

WOODMEN EDITION

May 8, 2009
Volume XVII, Number 19

www.waltpub.com

The Woodmen Edition
620 Southpointe Ct. Ste 235,
Colorado Springs, CO 80906
578-5112

Air Academy Alumnus Stephen Kirkham Goes Back to His Roots Coaching Basketball

BY DANNY SUMMERS

Stephen Kirkham didn't have to look far to find a highly qualified coach to take over the women's basketball program at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

Kirkham, the athletic director at the school, named himself the coach on April 20 and will be on the sideline when UCCS opens its season Nov. 6 at Air Force.

"I've been having fun getting back into the swing of recruiting and small group workouts," Kirkham said. "I'm looking forward to starting practices in earnest in

Rockrimmon Library Home Schoolers Take Third at State Science Olympiad

BY MAREN SORENSEN



Home Schoolers Rock the Science Olympiad in Golden. First row: Kelly Bell, Jamie Bell, Hunter Gill, Elliot Osteros, Sheree Personius, Coach Cheryl Osteros, Middle row: Hunter Vallot, Rachael Stark, Kristen Personius, Kierenne Maughan, Mary Bell. Front row: Luke Stark, Eli Osteros, Brian Bell, Justine Woodard

After long hours of preparation by students and their parents, a group of home schoolers that study at the Rockrimmon Library proved their extensive knowledge base by capturing a third place win at the State Science Olympiad April 11 in Golden. The win signaled the first time in Colorado history that a home school group ever received a trophy. They actually picked up two trophies, both of which are displayed at the Rockrimmon Library.

The students faced dozens of other schools, primarily public, as they competed in over two dozen events that covered everything from biology and chemistry to reptiles and amphibians. The competitions were split into five categories and the students competed on teams of two for each event.

Thirteen kids, aged 10-14, and in grades 6-9 participated. None of the

Continued on page 14

Summer With The

VISION CLINIC

FF SUNGLASSES SALE

this coupon required *
in conjunction with insurance

Couture • Vera Wang
Paul Jim • Costa del Mar

the sun's damaging rays that can
cause cataracts
polarized and anti-reflection lenses
of quality, designer sunglasses



VISION CLINIC
Dr. Jerry Hendricks, O.D.
Colorado Springs, CO 80919
drkrimmonVision.com

Mortgage Group

and operated

Weekends!!

H.A.R.P.

ABLE REFINANCE

LOWEST FIXED

HISTORY!

HOMEBUYERS

PLANS

LOANS

AT GREAT RATES!

FOR A QUOTE:

Call, CSMG

Mortgage Broker

1822

msn.com

raisal*

value
will be reimbursed at the
originated by CSMG
for \$175,000

... Kirkham said. "I really
wanted to be a football coach."

Kirkham found immediate
success on the basketball court,
leading St. Francis to a couple
of league titles and a trip to
the state tournament in 1981 -
still the only state tournament
appearance in school history.
During his stint at St. Francis,
Kirkham worked a basketball
camp run by legendary UCLA
men's basketball coach John
Wooden and was greatly influ-
enced.

From there, Kirkham made
stops at Fort Hayes State in
Kansas, Durant High School
in Oklahoma and Butler Com-
munity College in Kansas
before landing at Mesa State.
When he retired from coaching
following the 2003-04 season,
was the winningest women's
basketball coach in the history
of the RMAC. He had a 100
percent graduation rate among
his seniors.

"When I was getting out of
coaching (at Mesa State) my
wife (Coleen) said 'Let's move
back to Colorado Springs,'" **Kirkham**
said. "I looked at jobs
at private schools and applied
for the job at UCCS and got it.
It's a great school. There's no

Under commit and over deliver.

You have certainly heard those
words before. Yesterday morning,
we called a plumber to check out
our sprinkler system for the start of
the summer watering system. He
advised he would call Pat (my
wife) two days later to schedule an
appointment to come out. Later
that day his partner called and said
he could do the service call that
afternoon. We were thrilled with
their responsiveness. When he
came out, the system needed a
small part. He changed it without
adding it to the service charge.
Once again, we were very
impressed.

When you are dealing with
tenants in your properties, try to
adopt the same philosophy. Find a
way to do something or provide
something they were not expecting.
I assure you that approach will lead
to a much better landlord/tenant
relationship and will yield happier
tenants. Happier tenants stay
longer.

Your Personal Mortgage Planner

(719) 574-9500

But Kirkham is most excited
these days about coaching bas-
ketball.

Home Schoolers

from page 1

kids were hand-picked by
a science department or by
a suggestion from someone
that knew the abilities of
these students. They simply
decided that this competition
would be an excellent way to
improve on science abilities
and grouped together with-
out considering anyone's
previous talent or expertise.
The group didn't turn anyone
away, but clearly had enough
talent to make the event a
successful one. Almost every
student was new to the team,
which was made up of seven
girls and six boys.

Cheryl Osteros, head
coach for the team, said the
supervisors of the event were
surprised at the talent the
students displayed. "They
knew how hard it is to reach
that level," she said. She
also said that the enthusiasm
of the team never slowed
from the regional to the state
event, and noted that the
team spirit and goal glued
the members together as they
won more and more com-
petitions. Osteros had two
sons that previously entered
Science Olympiads, but had
never coached a team this
large before. "I love what
the Science Olympiad has to
offer," she said. The team
has already started training
for next year's competition,
unlike this previous year
when they started studying
in the fall.

But this wasn't simply a
student endeavor. Several of
the home school moms said
that they would sometimes
stay up late doing their own
research that got passed
along to the kids, and that
they were learning alongside
their students. Mom Kelly
Bell said, "It pulled all of us
moms beyond our comfort

one game of 5-on-5 basketball
the next two months. I want us
to improve our skills."

zone." She also noted that
the kids displayed a great
deal of respect and sports-
manship as they entered the
different events. The kids
took on their own "team
spirit," with everything from
t-shirts to finding silly hats.
"They took care of every-
thing," said Bell. Dads also
participated, helping mostly
with the mechanical aspects
of science as they taught
building and technical skills
to the kids.

Mom Amy Personius said
that the competitions pro-
vided the students with real-
life scenarios where they had
to adapt quickly and learn
to work with a partner even
if they weren't perfectly
practiced. Bell's son, Brian,
barely made it to the state
competition because of a
battle with the flu. He had
to work with a new partner
on his team in order to finish
fast and get back home. "It's
fun even though it's hard
work," said the 10-year-old.
"You can get rewarded at the
end." Brian placed second in
the Amphibians and Reptiles
category, despite his illness.

Personius also said that the
competition was validating
for the team, as most of their
peers attend public schools.
The Science Olympiad was
naturally a total deviation
from standardized testing,
but the students saw that
their studying and school
experience still put them at
the top of the charts. Every
student on the team earned a
metal.

The students did have to
do some fundraising, and
sold tote bags to raise money
for their various trips.