

Are the Ford boys really that slow?

Boy, I just love getting something right once in awhile.

I made the comment in my last article that the Ford boys were unhappy at Daytona during the manufacturers testing time. According to the news coming out of Daytona, the Ford camp was third in speed times with Chevrolets and Dodges taking first and second.

According to the time sheets there are 10 Chevies, three Dodges, and a Pontiac in the first 14 spots, with the Ford of Geoffrey Bodine in the 15th spot on the speed chart and Dale Jarrett's #88 UPS Ford in the 25th spot.

Jarrett won the 2000 Daytona 500 under a similar rules package with a Ford. Now, it was said that the Ford camp had been sandbagging their speeds to get NASCAR attention about their aero package, and get some concessions from NASCAR on the package. (Whining from the Ford boys has been going on since last year about their aero package.)

Also remember from my last article that the Ford camp talked to the Bodine's about their speeds at Daytona and that they need to join ranks with their brethren concerning their time trial speeds. Which really means "slow it down with the rest of us Ford people."

Now for a little knowledge. As you all know, not every car makes the show in today's NASCAR racing. There are things like owner points (owner's wins and championships won,) driver points (wins and championships,) NASCAR race points for owners and drivers and past champion provisionals.

What this does for the better funded teams and better drivers is allow them the ability to make a race if they have a really bad qualifying effort.

This way the good teams and drivers and past champions will always be in the race due to the fact that these are the teams and drivers the race fans pay to see.

There is also a limit to the amount of provisionals that a team or driver may have, as we seen in the last year that DW (Darrell Waltrip) raced.

Darrell had a few races that he didn't qualify on speed well enough, and was out of past champion provisionals, so he didn't make the race, or show, as some call it.

Okay now that I've made that as clear as mud, I will return to my point that involves the Bodines. Brett and Geoffrey Bodine haven't done well enough in the last few years to accumulate any of these points, so the only way they will make the show is on speed.

Also know that these boys don't have the bucks to do all this wind tunnel jazz and other things that the big boys can do to find speed. So when they



Don Fosdick

Life in the Fast Lane

came to Daytona to test they came to run as fast as they could so they would know where they were and what they might have to do to make the race, period.

I'm sure there were other Ford teams there in the same position, we just didn't hear about them. So, this is why the comment was made that some of the bigger Ford boys were sandbagging on their testing.

I just have got to tell you all about this part of this story that I not only enjoy, but it cuts me up. Some good ole boys having a little fun. When asked to comment on Ford's lack of competitiveness Friday, championship car owners Rick Hendricks, #24, #25, #5, and Richard Childress, #3, #31, #29, #30, both of whom place Chevrolets on the racetrack, pulled handkerchiefs from their pockets and mockingly wiped their eyes. No tears shed there.

I'm sure the Ford boys need a little help in the aero department, but just how much is really debatable.

If I remember correctly, when the Ford Taurus came out as the body for racing in NASCAR, it was leaps and bounds ahead of Chevy as far as aerodynamics. If I remember right, the Taurus was almost perfect aerodynamically, which kudos need to be given to Ford for its design and work put into the car.

Being from the old school, I do feel that if you're going to use a body style, it should be in a 2-door manufactured in that style for the public, as the rules use to be in the past. Ya know Chevy and Dodge do it today. Ok, Ok, I'll get off my soapbox, or as my daughters would tell me, Dad, just breathe, and let it go.

On the last day of testing after it was all over Rusty Wallace's #2 Ford and the #28 Ford stayed behind to do some testing for NASCAR. The current rear spoiler on Fords and Dodges is 57" wide and 6 1/2" tall, and Chevy's spoiler is 57" wide and 6" tall.

With the permission from NASCAR the two Ford teams took 1/2" off their rear spoilers and tested that on the track, then came in and took another 1/2" off of their rear spoiler and went out and tested that height on the track.

The half of an inch off of the rear spoilers allowed the Fords to pick up 3.3 tens of a second faster than before with the standard spoiler. Needless to say Rusty wasn't too impressed.

As always, if you made it this far, thank you for your time. Be sure to buckle up, get up on that wheel, and DRIVE safely.

C-team downs Hill City

HILL CITY — The Colby High School C-team boys picked up a 50-36 win in Hill City with 15 assists and only 13 turnovers.

The team had 28 rebounds, 10 of them on the offense and shot 45 percent from the floor.

Jared Dinkel had a double-double with 14 points and 10 rebounds. Matt Augustine had 11 points, four rebounds and a team-leading seven assists.

Omar Fercha had 10 points and five rebounds. Nic Rohr had six points and

three boards.

