

Basketball Thunder rolls in Colby tourney

The Midnight Thunder, a 9/10th grade girls team from Colby, captured the championship in their division at the Mid-America Youth Basketball Tournament this weekend.

The ladies went 7-0 to win the championship, beating the Hays Hoopsters 34-26 in the championship.

The opening and semi-final games of tournament play saw the Thunder victorious over two teams they had faced in pool play on Friday and Saturday. They downed the Lady Nets 35-27 in the semi-final after hammering HRC Feedyards, a Scott City team, 27-18 in round one.

The ladies opened the tournament on Friday night with a 41-28 victory over the Lady Nets. On Saturday, they

downed HRC Feedyards 40-25. Next, the Thunder rolled with a 41-26 win against the Aftershocks, a Brewster team.

In the third game of the day, the ladies defeated the Liberty of Garden City 36-23.

According to substitute coaches Ralph and Samantha Wolf, "The ladies played extremely hard this weekend." "They executed a full-court man-to-man defense despite extreme 100 degree temperatures."

The team is Breann Hart, Marcia Kaus, Ivy Ramsey, Amanda Seemann, Brianna Swafford, Emily Sloan and Bethanie Linden. they are coached by former Colby High School Lady Eagle basketball standout Nadia Fercha.

Area well represented

Several area teams acquitted themselves well in the Mid-America Youth Basketball Tournament.

Besides the five Colby teams, there was the Air Jam, a 7/8th grade girls team from Brewster, the Aftershocks, a 9/10th grade girls team from Brewster.

The 'Dawgs were a 9/10th grade team from Brewster and the Bulldogs were an 11/12th grade girls team from Rexford and Selden.

There were also several versions of the Young Guns, all made up of area kids. An 8th grade boys, a 5/6th grade boys and two 7th grade boys teams.

Air Jam won their division. They were Jalyn Reid, Amy Carpenter and Caitlyn rush from Brewster; Kaylaen Dittmer, Mona Shafer and Andrea Schneider from Tribune; Maggie Welch from Syracuse and Mallory Cline from McClave, Colo.

The Aftershocks took third in their division. They were Amber Fulwider, Miranda Starns, Kristy Jamison, Ashley Stewart, Alicia Collett and Andrea Horney from Brewster, with Samantha Coates and Gina Frohlich from St. Francis.

Young Guns II fell in the first round and Young Guns I won the 7th grade boys division. Young Guns I were Kyle O'Connor and Jeremy Detz, Brewster; Henry Sloan and Randy Young, Tribune; Kyle Elder, Sharon Springs; Robert Cooksey, Oakley; Gabe Cox and Jason Young, Weskan.

Young Guns II were Brandon Ahrens, Oakley, Jonathan Collett, Aaron Horinek, Trent Dixon and

Karman Selby, Brewster; Torrey Elder, Sharon Springs; Chase Schneider, Bronson Baber and Chris Peter, Tribune; and Stuart Aikens, Colby.

The 5/6th grade Young Guns fell in round one. They were Trey Barnett and J.D. Donn, Colby; Michael Collett and Tyler O'Connor, Brewster; Taylor Elder, Jeff Hennick and Kyler Knobbe, Sharon Springs; Drew Stevenson, Rexford; Eric Young, Weskan; and Mikey Doll, Goodland.

The 8th grade Young Guns also fell in the first round. They were Heath Baird, Josh Ryan, Paul Flanders, Tyler Johnson, Mark Luckert, Jake Long, all of Brewster; Jared Gooch, Tribune; Jesse Miller, Rexford; Grady and Blake Fischer, Sharon Springs.

The Bulldogs were dropped in round one. They were Lindsey Carman, Ashley Stevenson, Kelsey Spresser, Sam Juenemann, Erin Rogers, Michele Goscha, Randi Stevenson and Abbie Miller, Seldon, with Kristin Wark, Rexford.

The 'Dawgs were also eliminated in round one. They were Tyson Dixon, Jacob Falcon, Joel Selby, Jarrett Carpenter, Sean Swanson, Heath Baird, Jake Long, Paul Flanders, Josh Ryan and Ryan Luckert, all of Brewster.

Pumping iron



Zach Brown worked out at the Colby High School weightroom, with a spot from Ryan McLemore. The weightroom is open to the public three days a week. For costs or to sign up, call coach Mike Gottsch at 462-5300.

Softball championship to be held at rec fields

Colby Sweet Thunder 18 & Under Fast-Pitch Softball will be hosting the Kansas Amateur Softball Association Class B State Tournament at the Colby Recreation Fields this weekend.

Games will start Saturday at 8 a.m. with pool play. The double-elimination tournament will start at 2 p.m. and run through Sunday afternoon.

Colby is in Pool C and will open against the Emporia Energy at 8 a.m. on Field 2. The loser will play the loser of game two, between the Busters and the Abilene lkes on the same field at 11 a.m. The winner will play the winner of game two at 12:30 p.m., again on the same field.

The tournament will feature teams

from Marysville, Winfield, Hays, Wichita, Council Grove, Abilene and southwest Kansas, all competing for the state championship title.

One team will win a berth at the National Championships in Federal Way, Wash. July 30-Aug. 5 and five teams will be eligible for the Mid-America Region Championships at Kearney, Neb., July 20-22.

"This is the only statewide class B tournament going," said Ryan Sturdy, assistant Colby recreation director.

According to recreation director C.W. Cheney, the concession stands will be open, offering hot dogs, hamburgers, snacks and cold drinks for fans.

Former Eagle to help with strength camp

Former Colby High School Eagle football standout Jerad Johnson will be on-hand for a strength and speed camp, Wednesday, July 25, according to Eagle football coach Mike Gottsch.

The camp, put on by Kansas State University strength coaches, will concentrate on lifting techniques for strength and speed, as well as stretches for flexibility, said Gottsch.

The camp will run from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. and is open to all northwest Kansas boys and girls entering grades 7-12.

"It's an honor to be chosen," said Gottsch. The camp will run during the Soaring Eagle football camp, although the two are separate.

"One of the K-State coaches was here for our camp last year," said Gottsch. "He liked our set-up, so he asked to hold the camp here."

Cost is \$15 and a percentage of the proceeds will go to the Colby High School weightroom. For more information, or to register, call Gottsch at 465-5300.

Call in your sports news to the Colby Free Press at 462-3963 or e-mail colbysports@nwkansas.com. Jay Kelley is sports coordinator.

Another winner named

The Colby Alleycats also won the 5/-6th grade girls division at the Mid-America Youth Basketball Tournament according to head coach Shaun Kidder.

The Alleycats are Kristen Cox, Tisha Bieker, Jenna Johnson, Brittany Kersenbrock, Rishonna Martin, Caitie

Henry, Rishaun Wilson, April Weaver and Ashley Barnes from Colby and Natalie Elder from Sharon Springs.

Brackets for the 5/6th grade girls are not available from Colby recreation.

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