

Eagles bring home gold medal and school records

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

Two school records fell Saturday for the Colby High School Eagle track team at the state track meet in Wichita's Cessna Stadium.

Zach Brown took home Colby's lone gold medal with a school record 49.21 in the 400. He was pushed the entire race by Towanda Circle's Chandler, who ran a 49.32, but with the third place time more than a second slower, no one else pushed either one of them.



Brown, a rookie in high school track, said he saw Chandler coming up toward the end, "I knew I had to kick it in." Ironically, the record Brown broke belonged to Eagle head coach Gordon Rasmussen.

Brown also anchored the 4x400 team that came in second, breaking another school record with a 3:23.98.

Damien Stephens, Bo Kleinsorge and Jason Simmering ran their legs in 2:35.08, putting the Eagles in second, several yards behind Lansing.

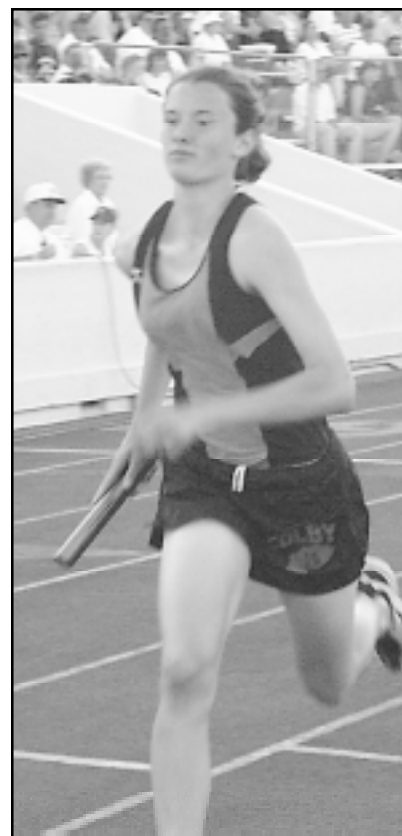
Brown ran his leg in 48.75, but didn't have enough to pass the Lansing anchor. The winning time was 3:23.43.

The boys' 4x100 team, Brent and Wade McCoy, Brown and Stephens, recorded a third place finish with a 43.51.

The girls' 4x100 team, Lori Ziegelmeier, Brianna Swafford, Breann Hart and Jessie Brenn, were fourth at 51.72. Brenn also ran fourth in the 100 hurdles at 16.02.

The girls' 4x400 team, Hart, Ziegelmeier, Ivy Ramsey and Brenn, ran a 4:11.35 for fifth place.

Ramsey also took seventh in the 1,600 meter run at 5:25.17. Adam Smith was seventh in the discus with a throw of 146'11".



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Triplains girls second

Triplains High School came away with a second place finish for the girls team at the state track meet in Wichita on Saturday.

Triplains' 32 points was right between Macksville's 34 and South Gray's 30.

The Lady Vikings were led by a first place finish in the 300 meter hurdles

and a second place in the 100 hurdles by Ashley Latham. Her times were 46.05 and 15.71, respectively.

Kalin Lewallen threw the discus 122'4" for third.

Erin Barrett was third in the triple jump at 35'1".

The 4x100 relay team ran a 53.72 for sixth

The Colby High School track team brought home a couple of school records and a little gold after the state track meet in Wichita on Saturday. **LEFT:** Zach Brown crossed the finish line in a school record 49.21 in the 400, just a tenth of a second ahead of the second place runner.

CENTER: Brent McCoy handed off to Damien Stephens for the second leg of the 4x100 relay. The Eagles took third. **RIGHT:** Ivy Ramsey ran her leg of the girls' 4x400 in 63.12, helping the team to a fifth place finish.

New Jersey gets reality check in finals opener

DENVER (AP)—It's back to basic hockey for the New Jersey Devils, who made the mistake of believing their press clippings.

Jolted back to reality by the Colorado Avalanche's 5-0 romp in the opening game of the Stanley Cup finals Saturday night, the Devils were a humbled team Sunday as they made adjustments for Game 2.

"It's hard when everybody tells you how good you are," goaltender Martin Brodeur said. "We paid the price for it."

Devils coach Larry Robinson, still dismayed that his team was "outhustled and outworked" in the opener, said his team was guilty of reading "how good we were and how we were going to walk all over the Avalanche, and we started to believe all of our clippings."

"We forgot that games are still won

and lost on the ice," Robinson said. "We found out we can't just put our sticks on the ice because we are the defending — so-called defending — champions. We have to play well."

It's difficult not to be smug when one of the strongest compliments came from Pittsburgh's Mario Lemieux, who called the Devils the best team he has ever faced after his Penguins were dispatched in five games in the Eastern Conference finals.

If the Devils took Colorado lightly, they know better now.

"There's a reason why the Avalanche are here," Robinson said. "In the first game, they beat us to the loose pucks.

A lot of times we were caught standing still. They were dumping pucks and chipping them past us with speed, and we weren't in good position."

Robinson insists his team must be more physical when the series resumes here Tuesday night.

"If you're not scoring goals, you have to do other things well," he said. "That means that guys who don't

normally consider themselves physical players still have to be a part of the physical game. They have got (Dan) Hinote and (Chris) Drury, and even Joe (Sakic) is out there finishing checks. We have to get the same thing from our players."



Brodeur said the common theme in the locker room Sunday was playing with more intensity.

