

Safe at second



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Travis Powell of Colby's K-18 baseball team, was safe after stealing second against Goodland last Saturday during the sub-regional playoffs. Colby's American Legion baseball team takes a 16-5 regular season record to Scott City this weekend for the American Legion Zone 7 tournament. Colby's first game in the tournament was at 2 p.m. this afternoon against St. Francis, which beat Gove Thursday. Colby's K-18 team is also playing this weekend, in the regional tournament at Ellis. Colby is the top seed in the tournament, and will take on the winner of the Norton-Smith Center in Colby's first game of the tourney. The 12 and under traveling team from Colby is also playing post-season games. Colby, coached by Blake Arnberger, beat Grainfield 20-10 last Monday, and will play in Hays tonight at 6:30.

How did he pull that one off?

I don't know about you, but I watch the Winston Cup race from flag to flag, and I'm still not sure just how Kevin Harvick driver of the #29 Goodwrench Chevy really pulled off the win.

Generally when a driver gets down on the apron as he did and then returns to the racing surface and slides and spins down the back stretch, he ends up a lap or two down to the rest of the field. But Harvick didn't, and I'm still trying to figure that out. I know your going to say that he stayed out under the last caution, which is true, but how did he get to fifth place almost right after his stunt, which took out some other cars in the aftermath which we really didn't see on TV.

Now as you all know, I did enjoy the fact that Dale's team got another win, that's right, I know there's a #3 somewhere on that Hot Rod. Now I've tried to justify what Harvick did comparing it to Dale's pass in the grass way back in the 80's, but in reflecting and comparing the two, it's just not the same.

I know racing always has a lot of gray area and that's where racers look for an edge to the competition, but I believe NASCAR is going to have a yellow stripe or an out of bounds on all tracks period. With all the cars being so aero depended today, you just can't do that apron thing without it causing a problem somewhere.

To prove my point, just watch races and pay attention to how a lot of the wrecks get started during a race.

You'll find that all it takes is for the front air dam to get down close to the apron, and it will upset the car, and the wreck is on. The apron on most tracks is either flat or real close to flat, and the racing surface usually has some banking which creates an angle, and at 150 + mph and the aero package on any race car, when all those factors come together the air is upset that's pushing down on the front of the car to keep it on the track, and with upset air, the wreck is on. Once that happens it's like us when we hit an icy spot on the street or highway, we don't have a clue as to where we're going, or where we'll



Don Fosdick

Life in the Fast Lane

stop, or what we're going to hit during our E ticket ride. So look for more yellow stripes on race tracks.

Looking ahead to the race at New Hampshire Speedway in Loudon, I'm really going to be watching the track itself.

The Baer Family that owns the track reworked the track from last year and added more racing surface at the bottom of the track. And yes this is the track where Adam Petty, and Kenny Irwin both lost their lives. By widening the track it's suppose to allow for side by side racing, and more room off the corners.

The reason for my comment about the track is the fact that it was pretty flat to begin with and adding to the inside of the track, it's really going to be flat. The track was repaved with asphalt and if it gets really hot, and the torque and weight that the Cup cars have, I'm wondering if the new asphalt will hold up, or will it start coming up, which will directly affect the cars and the outcome of the race. So it should be interesting and fun to watch.

Now for a real positive point to and for the Baer family that owns this track. The Baer Family stated in public last year that as soon as NASCAR approves a soft wall design, that they will be the first to install the system period. The family has been involved with any and all soft wall designs and considered trying the system that is at Indy, which came from the Big Red N. (I'm sure that will be easy to figure out.)

Anyhow just as soon as NASACR approves a system the Baer family will get to work. The other thing that impressed me about this family is that all the work done to the track was done out

of their pocket with no help from city, county, or state tax help, now that's a one of a kind racing business family.

I was planning on making the races at the Thomas County Speedway this Sunday, but I'm going to have the pleasure of my daughters for a whole week, and that is FANTASTIC! These girls top my list as some of the best things that I've been a part of. The only problem is that I won't be back here in Colby on Sunday night, so I'll miss the races.

So I have some unfinished business to take care of with some fantastic racers here in Colby, which I was going to do in my column on the local races. I will keep this short for now and will expand on this at a later time.

The largest Fosdick KUDOS go out to Mark, Pete, Jeff, Tony, and the Wagoner's out east, Brad the other Wagoner, Jim Giesenhagen and his sons, and to all of their friends that helped, for coming to the Speedway on the 4th of July to allow me to shoot some pictures for the Day in the Life of Thomas County.

If the pictures are good enough to be picked by the judges at the library, you'll be able to see all the hard work these SUPER people went too to help me pull this off. There are a lot of good people around here, but these racers went above and beyond for this writer/shutterbug.

Tom, Ken, & Boz, I'll get you guys covered a little later. Has Boz added to his 115lbs yet?

As always, if you made it this far, thank you for your time. There's a great weekend of racing, so pull those belts tight, get up on that wheel, and DRIVE safely. SEE YA!

Woods' putter sputters in first round of Open

GULLANE, Scotland (AP)—Tiger Woods was upset by an opening round that could have been much better and which left him three shots behind the leaders in the British Open.

Woods struggled on the Muirfield links and finished with a 1-under 70 and the knowledge he would have to

putt better to have a chance at golf's Grand Slam. Woods won the Masters and the U.S. Open earlier this year.

Woods trailed leaders Duffy Waldorf, David Toms and Carl Pettersson, all with 4-under 67s. Pettersson had the lead outright until he bogeyed the 18th hole.

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