in a string of Boston sports championships, including the Celtics in 2008, the Red Sox in 2007 and the New England Patriots in 2005. The Patriots play in next month's Super Bowl.

"The Bruins, the Sox, the Celtics, now the Patriots. Enough already, Boston," Obama said during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House. "What's going on, huh?"

Obama also jokingly invoked some New England slang in welcoming the Bruins, along with the Stanley Cup, to the White House.

"I know you are all

wicked happy to be here," he said.

The president said there was no better image of the Bruins' dominance than when Zdeno Chara, the team's 6-foot-9 defenseman, hoisted the Stanley Cup above his head in Vancouver in celebration last spring.

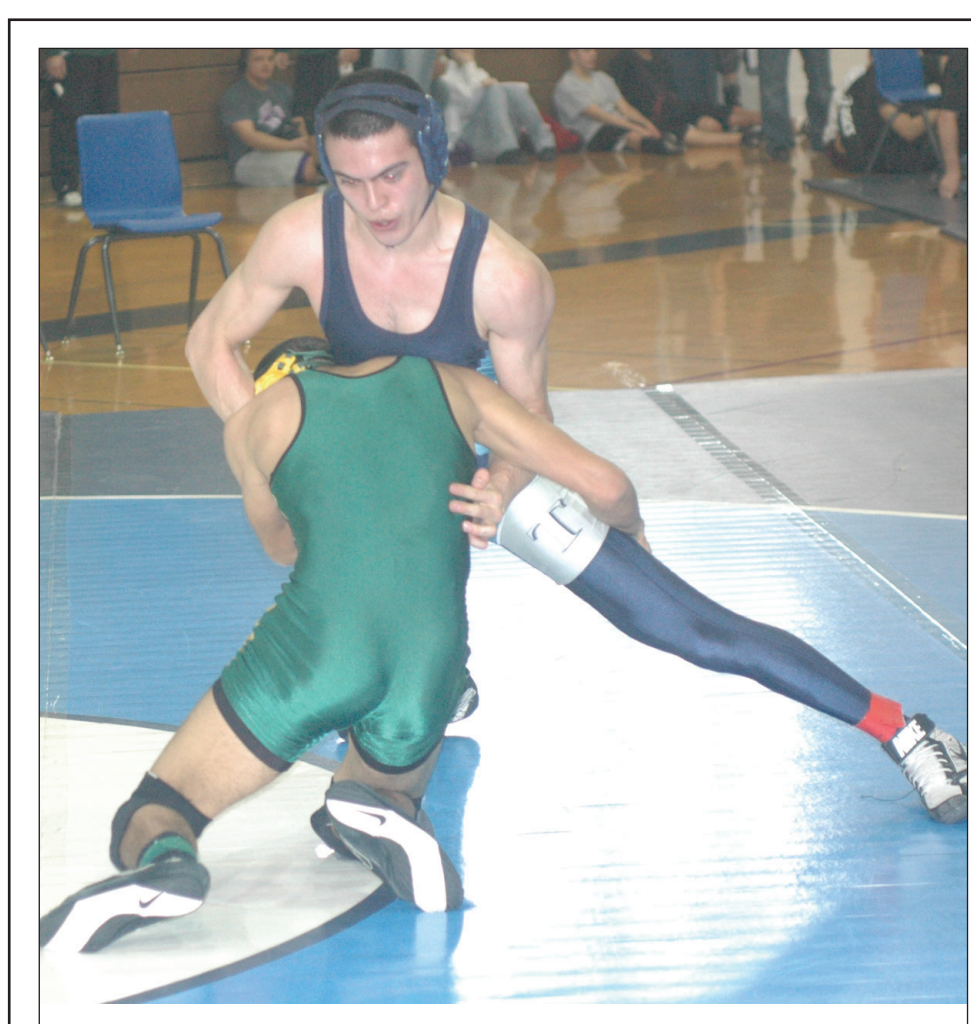
Jeffery lifts Colorado past Arizona

TUCSON, Ariz. — Chucky Jeffery's basket with 17 seconds left gave Colorado a 56-54 victory over Arizona on Sunday.

Brittany Wilson led the Buffaloes (14-4, 3-4 Pac-12) with 15 points. She also contributed four steals and four assists. Julie Seabrook chipped in 10 points and five rebounds for Colorado.

Reiko Thomas led Arizona (13-6, 2-5) with 16 points. She also had nine rebounds as the Wildcats owned a 51-30 edge on the boards that included 25 offensive rebounds.

Aley Rohde had 10 points for Arizona. Davellyn White had 11 rebounds, but the Wildcats' leading scorer was held to eight points on 3 of 16 shooting. The game was tied 27-27 at the half.



Wrestling invitational

Mike Albanese/The Chronicle-News

Miner wrestler Phillip Dimino tries to take down Josh Del Rio of La Junta during the Gene Gagliardi 2012 Invitational Saturday at Trinidad High School's Donnelly Gym.