

## **Columbine flexes its muscles, July 21, 2015**

By Craig Harper

### *Rebels show off their skills, beat 5A champs for top honors*

The first Hog Olympics hosted by Columbine in 2014 didn't exactly go the Rebels' way. Construction at the school forced moving the event to an off-campus site and the Rebel linemen's performance didn't meet their standards.

"We didn't do very well," recalled offensive tackle JT Gentry. "We took third, which for a Columbine Rebel — we only like first place. So this year there was kind of a chip on our shoulder and we just wanted to come out and give it all we had."

The Rebels liked where they finished in the second Hog Olympics on July 17 at the school, the first of what coach Andy Lowry hopes becomes a summer tradition.

The Columbine Blue team, with three returning offensive line and two defensive line starters, also liked who they beat for the title: defending 5A state champion Cherry Creek.

The Columbine quintet prevailed in pool play along with Cherry Creek, Horizon and Cherokee Trail following competition in the bench press (repetitions at 185 pounds), tire flip, tire throw and tug-of-war. That set up a four-team showdown for the title, a winner-take-all in the truck push of 75 yards with an opposing team in the bed of a Ford F250 Heavy Duty pickup.

Going last, the Rebels knew they had to beat Cherry Creek's time of 22.75 seconds. They did — by a mere .03 second.

"That caught our attention," left guard Dylan Goodman said of Creek's time. "It definitely gave us an extra edge right there just to compete

more.”

The Rebels hope to see the Bruins again in this fall’s state playoffs. They believe the team’s summer successes in 7-on-7 competitions (second in two tournaments) and the Hog Olympics (also tied for first at Englewood in June) are signs of good things to come after a disappointing 5-6 season in 2014.

“We kind of had an upsetting season last year, and I think this off-season we’ve kind of banded together more as brothers and the work we’ve put in is going to pay off,” said defensive end Hunter Harms.

Defensive tackle Hunter Harris and offensive lineman Alton Peerless rounded out Columbine’s winning team.

Littleton also competed, its top team finishing fourth in the Columbine Blue’s pool. Several of the Lions’ top linemen were absent, including Aron Pina, a 4A Plains League first-team selection in 2014, and starting center Jaxon Enzminger (broken hand).

With the exception of the 6-foot-4, 305-pound David Bieber, Littleton couldn’t match the other teams in size. “We were definitely one of the smaller ones here today,” Bieber said. “Some of our bigger guys were the ones who were gone. But it’s good to see what some of the smaller guys can do.”

Lowry brought the Hog Olympics to Columbine last year with the help of Ray Barron, who’s beginning his first year as an assistant line coach. Barron ran the Hog Olympics at Heritage for almost 20 years.

Ten schools fielded full teams, some doubling up and Columbine with three.