

# Colby Sweet Thunder second at state tournament

The Colby Sweet Thunder 18 & Under girls fast-pitch softball team finished second in the state Class B tournament, held at the Colby Recreation Fields over the weekend.

The tournament, featuring 13 teams in Class B, came down to a rematch of Colby and the Hays Strikers in two games. Colby won the first game 2-1, forcing a second game with matching records. The second game was also 2-1, but the Strikers came out on top.

Both Hays runs came on errors in the fifth inning. In the seventh and down 2-0, Colby tried to rally as they had done so many times.

Dominique Palser reached on an error and advanced on a Kristen Arensdorf single. Katy Herl bounded a hard grounder off the pitchers glove to load the bases.

Danielle Wolf grounded into a fielders choice, scoring Palser, but the rally fell short when Jamie Smith grounded out.

Kayla Hansen (4-4) took the loss, allowing no earned runs and two hits with a strikeout and a walk.

The first championship game was another defensive battle. The Strikers scored in the first and led until the bottom of the seventh.

Dawn Knipp singled and moved to second when Amber Lane was hit by a pitch. The third baseman misplayed a grounder by Palser, allowing Knipp and Lane to score.

Erin Wagner (19-5-2) go the win, allowing one run on two hits with three strikeouts and no walks.

To get to the championship, Colby downed went 1-1 in pool play. The beat the Winfield Starz 9-1 in the opening game. The Starz scored in the first, but Thunder returned the favor and scored two in the second.

Thunder's defense committed only one error. Wolf led the defense with five put-outs and three assists. The offense picked up 10 singles.

Palser, Hansen, Cody Pettibone and Smith each had two singles and Arensdorf and Wolf had one each.

Colby could only generate four hits against the Marysville Magic in a 3-1 loss. Palser, Pettibone, Wolf and Knipp all singled.

Hansen pitched seven strong innings in the loss. She yielded one earned run on five hits with two walks and four strikeouts.

Colby went into tournament play seeded second after the loss, beating the Augusta Phillies 3-2 in eight innings.

They were tied at two after seven innings and held Augusta scoreless in the eighth.

Colby scored in the bottom of the eighth with a double by Pettibone. Knipp sacrificed her to third and Smith drove her home on a single.

Hansen, Arensdorf, Pettibone and Lane all had hits.

Wagner went the distance, allowing no earned runs, five hits with five strikeouts and no walks.

Another defensive struggle ensued with the Hoisington Heat, ending in a 2-1 Colby win.

After six innings, the Heat led 1-0.

In the seventh, Katy Herl singled and moved to third when a grounder from Wolf was misplayed. Palser hit an in-field single to load the bases.

Smith hit a double to center, driving in Herl and Wolf. Knipp also had a double and Hansen and Pettibone each had singles.

Wagner got the win, with no earned runs, two hits, six strikeouts and two walks.

The quarter-finals was a rematch with the Starz that ended in a 7-6 win. Hansen went four plus innings, allowing four runs, one earned, and striking out three. Wagner finished the game.

Again, the Thunder scored the winning run in the bottom of the seventh. Herl led off with a walk and scored on a double by Hansen. Hansen, Palser, Wolf, Pettibone and Lane had two hits each to lead the offense.

The semi-final game was Colby first match-up against the Strikers in the tournament. In another defensive game, the Strikers won 1-0. Colony's errorless game was highlighted by Andrea Bailey's four put-outs from right field.

Thunder managed only two hits, singles by Wolf and Palser. Wagner went seven innings, allowing one earned run on three hits with two strikeouts and a walk.

Another rematch followed against the Marysville Magic. Colby avenged their earlier loss with a 3-2 win and earned a berth in the championship.

Hansen threw a two-hitter and allowed no earned runs, now walks and four strikeouts.

With Lane on second in the bottom of the seventh, Palser sacrificed her to third and then a long fly ball by Arensdorf was misplayed, allowing a score.

Smith, Knipp, Herl and Pettibone all collected hits.

Colony's finish earned them an opportunity to play in the American Softball Association National Tournament in Seattle, Wash. and a berth in the Mid-America Regionals in Kearney, Neb.

Sweet Thunder finished the season at 25-11.

Team members were Kristen Arensdorf, Andrea Bailey, Kayla Hansen, Katy Herl, Marlo Hobbs, Dawn Knipp, Amber Lane, Dominique Palser, Cody Pettibone, Christi Somers, Jamie Smith, Erin Wagner and Danielle Wolf.



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Colby Sweet Thunder's Dominique Palser crossed the plate just ahead of Winfield's catcher in the American Softball Association Class B Fast-Pitch Tournament in Colby over the weekend. Colby beat the Starz 9-1 and went on to take second overall.

## Two Striders going to Virginia

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

Two Colby Striders Track Club members have been selected for the Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympic Games in the seven cities that make up Hampton Roads, Va., July 30-Aug. 4.

They qualified on the basis of their times at the Missouri Valley championships in Manhattan on June 27-28 and the Region 8 championships in Columbia, Mo. July 5-8.

The region includes Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas and Arkansas.

Joshua Baden took second in the



L. Mazanec



J. Baden

1,500 meter run and third in the 3K run at Manhattan and followed that up with third and fourth place finishes, respectively, in Columbia.

He will run the 1,500 on July 31 in Norfolk, Va.

He will run the 3K the day before.

Lissa Mazanec won the discus and took third in the 800 meter run in Manhattan, then took third and fifth in Columbia.

Mazanec will compete in Norfolk, Va. on Aug. 4.

Baden's times in Manhattan were: 5:15.73 in the 1,500 and 11:33.97 in the 3K.

In Columbia, he ran 5:16.02 and

11:17.10, respectively.

Mazanec threw the discus 81' in Manhattan and 67' 11" in Columbia.

Her 800 times were 2:49.97 in Manhattan and 2:44.17 in Columbia.

The Amateur Athletic Union is one of the largest non-profit sports organizations in the United States.

More than 14,000 athletes will take part in 24 events, including baseball, softball, wrestling and weightlifting, besides track and field.

The first games were organized in 1967 in Washington, D.C for track and field athletes only and 523 competitors attended. Last year saw more than 13,000 attend games in Florida.

Their motto is "sports for all, forever."

The Colby Striders will be hosting a bake sale and car wash at Dillons on Saturday, July 21 to help raise money for Baden and Mazanec's trip.

## Selden athlete makes third trip to games

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

SELDEN — Danielle Hickert, 16, Selden has qualified for her third Amateur Athletic Union Junior Olympics this year, in the shot-put.

The junior games are being held in the seven cities that make up Hampton Roads, Va. from July 30-Aug. 4.

Hickert will compete in Virginia



D. Hickert

Beach, Va. on Aug. 2. She earned the berth by winning the Region Eight title in Columbia, Mo., July 5-8.

She threw the shot 10.98 meters, approximately 35' 7".

Hickert went to the 1999 games and finished 15th in the shot and was third in the discus and fifth in the shot in 1997.

The region includes Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas and Arkansas.

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