Deke Elliott had five points, five boards and three assists. Rusty Helin had two points, as did Patrick Toth.

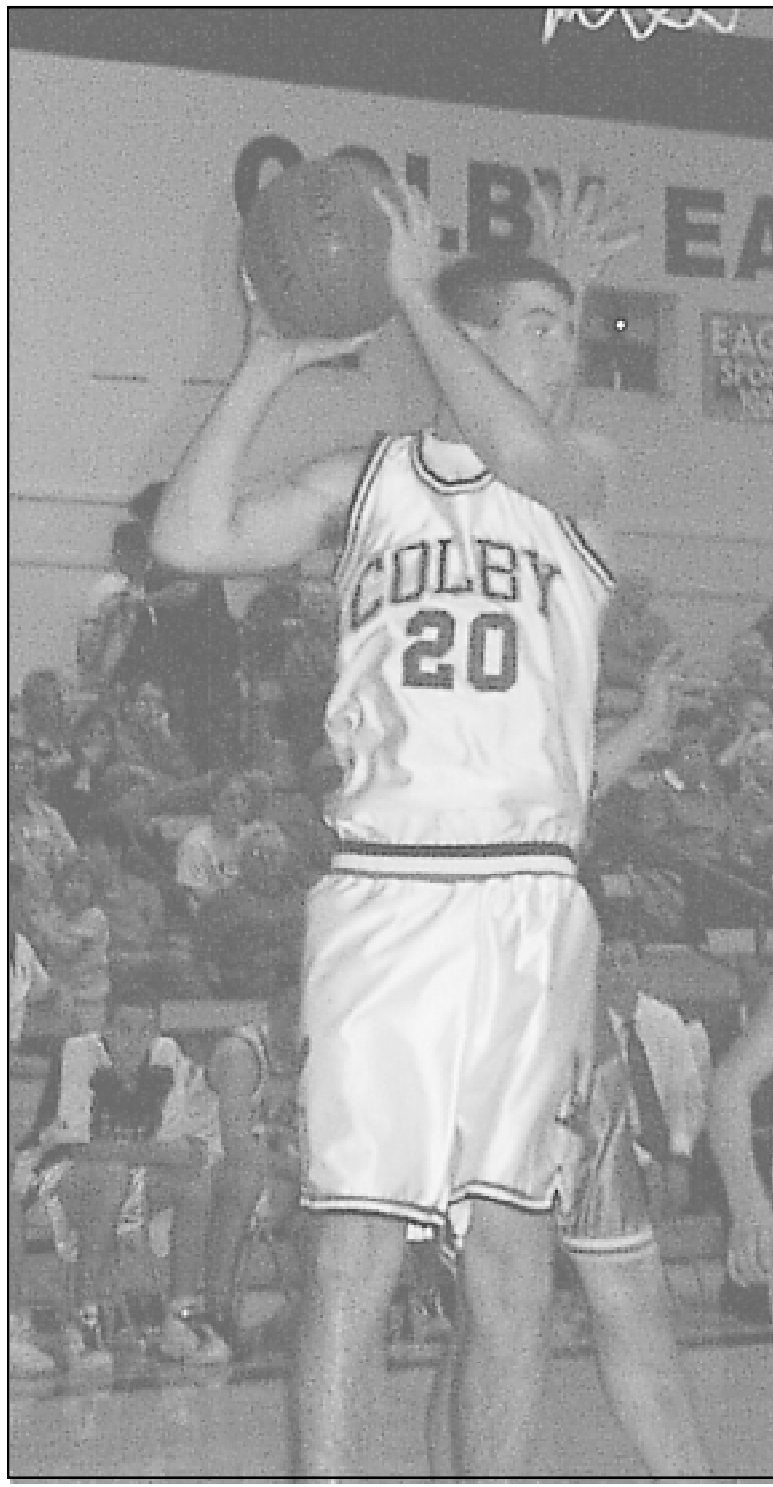
Sean Mengel had two assists. Jordan Cranston, in his first action since back surgery, had a board and two assists.

Joey Melnyk had a rebound and two assists. Luke Rogers also saw action.

The C-team will be in action against Garden City Tuesday at 4:30 p.m. in the Colby High School gym.



On the boards



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Colby High School's Jordan Harris grabbed a rebound in Tuesday night's 70-45 win over St. Francis. The Eagles will host Ulysses at the Community Building tonight at 6:30 p.m.

Quinter, Hoxie, Tribune in poll

TOPEKA (AP) — Quinter, Hoxie and Tribune remain among the top spots in the Associated Press consensus rankings this week.

The Quinter boys are third and the Hoxie boys among the "best of the rest" in the Class 3A poll.

