

Low and inside



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Jeremy Harter stepped back while catcher Casey Wiens leaned out for a low and inside pitch at a Colby Recreation junior boys game at the recreation fields on Tuesday night. Colby recreation ball will continue tonight with games starting at 6 p.m.

Area Briefs

- There will be a basketball camp for girls entering grades 9-12 at the Colby High School Monday through Wednesday from 7-9:30 p.m. For more information call Shaun Kidder at 462-6702.
- There will be a camp for girls entering grades 5-8 at the Colby High School from July 16-19. Prospective 5-6 graders will meet 8-9:45 a.m. and 7-8 graders will meet from 10 a.m.-12 noon. For more information call Shaun Kidder at 462-6702.
- Sweet Thunder Girls Fast-Pitch Softball will be hosting the American Softball Association Class B State Championship Tournament for 18 & Under at the Colby Recreation Fields and Trojan Field Friday through Saturday. Pool play will begin Friday night and tournament action will start Sunday. Call 462-4440 for more information.
- American Youth Soccer Organization is currently accepting early registrations for fall soccer. Discounts are available until July 15. Returning and new players can contact Carol Morgan at 462-6830 for registration information.

National Tourney in Colby

Mid-America Youth Basketball will be hosting a tournament in Colby and Brewster this weekend. Several area teams, including teams featuring Colby high school and middle school boys and girls will compete in Brewster and Colby. About 60 teams from all over the country will be on hand for game sites that will include Brewster High School, Colby high school, middle school and elementary school gyms, Colby Community College and the Colby Community Building. According to recreation director C.W. Cheney, the number of teams has doubled from last year's inaugural tournament. "Games will begin on Friday night and schedules will be available at the sites," said Cheney. Game schedules will be also be available by calling the recreation department at 462-4440 before Friday.

Sweet Thunder ties for third in McPherson

Colby Sweet Thunder 18 & Under Girls Fast-pitch Softball finished tied for third in McPherson over the weekend. The girls went 3-0 in pool play Saturday, entering tournament play as the no. 1 seed on Sunday. Colby lost their final game, 3-0 against the Wichita Extreme. Cody Pettibone, Dawn Knipp and Amber Lane collected hits for the Thunder. Erin Wagner (14-5) took the loss on one earned run, four hits and two walks. The first-round game Sunday was a 5-4 win over the Marysville Magic. Kayla Hansen (3-2) went 2 1/3 innings, allowing two hits, two runs and three walks with two strikeouts. Wagner pitched up a win in relief. She allowed one hit and one earned run while striking out three and walking one. Saturday's first round action was a 1-0 win in a defensive struggle against the Beatrice (Neb.) Blast. Beatrice played errorless ball and the Thunder made only one error. In the bottom of the seventh, Lane reached first on fielder's choice, then stole second. Knipp singled to right, scoring Lane and collecting the game-winning RBI. Dominique Palser, Katy Herl and Pettibone also got hits for Colby. Wagner pitched a one-hit shutout, striking out nine and walking one. Next was a 4-3 win over the Wichita Storm. Hansen threw a three-hitter with one earned run and struck out five with no walks. Thunder scored twice in the first.

Palser singled to center and advanced to third on an error that allowed Pettibone to reach first. Kristen Arensdorf picked up an RBI on a ground-out to second and Pettibone came home on a wild pitch. The Storm scored two in the fourth, but Thunder took the lead in the bottom of the inning as Palser scored on a single by Pettibone after reaching on an error and stealing second. Wichita again tied the game in the fifth, and Colby again recaptured the lead in the bottom of the inning. This time it was for good. Lane walked and was sacrificed to second by Arensdorf. She moved to third on a wild pitch and came home on a passed ball. Jamie Smith also collected a single in the win. Saturday's final game was another defensive round, a 2-1 win over the McPherson Lady Express. The offense had two runs on three hits. Knipp walked and scored on a Lane double. Lane was hit by a pitch in the seventh, stole second and was again sacrificed to third by Arensdorf. Herl grounded out and scored Lane for the winning run. Smith had a double and a single and struck out two, allowing one earned run with two walks as the winning pitcher. Sweet Thunder is now 19-7 and will play in the American Softball Association Class B State Championship in Colby, July 13-15. Game times will be announced at the Colby Recreation Fields.

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