

Colby wins 12&under tournament

A team finishes season 15-1, B team season 9-3

By KATHY ARNBERGER
Colby Free Press
Colby's 12 & under traveling baseball team concluded its season this past weekend by winning the A-team league tournament held in Hays.

Colby went into the tournament as the #1 seed and played the first game at home on Monday, where they defeated Grainfield 20-10. The next game was played Friday night at Hays where they won over Hoxie 10-1. They continued their winning ways by defeating Quinter 14-4 Saturday morning, putting them into the championship game against Hoxie which advanced through the backside of the double elimination bracket. Colby claimed the title after a close 7-6 win, and finished the season with a 15-1 record.

The B-team also concluded a winning season with a 9-3 record. The league consisted of teams from Ellis, Grainfield, Grinnell, Hays, Hoxie, Quinter and WaKeeney.

The team was coached by Blake Arnberger and assisted by Miles Ladenburger, Larry Schlick, Mark Kendrick and Alan Sager. Team members included Breck Arnberger, Brent Arnberger, Kale Arnberger, Treat Bugbee, Stephen Dinkel, Tim Howard, Tracer Hudson, Grant Jennings, Sam Kendrick, Preston Krzycki, Mikel Ladenburger, Kevin Lang, Cory Sager, Levi Schlick, Corey Siruta, Heath Stephens, Mitchell Tuma, Chase Vaughn and Thomas Wieland.

The team would like to thank the Colby Baseball Association and sponsors that make playing in this league possible.



KATHY ARNBERGER/Colby Free Press

(Above) Levi Schlick pitched for Colby in the 12 & under A-team tournament last weekend at Hays. (Below) The Colby 12 & under team celebrated after winning the tournament.



Whitey Herzog helped Ozzie Smith be all he could be as a Cardinal

By WARREN MAYES
Associated Press Writer
ST. LOUIS (AP) — Ivan DeJesus, Rick Burleson, Alan Trammel. These were some of baseball's best shortstops in 1981, along with the Cardinals' Garry Templeton.

But after Templeton made an obscene gesture to fans at Busch Stadium late in the 1981 season, manager Whitey Herzog knew he had to replace him.

He inquired about Trammel. No way, the Detroit Tigers said. Burleson was about to be dealt from Boston to the California Angels.

DeJesus was about to be traded, too, on his way to Philadelphia for young second baseman Ryne Sandberg — a deal the Phillies would regret for years to come.

So Herzog turned his attention to a great-field-no-hit shortstop in San Diego — Ozzie Smith. He was the beginning of a long, successful relationship. "Even then, Ozzie was the wizard in San Diego — a great fielder with no pop in his bat," Herzog said.

To say it worked out would be an understatement. Smith, acquired for Templeton prior to the 1982 season, spent 15 seasons in St. Louis, leading the Cardinals to the 1982 championship and pennants in 1985 and 1987. He became a solid offensive player — especially in clutch situations — in addition to arguably the greatest defensive shortstop ever. On Sunday, he'll be this year's lone inductee into the Hall of Fame.

"If I could say one thing, one sentence about Ozzie Smith, it is that no matter what happened, he always found a way to get the job done," said Herzog.

Trading Templeton wasn't originally a popular move in St. Louis, considering he was a perennial .300 hitter and capable of spectacular, though inconsistent, defense.

But Herzog was intrigued by Smith, who had already won two Gold Gloves in his four seasons in San Diego. Smith was like a gymnast, leaping over runners trying to break up double plays, diving for and getting to balls seemingly out of reach, tumbling to snare would-be bloop singles.

Smith had a no-trade clause in his one-year contract. His agent, Ed Gottlieb, had asked San Diego for a long-term contract, but the Padres refused and San Diego general manager Jack McKeon was willing to make the trade.

But first, Herzog had to sell Smith, a native Californian, on St. Louis.

Herzog met with Ozzie, his then-wife, Denise, and Gottlieb, the day af-

ter Christmas in 1981. His pitch was: "If they would come to St. Louis, I pay him X amount of dollars and at the end of the year, if he didn't like me or St. Louis, I grant him a release."

