

# Speedway gearing up for racing at the fair

By Sherry Barrett  
Colby Free Press

Thomas County Speedway's next races are Friday and Saturday when the speedway, along with The Thomas County Fair Board features the Fourth Annual, \$5,000-to-win Thomas County Speedway Modified Shootout. All tickets will be general admission and may be purchased at the ticket office in front of the grandstand. Hot laps will begin at 6 p.m. and races at 7 p.m. both nights. The Friday night show will consist of cruisers, bombers and modifieds running a full show with heat races, and features. The Friday night modified feature will be a \$500-to-win practice race for the shootout on Saturday.

There will be no engine claims for the Modifieds on Friday.

The Saturday show will consist of modified and super stock heat races, modified B-Mains, the super stock feature with a \$750 purse and the modified shootout feature.

Super stocks will not run on Friday and the cruisers and bombers will not run on Saturday.

This is the show that all of the speedway regulars save their best equipment for so it should be a good one in all divisions.

A speedway regular has not won the big modified shootout in the last three years, in spite of numerous top five and top 10 finishes. Many of the regulars will try to change that streak this year.

## Racing points

Here are the overall point totals to date for the Thomas County Speedway. According to track officials, the fair races Friday and Saturday will not affect point totals.

- Modifieds**  
1. Doug Holzmister #34H, 183; 2. Darren DeLoach #21, 183; 3. K. B. Murphy #38, 178; 4. Monty Nordyke #9, 176; 5. Jeff Tubbs #37, 175; 6. Dwayne Dechant 2d, 173; 7. John Icke #21, 167; 8. Brady Coen #3, 160; 9. Jeff Hartwell #23X, 147; 10. Milo Lippelman #383, 128; 11. Frank Perez #8, 68; 12. Shawn Lee #40, 66; 13. Kevin Hoeme #44, 64; 14. Gary Dechant #3G, 33; 15. Gregg Buker #27, 32; 16. Garold Deines #17, 32; 17. Paul Donovan #9d, 30; 18. Danny Keller #98, 30; 19. Michael Daut #49C, 30; 20. Mike Shaw #76, 29; 21. Dale Farr #58D, 28
- Super Stocks**  
1. Ronnie Hill #41, 196; 2. Ryan Wark #8, 188; 3. Bill Albin #A1, 184; 4. Brad Wagoner #15, 171; 5. Travis Towns #3, 168; 6. A. J. Warta #23X, 165; 7. Randy Tipton #6t, 164; 8. Todd Schwarz #27, 156; 9. Troy Plummer #11, 144; 10. Jay Nichol #14U, 144; 11. Wheat Lippelman #135, 135; 12. Shannon Maughlin #17, 120; 13. Eric

- Kinderknecht #CZ8, 116; 14. Dan Lauer #103, 100; 15. Earl Shannon #54S, 84; 16. Casey Rhea #17R, 60; 17. Lynn Wright #3W, 30; 18. Kirk Osban #9, 29; 19. Justen Beakley #86, 29; 20. Randy Clydesdale #19, 27; 21. Troy Kurth #88, 5; 22. Tony Carter #44, 5; 3. Allen Kurth #88, 5.

- Bombers**  
1. Jarod Smades #42J, 189; 2. Michael Wasson #L7, 188; 3. Jeremy Blackwill #25, 186; 4. Larry Rogers #11, 170; 5. Justin Meitl #14, 164; 6. Shawn Mohler #11M, 154; 7. Scott Waterman #99, 147; 8. Wayne Williams #33, 133; 9. Jake Blackheart #44, 122; 10. Jason Schoenberger #6, 111; 11. Mike Giesenhausen #111, 108; 12. Brendon Beesley #24B, 99; 13. Allen Sneathen #S5, 89; 14. Jeff Fryback #03, 86; 15. Andrew Kuntz #57, 86; 16. Alex West #31, 71; 17. Gene Sneath #78, 69; 18. Ben Meitl #10B, 61; 19. Eric Smith #60s, 59; 20. Angel Munoz #8, 35; 21. Johnny Orhman #87M, 33; 22. Doug Bauer #44A, 33; 23. Keith Stegman #13, 32; 24. Bruce Pluisto #01W, 31; 25. T. J. Yarger #32, 27; 26. Ryan Shaw #12, 25; 27. Matt Giesenhausen #111, 24; 28. Brandon Beckman #16, 16; 29. Adam Smith #77, 5; 30. Jared Hurst #22S, 5.

