

Ride 'em cowboy



PATTIE STEVENS/Colby Free Press

Chad Eubank from Cleburne, Texas rides "Dirty Dingus McGee," from the Rumford Stock Company out of Abbeyville at the Thomas County Fair Rodeo Tuesday night. He held on for the required eight seconds.

Chiefs working on kicking game

RIVER FALLS, Wis. (AP) — Watching film of Kansas City's woe-begone kicking teams must have sickened Dick Vermeil.

Erratic, unreliable punts. Short, wild kickoffs. Missed field goals. A punt return average of merely eight yards. A punting team that gave up more yardage to opponents than all but three NFL teams.

The only consistent performer was deep snapper Kendall Gammon, who's back for another year.

By any measure, the Chiefs the past two seasons had some of the NFL's most miserable special teams. More than any other single factor, this might have contributed to the 9-7, 7-9 records that cut short Gunther Cunningham's head coaching career.

It's no wonder Vermeil's first training camp as head of the Chiefs includes a new punter, kickoff returner and punt returner as well as a possible new place kicker.

They're all under the guidance of a new special teams coach. And, in something no Chiefs team has done in at least 13 years, Tuesday morning's practice was devoted exclusively to special teams.

"Every third day we'll have a morning of just special teams work," said Vermeil, who was actually the league's first designated full-time special teams coach in 1969 with the Rams.

"You need every edge you can find. Special teams have always been a very



high priority for me."

After replacing Cunningham, one of Vermeil's first acts was to sign free agent punter Dan Stryzinski, a 12-year

veteran who had a 37.9-yard average for Atlanta last year.

Todd Peterson, signed after the start of last season to replace an over-the-hill Pete Stoyanovich, had a decent year. But he's being challenged in camp by rookie free agent Lawrence Tynes of Troy State, who has kicked a 58-yarder in practice.

Dante Hall and rookie J.J. Moses are fighting for the job of punt returner. Returning kicks will be another newcomer, Tony Horne, who scored five TDs on kickoff returns in three years with the Rams.

It seems highly unlikely special teams will not be showing significant, immediate improvement in Kansas City.

"I'm especially pleased with (Stryzinski)" Vermeil said.

Orioles go 15-0 in rec league

The Colby Recreation Bambino Boys' Orioles won the tournament on July 25, but that wasn't the big news. They also ended their season at 15-0.

Bambino boys division play is for ages 11-13.

Five of the boys, Heath Bieker, Tanner Matzek, Alan Bruggeman,

Shilo Stupka and Henry Lamm have played together in recreation leagues for the last five years.

Other team members are: Chance Bulmer, Eli Roberts, Mark Gardner, Tate Bruggeman, Kevin Lange, Austin Taylor.

Coaches were Eugene Roberts and Tab Stupka.

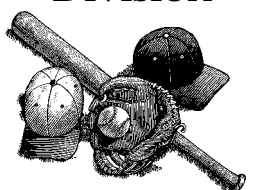
Congratulations Orioles



FRONT ROW, L to R: Chance Bulmer, Shilo Stupka, Eli Robert, Mark Gardner, Tate Bruggeman and Kevin Lang. MIDDLE ROW: Alan Bruggeman, Henry Lamm, Austin Taylor, Tanner Matzek and Heath Bieker. BACK ROW: Coaches, Eugene Robert and Tab Stupka.

on your undefeated season!!

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Rockies hand Phillies third straight defeat

DENVER (AP) — They lost 29 of their previous 37 games, fell deep into the cellar in the NL West and watched as management traded two of their best players.

The Colorado Rockies were overdue for something good to happen, and Todd Helton made sure it did Tuesday night.

Helton hit his second solo homer, a one-out shot in the ninth inning, and the Rockies defeated the Philadelphia Phillies 7-6 Tuesday night.

Helton's 33rd home run, off Rheal

Cormier, handed the Phillies their fourth straight loss and third in a row on a walk-off homer in the bottom of the ninth.

Asked if the win would boost the players' morale after right-hander Pedro Astacio was traded away on Tuesday and shortstop Neifi Perez departed last week, Helton said, "You hope so. We've got young guys on the team, and you want them to experience winning and what it's like to play at Coors Field."

Jose Jimenez (5-1) pitched the ninth for the Rockies rally, took the loss.

The Phillies took a 6-2 lead into the bottom of the eighth, when Terry Shumpert tripled off Ricky Bottalico after the Rockies loaded the bases.

Pinch-hitter Larry Walker followed with an RBI double, making it 6-6. The Rockies left the bases loaded, however, when Ortiz grounded into an inning-ending double play.

In the second inning, Helton hit his 32nd homer—a 437-foot shot—to cut the Rockies' deficit to 3-2

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



Youth soccer holds barbeque for volunteers

The American Youth Soccer Organization treated volunteers to a barbeque and prizes at Fike Park on Thursday, according to regional coordinator Gene Sicard.

"Many area businesses contributed to the cache of thank you prizes," said Sicard. "Businesses that helped were Comfort Inn, City Limits Bar & Grill, Ramada Inn, Holiday Express, Pizza Hut, Montana Mikes and Golden Hardware."

Sicard continued, "The volunteers are why AYSO is successful. Without them, we would cease to exist."

For information on volunteering, call Sicard at 462-2468. For registration, call 462-6399. Registration ends Aug. 24.

Area Briefs

Volleyball camp
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.



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