

# Modified and super stocks provided thrills at speedway

By SHERRY BARRETT

Colby Free Press

The super stock and modified cars from 10 different states converged on Thomas County Speedway at the fair grounds for the Fourth Annual Thomas County Speedway Shoot-out on Saturday.

The Super Stocks were competing for an increased purse which included a handsome \$750-to-win. The Modifieds were competing for an even larger payout with \$5,000-to-win, \$2,500 for second and a healthy payout on down the field.

Big winners were #UFO Wayne Brooks, Baldknob, Ark. in the modifieds and #11 Troy Plummer in the super stock division.

Track personnel had worked long hours into the night Friday and early Saturday morning to completely re-work the track. With near 100-degree temperatures, the super smooth, dry, slick track was a challenge for racers.

Mechanical failures and mishaps from the practice race on Friday had eliminated three modified cars from the field for the Saturday show. However five cars checked in on Saturday that had not been there the previous night.

Because a total of 39 Modifieds checked in the Saturday show started off with five heats. The top two finish-

ers in each of the heats were automatically transferred to both the pole dash and the first five rows of the A-main.

The top two finishers in each heat were: Heat 1 — #99 Jerry Phillips, Galva; #2R Mark Robe, Wichita. Heat 2 — Brooks; #9 Monty Nordyke, Holly, Colo. Heat 3 — #34H Doug Holzmeister, Colby; #44 Kevin Hoerne, Hays. Heat 4 — #21 Darren DeLoach, Lamar, Colo.; #3G Gary Dechant, North Glenn, Colo. Heat 5 — #3D Dan Daniels, Humbolt; #70 Bobby Jo Scott, Liberal.

At the start of the first heat, Colby's #23X Jeff Hartwell had a bad oil leak causing a great deal of smoke reducing visibility to nearly zero. This caused some of the cars behind him to have a minor pile-up. A victim of this incident was the defending champ from last year's shoot-out #7 Ron Jones, Zimmerman, Minn.

The damage to Jones' car was repairable but prevented him from finishing the heat race and Hartwell was sent to the pits to repair his leak. This meant that both of these racers would have to start the B-main races at the back of the pack.

The top two finishers of each heat then ran the pole dash to determine the order of start in the A-Main for the first five rows. The order of finish was Brooks, Daniels, #99 Jerry Phillips,



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Two modifieds entered turn four at the Thomas County Speedway during a hotly contested race on Saturday night. Wayne Brooks, Baldknob, Ark. took home the \$5,000 purse.

Galva, DeLoach, Holzmeister, Robe, #3 Brady Coen, Wiley, Colo., Nordyke, Dechant and Scott.

The #421A car of Randy Knipschild from Las Vegas, Nev., who had competed in the Friday night practice race, was unable to race in the Saturday

show because of engine failure.

He did not have a spare with him but his pulling unit just happened to be a very nice looking black official pace truck with a 43 decal on it in memory of stock car legend the late Dale Earnhardt. Knipschild added a touch of

class to the B-mains and the A-mains of the Shootout serving as the official pace truck for the Saturday show.

Two B-mains were run with the top eight finishers transferring to the A-main. Jones starting in the back of the first B-main made an impressive charge to front to take the checkered flag.

#00 Kelly Cross, Amarillo, Texas was the second place finisher and Hoerne was third in the first B-main. The second B-main winner was #56 Greg Killingsworth, Austin, Texas with #38 K.B. Murphy, Sharon Springs second and Hartwell managed a third place finish from his back row start.

The field was then set for the running of the feature event. Early in the race a spinout by Phillips caused a yellow flag restart, sending him to the back of the pack.

Twenty-six cars started the A-main but only fifteen would finish, mostly due to mechanical failures or flat tires. A few cars were eliminated by the two-spinout rule (two spinouts causing a yellow flag restart and you are out of the race).

Brooks, the winner of the 1998 and 1999 races, started inside pole position easily jumped into the lead and held it the entire race.

Daniels ran in second for over half of the race. DeLoach ran in third and patiently waited for his chance to pass Daniels. Jones started the race mid-pack and made his way up to fourth place in the first half of the race.

Both DeLoach and Jones found their chance to pass Daniels on the same lap and began to run down Brooks, who had stretched out a huge lead on a long green flag while the other three were occupied racing hard with each other. A yellow flag for a spinout late in the race bunched the field of cars back up. This gave DeLoach a good shot at passing Brooks.

Three laps from the finish DeLoach managed to pull along side of Brooks and on the white flag lap, as DeLoach was attempting to complete the pass, a car at the tail of the pack ran low, kicking up a huge dust cloud.

DeLoach, fearing there was a wrecked car inside the cloud lifted on the gas just enough to give Brooks the lead that he needed to win. Jones finished in third and Daniels held on to a fourth place finish.

Thomas County Speedways next race will be Sunday, Aug. 19 when the close points battles in all of the racing divisions will resume.

Be sure to make plans to attend the Sept. 2 races when the speedway will feature the addition of the 360 Sprint cars to the line up. This will be the first

appearance of winged sprint cars at the speedway in over ten years.

Friday night

On Friday night the winners of the three Super Stock heats were #3 Travis Towns, Monument, #A1 Bill Albin, Gove, and #24 Randy Long, Lamar, Colo.

Towns managed to edge out #41 Ronnie Hill of Sharon Springs in the pole dash. The #17R of Casey Rhea, Sharon Springs was not able to make the start of the feature race due to mishap in his heat race that disabled his car for the rest of the night.

