



Lecturer Jack Renkens discusses the odds of a college career in athletics to about 75 high school students, parents and coaches Tuesday night at the Clifford Hope Auditorium at Garden City High School. Renkens was on hand for his touring presentation, "Recruiting Realities."

A dose of reality

■ **Telling it straight:** Speaker tells the truth about college recruiting.

By **JOEY SPRINKLE**
jsprinkle@gctelegram.com

A crowd of about 50 converged on Clifford Hope Auditorium at Garden City High School Tuesday night to hear speaker Jack Renkens discuss the ins and outs of college recruiting with the Recruiting Realities Tour.

The idea was for those in

level. "Work hard and get good grades. Work harder in my sports and everything."

Renkens spent about 90 minutes breaking down the politics of college recruiting while separating fantasy and reality.

One of the first points that Renkens drove home was the two extremes of the college attitude: unrealistic parents and unrealistic athletes.

Basically, putting all of your hopes into a select few major colleges based on name and tradition will get you nowhere, was the theme.

but the question, "Will you pay for my college education?"

He emphasized the difference between the likelihood that a marginal athlete has of getting a full ride to a Kansas or Kansas State vs. the opportunity to have your entire college education paid for — along with the chance to play every day — at a lesser-known college.

"I don't want to play' if you're not willing to go anywhere," Renkens said. "You just got \$140,000 (the price of a four-year education) — take it for what it's worth."

three-hour flight?" Renkens said. "Every college in this country wants to be represented by every state and every country for national rankings."

Ruiz attended the conference with his father, Baltazar, who saw the importance of getting involved in the athlete's recruiting process.

"The most important thing, as he says, they have to be involved and basically out (selling themselves)," Baltazar Ruiz said. "Play hard, and stay in school. Be yourself, play for fun."

Renkens stresses the impor-