

Don't get me started on baseball

So, what can the average Joe do to express his or her dissatisfaction with Major League Baseball? The only sure way to express that dissatisfaction would be to turn off your television, take all of your designer clothes and shoes and throw them away, turn off the lights in your home, and sit on the couch doing absolutely nothing. The way corporate America has mixed and merged and leeches



Darrel Pattillo
● On The Ball

itself into the fabric of society, anything you use or buy or build at some point is going to benefit the parasites that are professional athletes and the people who own them. I'm sorry. I'm fed up. It doesn't take a lot to get me to the boiling point on the issue of professional athletes, who just can't seem to get by on what they earn. We worship these people who couldn't care less that they have turned what used to be fun to watch into something that now just costs a lot of money to watch.

Been to the ballpark lately? Better take out a loan, if your going. A family of five will spend about \$150 for tickets, a hot dog, and drink, and maybe a hat at Coors Field in Denver. The last time I went to a big-league baseball game, at Dodger Stadium in 1985, it cost me \$13 dollars to see the game, get food and drinks, and a hat.

Why has the cost more than doubled? Has baseball improved that much? Of course not. It may look like it has, but steroids will do that. Yes, there it is, the 'S' word. You can be assured that if one player is using steroids, and gets results, then there are going to be a bunch more that are using them. I don't pretend to have any answers for this predicament; I wish I did. All I know is that I wish I could watch a baseball game on television with the same joy that I did when I was 10 years old, and wasn't nearly as cynical as I am now.

—dp—
Colby's K-18 baseball team won the sub-regional tourney this weekend, rather convincingly, as it turns out. Our boys are full of confidence heading to Ellis next weekend for the regional tournament. They're the number one seed for the tournament, and look like they are headed for State. The Legion team will be in Scott City next weekend, for the zone tourney. Expect good things from that tournament as well.

—dp—
And, congratulations to the Colby Swim Club. They won the Northwest Kansas Swim League championship this weekend. Look for details this week. *Buzzer shot:* Allen Iverson's rap music career appears to have gotten a big boost lately, huh? Four felonies and ten misdemeanors. Should go platinum. *Darrel Pattillo is the sports editor of the Colby Free Press. His column appears on Mondays. You can get ahold of him at 462-3963 or e-mail him at colbysports@nwks.com.*

Don't be the missing link!!

Please recycle.

Here they come...



Travis Powell and Jordan Cranston scored the winning runs Saturday afternoon against the Goodland K-18 team in the first round of the sub-regional tournament at Young Memorial Field in Colby. Colby won the championship game against Oakley Sunday night, 10-6 in 7 innings. Colby advances to Ellis for the regional tourney as the number one seed.

Ibanez's seven RBIs lead Royals past Anaheim

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Raul Ibanez can be as baffled by the mysteries of hitting as anyone. He hit a grand slam in the first inning and a three-run homer in the second Sunday after deciding to swing easy instead of hard. That led the Kansas City Royals to a 12-3 victory over the Anaheim Angels. By swinging hard, he had buried himself in an 0-for-9 hole. "Sometimes less is more," said the outfielder/first baseman whose seven RBIs tied the team record. "I'd been swinging way too hard the first couple of games of the second half. Now I'm trying to go back to putting an easy swing on the ball. Today, the good swing showed up." Ibanez hit a 3-2 pitch off Ramon Ortiz (8-7) in the first inning for his

Colby Eagle volleyball camp starts next week

All interested high school volleyball players are invited to attend a team camp July 22 through July 25. The camp will held at the High School gym from 8 a.m. to noon. The cost for the camp is \$50. Checks should be made out to CCC Volleyball. Money should be sent to coach Lesley Wagoner by July 20. For information, contact Coach Wagoner at 462-7959.

Harvick wins Tropicana 400

JOLIET, Ill. (AP) — Kevin Harvick won for the second straight year at Chicagoland Speedway, passing up a late pit stop to gain the lead, then pulling away to win the Tropicana 400. And he just barely had enough fuel. Harvick ran out of gas while driving celebratory doughnuts in front of the packed grandstand. Harvick won by 0.812 seconds, finishing about eight car-lengths ahead of Jeff Gordon, whose winless string is now 26 races.

Ted Williams' daughter hurt by media coverage

HERNANDO, Fla. (AP) — Ted Williams' youngest daughter expressed anguish over the legal wrangling over her father's remains. Speaking publicly for the first time since the baseball great's death July 5, Claudia Williams said some media accounts have been "terribly hurtful, and simply not true." Attorneys for Ted Williams' estate will ask a Florida court to decide the matter when they file the will, as early as Monday.

second career grand slam. Then Ortiz, whose 28 home runs are the most allowed by any pitcher in the majors, gave up a triple to Brandon Berger and singles to Luis Alicea and Joe Randa before Ibanez connected for a 9-0 lead. Easy does it. "What happens is there's less body and more hands and more whip in the bat," Ibanez said. "It works out better for you, but it's the toughest concept there is to buy into as a hitter." Facing reliever Lou Pote in the sixth, Ibanez was hit in the leg. With the crowd still booing, Michael Tucker hit a two-run homer to make it 12-2. Ibanez finished 2-for-4 with three runs scored. In his last 15 games, Ibanez has seven home runs and 17 RBIs. He also had a two-homer game, the first of his career, July 2 at Seattle.

His seven RBIs tied the club record accomplished eight other times, most recently by Johnny Damon on Aug. 10, 1996, at Anaheim. Ibanez was playing first base in place of Mike Sweeney. Sweeney, who is competing with Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki for the AL batting lead, was a last-minute scratch with what the Royals said was a stiff lower back.

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