Tribune, both girls and boys, remain at no. 2 in the Class 1A polls.

Despite a tough loss to Wichita East, defending state champion Hutchinson managed to keep its grip on the top spot in Class 6A.

In Class 5A KC Washington has taken over the top spot; Spring Hill continues to lead 4A; Hillboro improved to 13-0 to stay No. 1 in 3A; Olpe stays at the top of 2A; and Ashland remained No. 1 in 1A.

There were a few changes at the top spots in the girls rankings, with Bishop Carroll taking over No. 1 in Class 5A from former No. 1 Bishop Miege.

In Class 6A, Wichita Heights has claimed the top spot; while Spring Hill has grabbed the lead of Class 4A. St. Paul has moved into first in Class 1A.

This week's consensus rankings are a compilation of ratings by the Salina Journal, Topeka Capital-Journal, Wichita Eagle and Hutchinson News.

Here are this week's rankings:

Boys

Class 6A

1. Hutchinson, 8-0. 2. Olathe South, 10-1. 3. Wichita North 10-2. 4. Wichita Northwest, 10-1. 5, tie. Wichita East, 8-2; Wichita South, 8-2.

Others rated: Lawrence, 10-2.

Class 5A

1. KC Washington, 10-2. 2. Bishop Miege, 10-1. 3. McPherson, 10-2. 4. Shawnee Heights, 8-3. 5. Great Bend, 9-4.

Others rated: Bishop Carroll, 7-4. Gardner-Edgerton, 8-3.

Class 4A

1. Spring Hill, 9-0. 2. Chanute, 9-3. 3. Circle, 11-1. 4. Ft. Scott, 8-2. 5. Augusta, 9-3.

Others rated: Ottowa, 9-3.

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Class 3A

1. Hillsboro, 13-0. 2. Lakin, 13-0. 3. Beloit, 10-2. 4. Riley County, 10-1. 5. Southeast-Cherokee, 12-0.

Others rated: Sabetha, 10-2.

Class 2A

1. Olpe, 12-0. 2. Pittsburg-Colgan, 10-1. 3. Quinter, 10-2. 4. Bennington, 11-1. 5. Remington, 11-2.

Others rated: Valley Falls, 12-2; Elliptical, 10-3; Hoxie, 10-3.

Class 1A

1. Ashland 11-0. 2. Tribune, 13-1. 3. Centralia, 12-0. 4. Macksville, 13-1. 5. Hillcrest, 12-1.

Others rated: Hanston, 12-1.

Girls

Class 6A

1. Wichita Heights, 10-1. 2. Blue Valley North, 10-1. 3. Topeka, 12-0. 4. St. Thomas Aquinas, 10-25. Derby, 9-1.

Others rated: Hutchinson, 8-1.

Class 5A

1. Bishop Carroll, 8-1. 2. Bishop Miege, 9-3. 3. Buhler, 7-2. 4. Schlagel, 8-2. 5. Shawnee Heights, 9-3.

Others rated: Valley Center, 7-2; Kapaun Mt. Carmel, 6-1.

Class 4A

1. Spring Hill, 10-0. 2. Ottowa, 10-0. 3. Independence, 9-0. 4. Santa Fe Trail, 9-0. 5. Baldwin, 8-2.

Others rated: Topeka Hayden, 8-4.

Class 3A

1. Nemaha Valley 9-0. 2. Cheney 9-0. 3. tie. Southwestern Heights, 10-1; Hillsboro, 9-1. 5. Silver Lake, 10-1.

Others rated: Riley County, 10-1; Immaculata, 9-1.

Class 2A

1. Osborne, 11-0. 2. Remington, 10-0. 3. tie. Ness City, 11-0; Olpe, 12-0. 5. Moundridge, 10-0.

Class 1A

1. St. Paul, 13-0. 2. Tribune, 14-0. 3. Centralia, 11-1. 4. Little River, 11-0. 5. Hope, 13-0.

Others rated: Norwich, 11-0.

Area Schedule

Saturday, Jan. 26

Northwest Kansas League wrestling tournament starts at Oakley at 9:30 a.m.

Colby Community College men's and women's basketball hosts Hutchinson at the Colby Community Building at 6 and 8 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 28

Colby High School junior varsity basketball tournament, featuring Goodland, Scott City and Oberlin at 4 p.m.

C-team basketball at the Goodland tournament at 4 p.m.

Local Briefs

Harlem Nights coming Monday

A group of Colby High School faculty and Colby High School "band dads" will play the Harlem Nights, an exhibition basketball team, at the Colby Community Building Monday at 7:30 p.m. All proceeds will go to for Colby High School band activities. For more information, call the high school office at 465-5300.

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