With Rhea out of the line-up a total of nineteen cars started the feature. Mike Giesenhagen's #111 car had run so well the night before in the bomber division that Mike and his crew decided to make some tire and carburetor changes and see how well the car could compete in the Super Stock division. Giesenhagen ran well from a mid-pack start until mechanical problems took him into the pits.

At mid-race the #88 driven by Troy Kurth had tangled with the wall in turn four which left him sitting in the middle of the track coming out of turn four. A.J. Warta of Colby, #23X, did not see the wreck until it was too late and slid sideways into Kurth's car, tipping Warta's car up on its side, but did not roll completely over. Kurth was shaken up a bit in the mishap but both drivers were unhurt. The same could not be said of their cars.

At the restart, #15 Brad Wagoner of Colby, who had worked his way up to second place, lost his transmission and was done for the night. Towns led over half the race but was passed on the outside and inside by both Hill and Plummer of Oakley.

A fierce battle ensued with Hill, Plummer, Towns and Albin sometimes going three and four wide around the turns. Meanwhile, Ryan Wark was making a spectacular charge toward the front from a dead last start.

Wark had problems with his steering box in hot laps before the races began. He had to scramble to find parts and rebuild it during the heats, pole dashes, and B-mains of both classes. He just made it out in time for the feature.

Running well and getting good restarts on the yellow flags, Wark had become part of the mix for the lead, capturing a third place finish edging out both Albin who took fourth and Towns, who finished fifth. Plummer was able to nose out Ronnie Hill for the win at the checkered flag.

This exciting race was a great precursor for the Modified A-main of the Thomas County Speedway Shootout that was to follow.

## Fair visitor discovers Colby's secret to success

I got a phone call from Wayne Brooks yesterday. He's the driver who won the Thomas County Speedway Modified Shoot-out Saturday night.

Brooks called all the way from Baldknob, Ark. to say thank you. Not to me, but to the city. "I've never been treated any better than in Colby," he said.

He said Marty Crampton and his family had taken him into their home and treated him like royalty, including a big steak dinner.

He said Alicia Riedel, at the Days Inn, went out of her way to make he and his family at home, even doing laundry for them.

He had especially high praise for the community's ability and willingness to treat a stranger like one of the family.



Jay Kelley

• Weekend Warrior

"The sheriff (Tom Jones) even remembered me from last year," he said. Darrell Wark let Brooks take a couple of laps in his antique race car, a great honor for the driver.

## Autopsy confirms heat stroke

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Results of Korey Stringer's autopsy confirm the Minnesota Vikings offensive lineman died of multiple organ failure due to heat stroke.

Stringer's agent, James Gould, said the family accepts the results, but will continue to seek answers to their questions.

Gould said the autopsy showed Stringer was not taking any supplements or had any pre-existing conditions.

Vikings officials and medical staff are meeting OSHA officials, who have inspected the team's practices, nutritional education programs and medical treatment procedures.

## Baseball At-A-Glance

American League East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	69	46	.600	—
Boston	64	50	.561	4 1/2
Toronto	54	61	.470	15
Baltimore	48	68	.414	21 1/2
Tampa Bay	38	77	.330	31
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	64	50	.561	—
Minnesota	64	50	.561	—
Chicago	56	57	.496	7 1/2
Detroit	48	65	.425	15 1/2
Kansas City	45	70	.391	19 1/2
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	83	32	.722	—
Oakland	65	50	.565	18
Anaheim	60	55	.522	23
Texas	50	65	.435	33

National League East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	64	50	.561	—
Philadelphia	62	52	.544	2
Florida	58	56	.509	6
New York	54	61	.470	10 1/2
Montreal	48	67	.417	16 1/2
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	65	48	.575	—
Houston	64	50	.561	1 1/2
St. Louis	58	55	.513	7
Milwaukee	47	65	.420	17 1/2
Cincinnati	47	66	.416	18
Pittsburgh	44	69	.389	21
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	65	50	.565	—
San Francisco	64	51	.557	1
Arizona	63	51	.553	1 1/2
San Diego	55	59	.482	9 1/2
Colorado	47	67	.412	17 1/2

## Practice to start Monday

With school around the corner, Colby High School coaches want to remind athletes and parents that fall practices will start Monday morning. Physicals will be necessary in order to practice.

Here is the schedule for Eagle fall athletics:

- Volleyball practice will start at 8 a.m. at the elementary school gym. Call coach Lesley Wagoner at 462-7959 for more information
- Football practice will be at 7 a.m. at the high school practice fields.

Call coach Mike Gottsch at 462-7177 for more information.

- Girls tennis will start practicing at 6:30 a.m. at Fike Park. For more information, contact coach Mike Sprenkel at 462-2230.

- Cross Country will start practicing at 7 a.m. at Dennen Field. For more information call coach Bob Mannebach at 462-2271.

- Girls golf will start at 8 a.m. at the high school commons area. For more information call coach Ray Higley at 462-6702.

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1983 DODGE 150 REG. CAB 4x4, 5 spd. ....	\$999
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1990 CHEVY SUBURBAN 4x4 .....	\$5,500
1992 CHEVY SUBURBAN 4x4 .....	\$5,999
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1994 DODGE CARAVAN .....	\$3,499
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1988 GMC CONVERSION VAN .....	\$1,600

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