

It's going to be a heck of a sports year

If you missed out being in Lucas Thursday night for the K-18 state championship game, you missed a heck of a ball game. Our boys got the job done, from pitching to defense, base running, hitting (especially hitting; you couldn't tell the bottom of the order from the top—everyone was hitting the ball.).

I'm just glad I was there and got a chance to see a little bit of history made, and Jordon, I'm sorry I left your name off of the picture caption.

—dp—
I for one am looking forward to this year's scholastic athletic activity. I think that good, possibly even great things are going to happen in Thomas County this year. Having said that, I hope I can rise to the occasion and provide the kind of coverage on this sports page that our hard-working kids deserve. I remember when I was a kid and saw my name on the sports page—it was thrilling!

Rest assured, I'll give it all I've got. For some, that won't be enough. I know. But I'll strive for progress, if you all will hang in there with me.

—dp—
From the Bad Joke Department: My friends and I got kicked out of Denver



Darrel Pattillo

● On The Ball

for driving on the freeways. Har.

—dp—
Am I the only one that thinks that Tiger Woods should be playing in a few more tournaments than just the majors? How's he getting away with that? I heard somebody talking during a golf telecast, saying that may be why he tanked at the British Open. I'm not too sure about that. I mean, have you seen his girlfriend?

—dp—
From the Baseball Players Just Don't Get It Department: They just don't get it.

—dp—
John Madden begins his tenure tonight as the analyst for Monday Night Football. I got a dollar that says Madden accidentally slugs Al Michaels, who hasn't learned to duck yet.

—dp—
Speaking of football, I noticed that the Washington Redskins have redesigned their football uniform, and to me they look an awful lot like Florida State Seminoles.

Wasn't new head coach Steve Spurrier a Florida Gator? Hmmm....

—dp—
I know a guy here in Colby that wants to get up a rugby match. Here's your chance, folks, for a little controlled mayhem. Get a hold of me if you're interested.

I believe it takes thirty players to field two complete rugby teams.

Darrel Pattillo is the Sports Editor of the Colby Free Press. His column appears on Mondays. You can reach him here at the newspaper or e-mail him at colbysports@nwkansas.com

Royals let one slip past against Twins

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Kansas City Royals know what happens in the Metrodome.

"Funny things," third baseman Joe Randa said.

Sunday's game was no different. There was a throwing error that eliminated the Royals' one-run lead in the ninth. Plus, on the final play, Twins batter Corey Koskie was accidentally knocked down by a throw from 25 feet away as Minnesota beat Kansas City 5-4 in 10 innings.

Koskie was taken to a hospital, where X-rays showed he has a sore chest and is expected to be OK.

"I walk away from games at this place too many times feeling good about where we are and yet shaking my head," Randa said. "Funny things happen with the ceiling and the bounce on the turf. The style of team they have is a credit to that. They force things to happen."

The Twins are a major league-best 19-4 since the All-Star break. Kansas

City, meanwhile, has lost 12 of 13 and six in a row — the last four by one run.

The Twins had loaded the bases with no outs in the 10th against Scott Mullen (3-3) on singles by Torii Hunter and David Ortiz and a four-pitch walk to Dustan Mohr.

Jason Grimsley relieved and left fielder Michael Tucker came in as a fifth infielder, playing in front of second base. Grimsley struck out Doug Mientkiewicz before Koskie won it.

Since the beginning of last season, the Royals' bullpen has blown eight saves in 10 opportunities in the Metrodome.

Koskie had grounded out for the second out of the 10th inning, and first baseman Chan Perry was attempting to throw out Hunter, the winning run.

His throw nailed the nearby Koskie between the "n" and "s" on his uniform letters. Koskie was on the ground for more than 5 minutes before coming to his feet, and he was sitting up when he was taken off the field on a cart.

"He's taken a lot of shots to the chest," Hunter said of his teammate, who grew up playing hockey as a goalie in Anola, Manitoba. "I'm sure he'll be all right."

The Twins bullpen did the job again, pitching four scoreless innings. In the series, they have pitched 11 scoreless innings, as Minnesota has won all three games by one run.

J.C. Romero (7-1) relieved Tony Fiore with two on and none out in the top of the 10th and pitched out of the jam. He got Aaron Guiel on a grounder with the bases loaded to end the inning.

"That's the pressure a bullpen faces," Romero said. "But we love it. We thrive on that pressure."

That pressure got to the Royals, tying the score with two outs in the ninth.

Luis Rivas was on second when Jacque Jones hit an infield single that Kansas City shortstop Neifi Perez fielded in the hole. Jones slid headfirst into first base as Perez's throw skipped past Perry, scoring Rivas.

Huskers start two-a-day practices

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP)—A second straight day of 102-degree temperatures greeted the Nebraska football team for two-a-day practices.

The Cornhuskers had a two-hour morning practice Sunday followed by an hour and 45 minutes in the afternoon.

"Practice went fairly well," coach Frank Solich said. "I'm very pleased with their enthusiasm and attitude."

The season opens in less than three weeks against Arizona State.

"When fall camp starts that first kickoff is right around the corner," Solich said. "You try and get an awful

lot done to be as smooth as you can be for that first ballgame."

A lot is expected of young players at some spots, he said.

"It is an exciting time for those guys, of course, but there won't be too many more practice snaps before they are kicking it off," Solich said.

Flying the colors



SHERRY BARRETT/Colby Free Press

Ronnie Hill's car (left) and Brad Wagoner's of Colby displayed the American flag before Saturday's racing action at the Thomas County Speedway. Results from all of the racing action that took place over the weekend will be published this week.

Williams wins third straight Acura Classic

CARLSBAD, Calif. (AP)—Venus Williams was simply overwhelming — again.

Relying on her power game and court coverage, the top-seeded Williams won her third consecutive Acura Classic, defeating sixth-seeded Jelena Dokic of Yugoslavia 6-2, 6-2 in the tournament final at La Costa Resort and Spa.

Williams has now won 27 WTA tournaments in her career. She is the only player to win the tournament three times in a row in its 19-year history.

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