



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Legion member Ray Kersenbrock, Thomas County Sheriff Tom Jones, and Legion member Dale Hawk looked over the new infield at Young Memorial Field at the Colby Recreation Complex, which is home to the American Legion, K-18, and Colby High School baseball teams. The new infield was installed by volunteers, and funded in part by money seized by various Thomas County law enforcement agencies.

## Legion baseball alive and well in Colby

By PHIL FINLEY

*Special to the Colby Free Press*  
Seventeen young ballplayers, two veteran coaches, and thirteen games to play in new uniforms on a newly sodded field.

The young players, enthusiastic, winning and expressing written appreciation to the citizens of Colby who worked together to bring this great summer baseball team together.

American Legion baseball had to get going again. Over and over the question was asked: What happened to the Legion team?

The story of the great community support and the total success the team has enjoyed since beginning the season this month is the 'community spirit' everyone knew existed and was waiting for. Thomas County Sheriff Tom Jones was invited to an early spring Legion meeting and asked what might be possible with monetary support from funds impounded during illegal activity interceptions.

"It was time for me to say, let's give some of this money back to the

people," Sheriff Jones said.

The process would be to interact with the five-citizen allocating council for these funds by submitting a plan for help to field a baseball team.

Don Birzer Wayne Sulzman, and Brett Houtz talked and Sulzman and Houtz agreed to manage and coach a Colby American Legion baseball team.

Wayne Sulzman and Brett Houtz are not only great individuals, they are veteran coaches with years of playing experience in their lives.

Uniforms were purchased locally, new caps were embroidered locally, and the necessary certified equipment was purchased through local vendors. The team began playing and won its first four games and a weekend tournament of area teams at Goodland. The team will play in a tournament in Hays on June 21, 22, and 23.

The farsighted five-person citizens council that allocates the impounded moneys early on agreed to re-sod the local baseball field.

Volunteers performed the labor,

along with the staff of the Colby Recreation Department. Additional funding would help alleviate some of the start-up costs being underwritten by the local American Legion.

Dale Hawk, Ray Kersenbrock, Thomas County Attorney Alan Taylor, the county commissioners, Bob Withers, and the sheriff worked with the five-person council to allocate what was needed.

"I'm proud and happy that we can do things like this for the community," Sheriff Jones said.

Go see your local champions play. They are fast and highly talented and they will entertain you all evening. They are winners and don't make many errors.

They just may have the speed, pitching, and batting experience to go all the way in their first season of being reorganized.

When they return to high school varsity competition next spring they are going to open eyes across Kansas.

What a great community success they are.

## Let's hear it for those great Ford guys

Writing this column is a lot of fun for me, and my Ford loving racing buddies have had a lot of fun with me in last few weeks. So Fosdick kudos to you guys for the fun I've had in you guys giving me the business back about your Fords. At the present time you guys have something to crow about, so enjoy, as it will be short lived.

I'm sure Jeff Hartwell will give me the business about Fords on Sunday night at the track. We met a few weeks back at the races, and he was telling me how he enjoyed my column. During our conversation Jeff told me that he was a Ford guy, and we razzed each other, so I'm sure that will come back to me, and we'll have fun.

And since this is fun time, Jon the excuse of being involved in Heritage Days and not knowing how the races turned out is weak, weak, weak, as I'm sure you have a radio in that golf cart that you run around in during the show. As we all know that KWGB 97.9 has joined MRN to air NASCAR races, which I think is FANTASTIC!

NASCAR made some rule changes on the Fords and Pontiacs to take effect immediately.

These changes involve cutting down the rear spoiler on the Fords and giving the Pontiacs more to the front air



Don Fosdick

### Life in the Fast Lane

dam and to their rear spoiler. NASCAR is working on equality between the manufactures for this year, as Chevy and Pontiac are working on bodies for 2003 that are equal to the Ford and Dodge bodies, which in my opinion really bites.

I think they need to throw away the aero packages on all of them, and get back to how the cars use to be 15 years ago or so. Stock Car racing to me is just that, stock cars. Go to your favorite dealer pick a body style off the show room floor that you think will work for racing and wrap it around their chassis and go race. Us good ole boys want to be able to see our brand of car out winning, not a one style fits all with different stickers to define the manufactures. It's just not American! I'm going to stop before I really get on my toolbox and let err rip.

There is some good news for Joe

Nemacheck driver of the #25 Hendricks Motor Sports Delphi Chevy. Hendricks Motor Sports hired Brain Pattie for the remainder of this season to be Joe's crew chief. Brian is Joe's crew chief on Joe's #87 Buschcar team. With the luck that these two have had together in the Busch Series racing the #87 Cellular One Chevy owned by Nemco Racing, this should really give them chance to turn the #25 Delphi Team around. I believe Joe Nemacheck is a good driver and I hope this deal comes together for these guys, so they can showcase their talent.

As always, if you made it this far, thank you for your time. There's a lot of good racing this weekend, so see you at the track.

Don Fosdick is a regular guy who loves racing. You can reach him at [dfosdick@grapevine.net](mailto:dfosdick@grapevine.net) or through the Colby Free Press.

## Tiger in command at Open

FARMINGDALE, N.Y. (AP) — Bethpage Black is no longer the most frightening thing about this U.S. Open.

It's the sight of Tiger Woods on his game and in the lead.

Never mind that 16 players didn't record a single birdie and 15 guys couldn't even break 80. Or that only six players broke par, the smallest number in the first round of a U.S. Open since no one did at windy Shinnecock Hills

## Sampras tries to get back on track

HALLE, Germany (AP) — Pete Sampras hopes the scene of his greatest triumphs will help revive his sliding career.

His latest try to halt the skid that has dropped him out of the top 10 for the first time since 1990 ended in a

in 1986.

Woods shot 3-under 67, an 18-foot birdie on his final hole giving him a one-stroke lead over Sergio Garcia on the Black Course at Bethpage State Park.

Dudley Hart recovered from a triple bogey by closing his round out with three straight birdies for a 69. He was joined by K.J. Choi of South Korea, Jeff Maggert and Billy Mayfair.

straight-set loss to Germany's Nicolas Kiefer at the Gerry Weber Open.

This was the first time Sampras has failed to win two straight matches at a grasscourt event since Queens in 1998.

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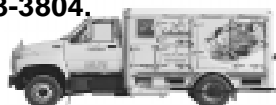
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