

Olympic hopeful



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

First-grader Samantha Reed took part in the long jump at the Colby Elementary School play day on Friday. The children got the chance to run and jump with a little help from teachers and high school athletes.

Commission excited about stock car racing

KANSAS CITY (AP)—Judging by the Kansas City Sports Commission's noisy, packed luncheon Tuesday, NASCAR will be bigger in the area than the Chiefs, the Royals or George Brett's making the Baseball Hall of Fame.

Almost 1,000 people, paying \$65 a

ticket, squeezed themselves into a garage on the infield of the new Kansas Speedway to have lunch with some of the sport's biggest stars.

"There is a vacuum in the Heartland for this sport and NASCAR," said Kevin Gray, executive director of the sports commission. "This is a great

turnout. A lot of people are very enthused."

The commission for years has sponsored kickoff luncheons for the Chiefs, Royals and college basketball and football seasons. It staged a big event two years ago to mark Brett's induction into the hall. The most any of those events ever drew was about 600 people.

"This was almost double anything we'd drawn before," said Gray. "If we'd had a bigger facility we could have sold more."

The Speedway, which will host about four major events each year in-

cluding the Winston Cup series in September, will have a tremendous economic impact on the area.

"The economic level for the area will be about 300 million a year," said Gray. "The Royals and Chiefs combined are about 256 million (a year)."

The star of the luncheon was Richard Petty, the seven-time Winston Cup champion who wore his trademark cowboy hat and dark sunglasses. He had the crowd roaring.

"We're glad to be here," said Petty, who was joined on the stage by racing son, Kyle. "But we're glad to be anywhere."

Stanley Cup At-A-Glance

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—Jason Arnott scored twice as the defending champion New Jersey Devils earned the right to compete for their third title since 1995 by defeating

Mario Lemieux and his Pittsburgh Penguins 4-2 to win the Eastern Conference final in five games.

The Devils will face the Colorado Avalanche Saturday in Denver.

CONGRATULATIONS COLBY HIGH SCHOOL EAGLE TRACK!



NOW ON TO STATE....

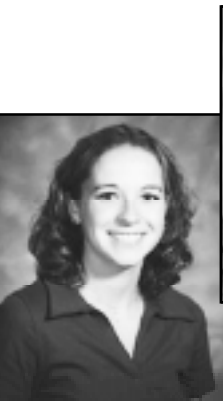
League Champs
2001

Leaving Thursday to Wichita ~ We are behind you all the way!



L-R: Jason Simmering - 4X400, 400 meter, Damien Stephens - 4X100, 4X400, 200 meter, Wade McCoy - 4X100, 100 meter, Zach Brown - 4X100, 4X400, 400 meter, Bo Kleinsorge - 4X400 and Brent McCoy - 4X100

Adam Smith - Discus Qualifier



Summer Stephens - Relay Alternate

Jessica Stephenson - Relay Alternate

L-R: Ivy Ramsey - 4X400, 1 mi., Jessie Brenn - 4X100, 4X400, 100 & 300 meter hurdles, Lori Ziegelmeier - 4X100, 4X400, Breann Heart - 4X1, 4X4, Brianna Swafford - 4X1, 200 meter.

• • COLBY ALL SPORTS BOOSTER CLUB • •

Cold weather can't stop fans at Speedway opener

Eighty-two cars made the show for the season opener at the Thomas County Speedway in Colby on Sunday. Cash dashes were deleted due to cold, high winds and the threat of rain, but track officials said the crowd was large for the conditions.

The next race is June 3 and the make-up race for the rain-out on May 6 has been set for July 1.

Here are the results from Sunday night:

Cruisers:

1. #88 Mark Fabrizio and Pete Schlageck, Colby; 2. #54U Scott Urban and Nathan Wright, Atwood; 3. #7AC Jason Cook and Shawn Anderson, Colby; 4. #73 Adam and Dennis Meitl, Colby; 5. #87m Ed Wright and Johnny Ohrman, Colby; 6. #41 Tyson Garrison and Casey Alstrom, Oberlin; 7. #19 Gary Pancake and Scott Miller, Sharon Springs; 8. #30s Brent Beckman and Tyrell Spillman, Menlo and Hoxie; 9. #29a Dustin and Ron Vrba, Colby.

Did not finish

10. #3D Jeff and Roger Doty, Atwood; 11. #36c Ross and Chad Smades, Leoti; 12. #20 Kevin Horn and Kent Moss, Colby and Menlo; 13. #53 Chris Fox and Chris Pope, Hoxie; 14. #01 Michael Myer and Justin Berry, Colby.

