

Charlie's Corner  
Inside

SCATTER SHOOTING

Scattershooting and mostly missing.....The Major League Baseball owners have proposed a limited 2020 season with prorated salaries for the players. A 50-60 game schedule is proposed but the owners' offer is good only if fans are in the stands. The players association is holding out for salaries even if fans are not in attendance. What to do? What to do? With that much money on the table you can bet SOMETHING is going to happen!.....Speaking of Coronavirus--we were weren't we?--the enigmatic football coach, Mike Leach, now of Mississippi State, formerly of Washington State and Texas Tech, when asked about the virus had this to say, "Swing your sword. Do it with great technique. Do it with great energy, and do it with great attitude. Let's get through this thing and let's get back. I can't wait for kickoff." Uh, that's EXACTLY what I was thinking Mike!.....These are strange times. Everyone sits around complaining that there is no "leadership". Then when someone does step up and take action, most complain and call them a "dictator"! Perhaps we are going to have to return to the days of the "Wild West Frontier" where the law of the land was whoever best took care of themselves!.....Big 12 Commissioner Bob Bowlsby says we will have college football, starting with a 12-game schedule beginning on Labor Day weekend but that there will be disruptions. Not sure what he means by "disruptions" unless he means epidemic outbreaks. The truth is as we get closer and closer to these starting dates nobody knows what is going to happen. It is kind of like your first ride on a scary roller coaster; they tell you it is safe but you are pretty sure they don't know!.....They are talking about paying college athletes. Sounds admirable but there are some big pitfalls. I like what former NFL star Reggie Bush had to say: "Guidance is the one thing that college athletes coming through the system miss on so much. I missed on it. They are about to start paying college athletes. This is something that has never been experienced before, and it is going to destroy some people if their foundation is not in the right place." Right Reggie. A voice of reason, crying in the wilderness!.....We've all wondered how the Coronavirus stuff will affect fans' attendance at college and professional sporting events. Now toss in the shock of the rioting and looting and you have a brew that I think many will not wish to partake of. To think that people are going to flock back into entertainment venues in big cities that were recently burning is wishful thinking. There are a whole lot more shock waves to be emanated from all of this than we have seen so far!.....KC Royals general manager Dayton Moore has said that the Royals will pay the salaries of all of their minor league players this summer even though there will not be a season. He said to do so is "for the good of all of baseball." The Royals are also not laying off any other employees in their organization but instead, instituted temporary pay cuts for those that make the most money in the organization. Classy move Dayton. That will pay dividends in the future!.....At the University of Kansas athletic director Jeffrey Long makes over twice the salary as does the Chancellor, Doug Girod. \$1,500,000 against \$637,500. That brings to mind the old story told about Babe Ruth when, in 1930, he signed a new contract for \$80,000. When The Babe was asked whether or not he deserved to make more money than President Herbert Hoover, Ruth Responded, "Why not? I had a better year than he did!"

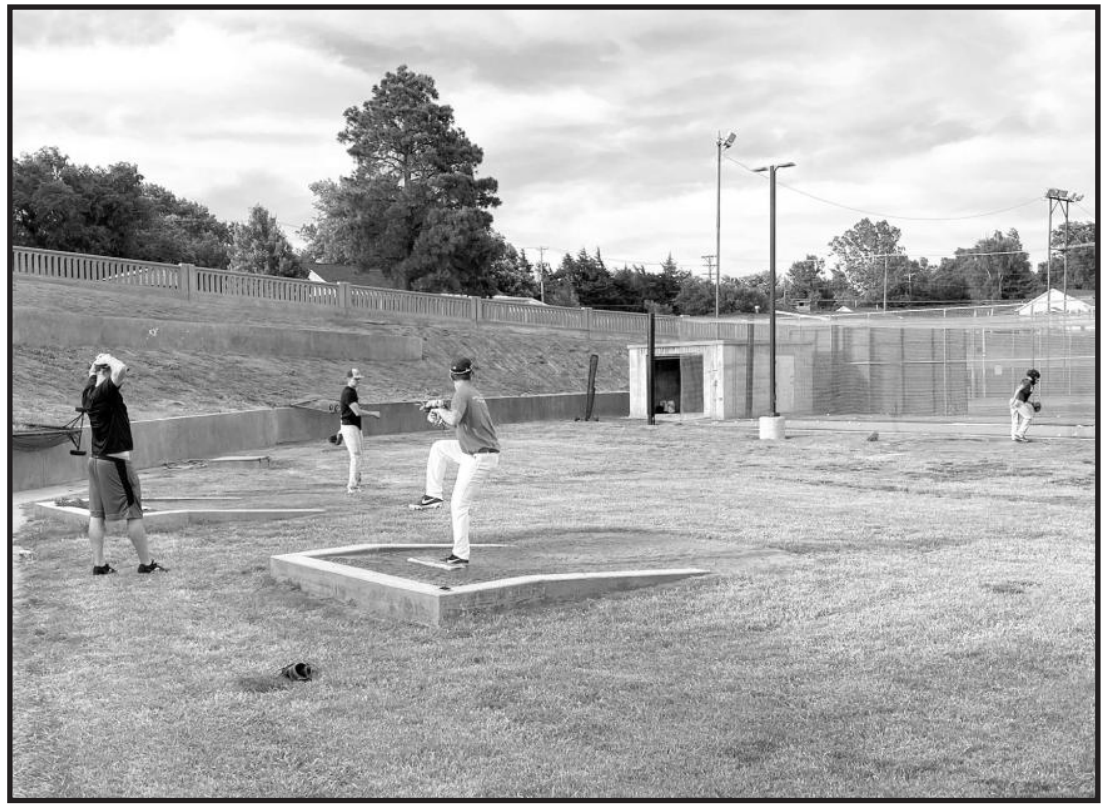
**DID YOU KNOW**.....That Larned High School's football stadium and playing field is named for long-time custodial employee Earl Roberts? Mr. Roberts not only had custodial care of the high school, he took care of the football field with the mowing and watering. For years he pulled the irrigation system around by hand. Now Earl Roberts Field has an underground watering system.