## Golf At-A-Glance

ANDOVER (AP)—Celeste Troche shot a 2-under 69 in 103-degree heat to take a one-stroke lead after the first round of stroke-play qualifying in the U.S. Women's Amateur.

The 20-year-old Auburn player had three birdies and a bogey on the Flint Hills National Golf Club course.

Joo-Mi of South Korea; Meredith Duncan of Shreveport, La.; and Walialak Satarak of Thailand opened with 70s.

PALM DESERT, Calif. (AP)—The best women players joined Tiger Woods and David Duval in prime time and delivered an entertaining show—but hardly the kind of golf anyone expected from the foursome of major

championship winners. Woods and Annika Sorenstam rallied from 2-down with three holes to play and won the "Battle at Bighorn" against Duval and Karrie Webb in 19 holes.

Sorenstam made a 10-foot birdie putt on the 18th hole to continue the alternate-shot match, and the pair closed out the victory when Webb hit into a bunker and Duval missed a 12-foot par putt.

In a made-for-TV event that provided women's golf its largest audience ever, the outcome was more cause for relief than celebration.

Woods and Sorenstam shared \$1.2 million from the \$1.7 million purse.

## Here comes Whiplash



PATTIE STEVENS/Colby Free Press

Whiplash, the cowboy monkey, entered the rodeo arena astride his border collie mount at the Thomas County Fair Monday night. Whiplash and his partner rounded up a herd of wild sheep, much to the delight of the audience.

# Quarterback learned new style in Europe

GREELEY, Colo. (AP)—Jarious Jackson fades into the pocket and shows off his new style as his protection begins to break down.

The second-year quarterback holds the ball until the last possible second before delivering a perfect pass 25 yards down field to Chris Cole during the Monday morning practice.

"I'm a different man," Jackson said. "I am a confident man."

Different because during his first camp the Notre Dame alum would not have been as patient. He would have panicked with first sign of a collapsing pocket and taken off running.

No longer. "I owe it all to my stay in Europe," Jackson says of his stay with the Barcelona Dragons of the NFL Europe League. "I needed it more than anything and it paid off."

Jackson, the seventh round draft choice of the Broncos in the 2000 NFL Draft and 214th overall, had been used sparingly last season. He played in two games, but attempted only one pass and ran once for minus one yard.

"So I needed something to put confidence in myself," Jackson said.

He was told by coach Mike Shanahan he needed to go to Europe to learn how to manage a team and work on his throwing skills and accuracy. "Improving players is why we place

players in Europe," Shanahan said. Jackson admitted being a begrudging participant when the Broncos first approached him about an off-season in Europe.

"Once I got there, I knew it was something I needed—I needed to be there throwing constantly, having guys rush at me and having to throw under pressure," Jackson said. "Coach (offensive coordinator Gary) Kubiak had told me that those were the type of things I wasn't going to gain staying here and working out and now I totally agree with him."

And Jackson did more than just lay back and play tourist in Spain's Mediterranean coastal city. He was the league's second best passer, completing 56 percent (125 of 223) passes for 1,544 yards and 13 touchdowns.

He capped his success by getting the Dragons into the title game with the Berlin Thunder. Jackson was 14-for-23 passing for 177 yards and a touchdown in a 24-17 loss.

"It made my whole season over there because we had been counted out," Jackson said. "Everyone expected two teams from Germany playing for the championship, but we developed good chemistry and competed game-in-game-out."

As for camp, Jackson has gained believers in his skills and progress.



# A shot at the NBA next goal for Gonzales

RIVER FALLS, Wis. (AP)—Tony Gonzalez lives a life to die for.