Did not start

15. #24 Jason McIntyre and Candace Albers, Colby.

Bombers

1. #L7 Michael Wasson, Oberlin; 2. #6 Jason Schoenberger, Russell; 3. #25 Jeremy Blackwill, Quinter; 4. #11M Shawn Mohler, Scott City; 5. #43J Jarod Smades, Goodland; 6. #44 Jake Blackhart, Colby; 7. #11 Larry Rogers, Colby; 8. #24b Brenden Beesley, Gove; 9. #14 Justin Meitl, Colby; 10. #01w Bruce Plumisto, Colby; 11. #31 Alex West, Goodland; 12. #60s Eric Smith, Goodland; 13. #99 Scott Waterman, Colby; 14. #32 Leroy Yarger, Goodland.

Did not finish

15. #03 Jeff Fryback, Colby; 16. #12 Ryan Shaw, Oakley; 17. #111 Matt Giesenhagen, Colby.

Did not start

18. #16 Brandon Beckman, Menlo;

19. #77 Adam Smith, Weskan; 20. #22s Jarod Hurst.

Super Stocks

1. #23X Dr. A.J. Warta, Colby; 2. #44 Ronnie Hill, Sharon Springs; 3. #11 Troy Plummer, Oakley; 4. #A1 Bill Albin, Gove; 5. #6t Randy Tipton, Weskan; 6. #8 Ryan Wark, Colby; 7. #15 Brad Wagoner, Colby; 8. #3 Travis Towns, Monument; 9. #27 Todd Schwarz, Rexford; 10. #17 Shannon Maughlin, Dighton; 11. #17r Casey Rhea, Sharon Springs; 12. #9 Kirk Osban, Holly, Colo.

Did not finish

13. #Cz8 Eric Kinderknecht, Hoxie; 14. #19 Randy Clydesdale, Edmond; 15. #14U Jay Nichol, Colby.

Did not start

16. #55 Wheat Lippelman, Colby; 17. #88 Troy Kurth, Colby.

Modifieds

1. #34H Doug Holzmeister, Colby; 2. #9 Monty Nurdyke, Holly, Colo.; 3. #38 K.B. Murphy, Sharon Springs; 4. #23X Jeff Hartwell, Colby; 5. #3 Brady Coen, Wiley, Colo.; 6. #44 Kevin Hoeme, Hays; 7. #2D Wayne Dechant, Lamar, Colo.; 8. Frank Perez, Lamar, Colo.; 9. #27B Greg Bucker, North Platte, Neb.; 10. #21 John Icke, Colby; 11. #98 Danny Keller, Dodge City; 12. #383 Milo Lippelman, Oberlin.

Did not finish

13. #37 Jeff Tubbs, Colby; 14. Darren DeLoach, Lamar, Colo.

Late Models

1. #07 Kelly Boen, Henderson, Colo.; 2. #1c Jim Clifton, Ft. Morgan, Colo.; 3. #14 Dean Moore, Grand Junction, Colo.; 4. #75 Brett Hallmark, Grand Junction; 5. #114 Allen Moore, Grand Junction; 6. #75B Jeep Berry, Grand Junction; 7. #15 Mike Martin, Dodge City; 8. #3c Curtis Daniels, Paonia, Colo.; 9. #27 Ron Dalton, Aurora, Colo.; 10. #99B Chuck Buchanan, Helper, Utah; 11. #9M Kevin Hansen, Longmont, Colo.; 12. #F14 Mike Felton, Longmont;

Did not finish

13. #02 John Kuchai, Denver, Colo.; 14. #14L Terry Loos, Henderson, Colo.

Did not start

15. #7 Rod Benken, Oakley; 16. #21X J.D. Gresham.

NFL votes to reorganize

ROSEMONT, Ill. (AP)—The NFL unanimously approved realignment for 2002, shifting Seattle from the AFC to the NFC but keeping most of the divisions intact.

The move creates eight four-team divisions for the 32-team league that will include expansion Houston.

Under the new alignment, the AFC East will be Buffalo, Miami, New England and the New York Jets; the AFC South will be Houston, Indianapolis, Jacksonville and Tennessee; the AFC North will be Baltimore, Cincinnati, Cleveland and Pittsburgh; and the AFC West will be Denver, Kansas City, Oakland and San Diego.

The NFC East will be Dallas, the New York Giants, Philadelphia and Washington; the NFC North will be Chicago, Green Bay, Detroit and Minnesota; the NFC South will be Atlanta, Carolina, New Orleans and Tampa Bay; and the NFC West will be Arizona, St. Louis, San Francisco and Seattle.

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