Legion baseball honing skills

The Larned American Legion baseball team under the leadership of Kyle Leroy, Chad Erway and Russell Schmidt have been having practices at renovated Moffet Stadium in preparation for their season-opener.

The squad numbers about fifteen with talent at all positions. The field conditions at Moffet Stadium are near perfect thanks to a splendid caretaking of the field by the staff at the Larned Recreation department.

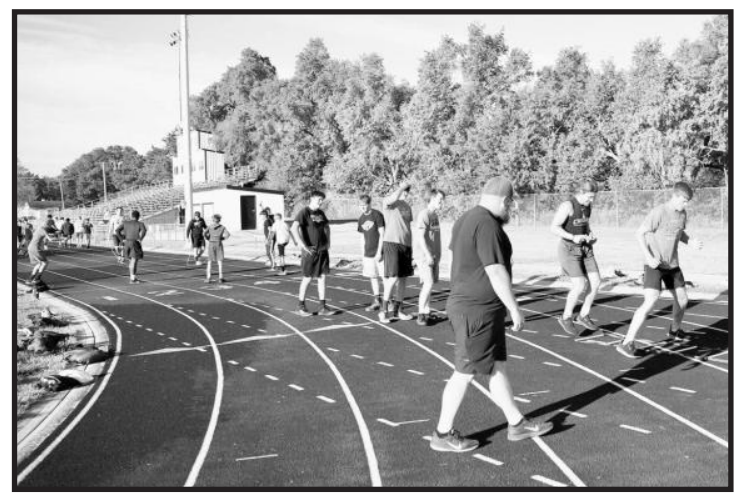
The team will practice again on Wednesday June 3, and Monday June 8 in preparation for their first game of the season against Great Bend, on Thursday June 11. That will be a doubleheader beginning at 6pm.



LHS athletes start summer conditioning

On Monday, June 1, Larned High School athletes were able to start summer conditioning drills under the supervision of coaches. The guidelines were issued earlier by KSHSAA.

Larned coaches met with athletes at the track at Earl Roberts Field on Monday morning for conditioning drills. There have been no organized athletics since March when all school facilities were closed due to coronavirus concerns.



Coaches association names Klein, Coach of the Year

By Ron Preston  
Reflector-Chronicle Sports

The Kansas Basketball Coaches Association has named long time Abilene basketball coach Tim Klein the Middle School Basketball Coach of the Year for 2020.

Klein currently coaches eighth grade at Abilene Middle School and has been in Abilene for 13 years. He has been teaching and coaching for 35 years total. Additionally he is the Math Resource teacher at Abilene High School.

Klein has a Masters Degree in Special Education from Kansas State University and he has taught and coached at Alma, Wamego, Hoxie and Valley Heights before coming to Abilene.

Coach Klein has been the head coach of the Longhorns for six seasons with a record

of 182-36 for a winning percentage of 83.4%. Before taking the middle school coaching position, Klein spent seven years with Terry Taylor at the Abilene High School coaching the freshmen and junior varsity teams.

The Longhorns finished the current season with an 18-0 record and its fourth North Central Kansas League title. The Longhorns have won the conference in three consecutive years.

"This group was a special group," Klein said of his current team. "But the honor isn't just about this team, it's about all the athletes that I have coached before and how they have turned into outstanding young men. They came in with goals and met those goals. This group played as a team should play

"This year we had four to



six players that averaged five to nine points game. The team averaged six assists and 13.5 steals and they only had 13 turnovers per game. The kids averaged 49 points per game offensively while only allow-

ing 23 points per game. Coach Troy Palenske and myself are very proud to have had the opportunity to have coached them and watch them in the upcoming years."

see KLEIN page 5