In the past 12 months alone, Kansas City's handsome tight end has scaled the highest peak in his profession, drawing comparisons with the all-time greats. He has banked millions of dollars.

As the subject of a photo shoot for Sports Illustrated's swimsuit edition, he frolicked on the beach with some of the world's most gorgeous models.

He held his newborn son in his arms and tenderly kissed him.

There's probably more. But isn't that enough? How many blessings can one man stand?

Well, a supplemental career in the NBA would be nice, thank you very much. Muscle up against Glenn Robinson. Battle Shaq.

Realize just one more childhood dream.

"I grew up playing basketball. I love playing basketball," said the two-time All-Pro. "If the opportunity's there, I'm going to take advantage of it."

A standout basketball player at Cal, Gonzalez, 25, spends his off-season playing in a California summer league, butting heads with some of the best amateurs in the state and often going one-on-one with NBA starters.

This summer, he attracted more attention than usual.

"I was doing my normal routine, getting ready for the season," Gonzalez said. "Then some scouts, some of the pro players were coming up to me and saying, 'Hey, man, you should give this a shot.'"

There is no denying his love of the sport. He's as proud of the 23 points he scored in an NCAA tournament victory over Villanova as he is of being the first tight end in NFL history with six 100-yard receiving games in a single season.

In fact, last year in his fourth season, Gonzalez went a long way toward establishing himself as the finest tight end of his era. Without benefit of a reliable rushing game to take pressure off

the passer, he caught 93 balls for 1,203 yards—the fourth-highest total for a tight end in NFL history.

Former All-Pro quarterback Warren Moon has said he has a chance to be the greatest tight end of all time.

No wonder so many of his friends and relatives were horrified when he started talking about giving the NBA a serious try.

"A lot of people say, 'Why are you doing this? You can get hurt. You're a great football player. Why would you want to jeopardize the future?'"

"I say it's like a dream of mine."

But he also knows the odds would be long. Standing 6 feet 4 inches on a football field, he's tall. That same height amid a forest of NBA veterans might make a non-guard feel short. And just imagine the mental and physical drain of playing both football and basketball at the highest level.

"I'm realistic about it. It's highly unlikely it will happen," Gonzalez said. "But hey, if it does, I'm going to be there and I'm going to try to take advantage of it."

In the meantime, he's happy concentrating on getting to know a new quarterback and a new coaching staff, headed by Dick Vermeil. To make full use of his speed and basketball-like quickness and footwork, the Chiefs are planning to split him out wide in certain formations. The idea excites him.

"Right now this is football season. I'm strictly into football," he said. "This is something I love doing. It's my livelihood and my bread-and-butter. So I've got to keep doing it as well as I can."

But basketball is never far from his mind. When asked about his informal workout this summer with the Los Angeles Lakers, a gleam comes into his eye.

"We went out there to the Lakers' facility in El Segundo," he said.

"Phil Jackson is standing there. Mitch Kupchak. Working out against Kurt Rambis. It was like a dream."

## Area Briefs

**Fun run in Tribune**  
Saturday will mark the Greeley County Fair Fun Run in Tribune. The 2-mile run/walk will start at 8 a.m. MST. Entry fee is \$10 and all entries will receive a t-shirt. For information or to register, call Greg Cook at 316-376-2236.

**Volleyball camp**  
Colby Recreation Department and Colby High School volleyball coach Leslie Wagoner will be hosting a volleyball camp at the middle school gym on Monday. Times will be: 3/4th grade, 1-2:30 p.m.; 5/6th grade 2:45-4:15

p.m. For questions or registration, contact Wagoner at 462-7959.

**New football league being formed**  
Mike Gottsch is organizing a full-contact football team for kids entering 5/6th grades to participate in a league beginning in mid-August. Seven games will be played, one each Sunday, beginning in early Sept. Call Gottsch at 462-7177 or log on to www.wksl.net for more information.

**Still taking fall soccer registration**  
Registrations are still being taken for fall soccer until Aug. 24. Contact Morgan at 462-6830

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