"There are some adjustments we'll need to make," Brodeur said. "We need to go back to the basics, listen to the coach and play the game the way he wants us to play it."

Despite their dominance in the series opener, the Avs expect the remaining games to be more difficult.

They expect to face a more intense, more focused New Jersey team in Game 2.

"We were at the top of our game and, obviously, they didn't play as well as they're going to play the next game," said Sakic, who had two goals and an assist in the opener and who leads all playoff scorers with 11 goals. "We expect a totally different game the next game."

Penske's return to Indy capped by a 1-2 finish

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—The celebration was hardly the kind Roger Penske might have scripted: an exuberant young Brazilian dangling from the fence at Indy.

By then, it didn't matter. The Captain's work was done.

Penske made a triumphant return to the world's biggest race Sunday, with Helio Castroneves — aka "Spiderman" — leading the team's 1-2 finish in the Indianapolis 500.

Afterward, there were no tears of satisfaction from the silver-haired Penske, whose entire career has been built on cold, calculated precision. His return to Indy after a five-year exile was handled like any other business decision.

He bought the best possible equipment for his drivers, devised a winning strategy for the grueling 500-mile race, then watched Castroneves pull away to a 1.7-second victory over teammate Gil de Ferran.

About the only glitch came a few days before the race. Marlboro Team Penske removed the cigarette's name from its cars to avoid violating the 1998 tobacco settlement with a group of state attorneys general.

So, Penske simply raced to victory with plain red-and-white cars.

"It's a great day for the team," he said, sounding about as passionate as a CEO at a board meeting. "I think it shows continued commitment from the people we have. That's the thing. It's human capital."

Cut through the boardroom talk, and there were indications this was more than just another victory for Penske, his record 11th at the Indy's hallowed ground.

Six years ago, he left Indianapolis Motor Speedway with a rare disgrace, having failed to even qualify with defending champion Al Unser Jr. and Emerson Fittipaldi.

Then war broke out between Championship Auto Racing Teams and the fledgling Indy Racing League, which kept Penske away from 1996-2000.

"It's the best day of my life, redeeming myself like this," he said.

Castroneves led the final 52 laps. When the race ended, he parked his Dallara-Oldsmobile in front of the main grandstand and scaled halfway up the 17-foot-high catch fence while the crowd of some 400,000 roared.

The 26-year-old driver motioned for his crew, which joined him on the steel mesh for a victory ritual that inspired his nickname on the CART circuit.

"I just wanted to express my feelings, and I think everybody liked that," said Castroneves.

Penske passed on a chance to climb the fence. That would be unbecoming of a CEO.

"I'm going to climb it tonight with him," Penske vowed, "when nobody can see me."

After de Ferran, the rest of the lead lap included Michael Andretti, Jimmy Vasser, rookie Bruno Junqueira and Tony Stewart, who hopped a waiting plane for the trip to Concord, N.C., where he overcame an early spin to fin-

ish third Sunday night in NASCAR's Coca-Cola 600.

The top five were regulars in CART, while Stewart, who cut his teeth in the IRL, was driving this day for Chip Ganassi's CART team.

The IRL, which was created by speedway founder Tony George and considers the 500 its centerpiece race, couldn't even stay on the same lap with its more experienced, better-financed rivals.

Pole-sitter Scott Sharp, who has the most victories in IRL history, crashed on the first corner of the race and finished last. Up-and-comer Sarah Fisher put herself into the wall on cold tires after just seven laps, taking out two-time runner-up Scott Goodyear in the process.

Goodyear was hospitalized with a fractured back, the day's only injury. On lap 17, 21-year-old Sam Hornish Jr., the IRL's points leader and winner of the first two races this year, lost control coming out of turn four. He recovered, but not before putting Al Unser Jr., a two-time Indy winner and the IRL's most recognizable name, into the wall. "It's definitely a black mark," said Buzz Calkins, another IRL regular who finished 12th, two laps down. "A lot of IRL teams stepped on their feet. You can't step on your feet here."

Even George had to concede defeat in this skirmish.

IRL regular Robbie Buhl was challenging for the lead until he spun out on lap 165. Eliseo Salazar finished seventh in the best showing for an IRL regular.

"Well, they got all their guys at the top," George said. "You can't beat that."

CART's return to Indy, which began a year ago when Juan Montoya cruised to victory for Ganassi's team, increased to six entries this year: two from Penske, four from Ganassi, and Andretti's ride for Barry Green.

Next year, look for CART to have an even greater presence. Green would like to bring his entire three-car team to Indy, and other powerful teams such as Newman-Haas and Bobby Rahal Racing might come back, too.

"I really wasn't too sure how I would feel about it until race day," Green said. "But when you're standing on that starting grid, with the full stands and all the atmosphere, it's really special."

Andretti might have challenged for his first Indy victory in 12 tries if not for a pit road fender-bender with Stewart.

"It was a total mess," said Andretti, who has led 398 laps — including 16 Sunday — without winning. "I had no place to go."

Penske did — back to Victory Lane.

Area Briefs

- The Second Annual Northwest Kansas Baseball Camp will be held May 30-June 1 from 1-2:30 p.m. for 7-8th grade and 2:45-4:15 p.m. for grades 9-12 at the Colby Recreation Fields. Cost is \$25 at the camp. For information call Kevin Cox at 462-7310.

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