What Herzog said next still sticks with Smith.

"Remember him coming to California and saying point-blank to me: 'If you play for the St. Louis Cardinals, there will be absolutely no reason we can't win it all.' A person giving you that type of conviction and allowing you to feel good about yourself that way is very special," Smith said.

Smith agreed to the trade. Herzog, also the Cardinals' general manager at the time, gave him a \$450,000 one-year deal, up from the \$200,000 he was making.

"When we made the deal, I'm being very honest, he was known as a slick fielder but he was better than I expected him to be," Herzog said. "I was surprised how good he was."

The Cardinals beat the Milwaukee Brewers in seven games in the 1982 World Series. Smith never left St. Louis, retiring in 1996.

Smith wanted to be a better hitter and Herzog helped him go from a .230s hitter in San Diego to a player who batted .270 or better nine times in St. Louis.

Herzog's had his third base coach, Chuck Hiller, teach Smith to lay off the high pitch and chop down on the ball, taking advantage of Smith's speed and Busch Stadium's bouncy artificial turf of the 1980s.

Herzog devised a bet to help encourage the philosophy. He'd give Smith a dollar for every ground ball; Smith would give Herzog a dollar for every fly ball.

"Everything took off for me offensively," Smith said. "Whitey lost (the bet) very quickly. He called it off after I was about \$300 ahead. He said, 'You're killing me.' I said, 'Mission accomplished.'"

Smith improved so much that he moved from the eighth spot in the lineup to the second. He earned much of the credit for helping to protect lead-off man Vince Coleman in the mid-1980s when Coleman was stealing more than 100 bases a year.

The relationship between Herzog and Smith deepened. Eventually, Herzog counted on his shortstop to help communicate his message to other players.

"Players get tired of listening to a manager's crap after 10 years so you have to use different ways to reach them," Herzog said. "Every once in a while, I'd bring in Oz and tell him this has to be done and would you mention

it. He'd invariably do that. That's something people didn't know too much about. That helped me."

35th Buffalo Chip tournament gets underway at Colby Country Club

By DARREL PATTILLO
Colby Free Press
Fifty two 2-man teams of golfers are at the Colby Country Club this weekend for the 35th annual Buffalo Chip golf tournament, which started today with the practice round and tournament

check-in. "This is a great tournament that means a lot for Colby," said Buffalo Chip committee member Ed Mildenerger. "People come from all over to play in this." Tournament competition starts Fri-

day morning with a 9 a.m. shotgun start. Several of the holes will feature special events with prizes for the golfers. The course will be closed to non-tournament golfers Friday and Saturday, and will re-open on Sunday.

Broncos reporting to training camp

DENVER (AP) — The Denver Broncos reported to training camp in Greeley today facing a slew of questions and challenges.

That could be construed as a positive, given the team's lackluster play a year ago.

Change will do the Broncos good in 2002.

The Broncos, who begin two-a-day workouts on Friday, are expecting a return to good health on the part of running backs Terrell Davis and Olandis Gary, along with wide receivers Ed McCaffrey and Rod Smith.

They expect the reacquisition of tight end Shannon Sharpe to help reenergize the sluggish offense, which plummeted from second in the NFL in 2000 to 22nd last season.

They believe position changes for Mike Anderson, who moves from running back to fullback, and Trevor Pryce, who switches from defensive tackle to end, will pay dividends.

And most of all, they anticipate that Brian Griese will recapture the form that made him a Pro Bowl quarterback in 2000.

In his second full season, Griese was

the NFL's highest-rated passer (102.9) and posted the second-best touch-down-to-interception ratio in league history (19 to 4).

Last season, Griese slumped miserably.

He threw 19 interceptions and saw his passer rating fall to 78.5. His fourth-quarter passer rating dropped from an NFL-high 112.6 in 2000 to an NFL-low 51.4.

Even worse, his teammates began doubting his leadership ability and whether he would ever be a worthy successor to John Elway.

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