

# Much happening in the world of baseball

This past week one more of our players decided where he will play next season, some jobs were opened and closed, and collegiate baseball playoffs rolled on around the country.

Jerad McBride, a red shirt freshman catcher from Durango, Colo., is going to play for Doane College in Crete, Neb. next season. Jerad has finished his associates degree and will have three years of eligibility at Doane. Jerad hit .278 and improved all aspects of his game dramatically from last season.

Bob Fornelli, the winningest baseball coach in Fort Hays State history took the head position at Emporia State this past week. Fornelli played for Emporia and has roots in the area.

At Hays Fornelli posted a 306-113 record in seven seasons and led the Tigers to a 45-15 record this past season. The Tigers won the Rocky Mountain Athletic Association championship this year but were defeated in the Western Regional last weekend. Fornelli led the Tigers to a second place finish in the 2000 Division II World Series.

Hays will be searching for a new baseball coach along with Nebraska, Kearney and Kansas State. Supposedly the K-State vacancy has attracted interest from coaches in the Big Ten and the ACC. The Big VII has turned into arguably the best baseball conference in the country, (although I have a tough time ranking it ahead of my beloved PAC-10) so coaches would be crazy not to want to coach in Manhattan.

Last Sunday Seward County's season came to an end as they lost to Cowley County in the Region VI playoffs. Cowley then went on to lose to Neosho County who opened National Junior College Athletic Association World Series play Saturday in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Unfortunately, Neosho did not make a good showing for the Jayhawk Conference. They lost 7-6 in game one versus



**Ray Nolan**

• From the Dugout

Spartansburg Methodist College of South Carolina and 12-2 in game two against Indian Hills Community College of Iowa. The tournament continues all this week in Grand Junction, Colo.

Early in the season I believe I mentioned that we had a tough schedule. Well to prove that, not only did Seward County, who was disabled by injuries, almost make the World Series, but so did Lamar Community College of Colorado and Midland College of Texas. Both Lamar and Midland were beat in the district finals. If Seward's leading hitter and the conference Most Valuable Player Ryan Nelson does not get injured, and a couple of balls bounce differently for Lamar and Midland, all three would be in the series. We were a combined 1-10 against these three schools.

Finally, the Division I tournament will start on Friday and the sites of the sixteen Regionals were announced over the weekend. Nebraska, Texas, and Texas A&M will host Regionals which means that each team also made the field of 64. Texas won the Big XII tournament championship and Nebraska finished first during the regular season. All three teams won over 40 games. The rest of the 64-team field will be chosen Monday. In the coming weeks I will continue to update the Division I playoffs as well as the College World Series.

*Nolan is an assistant coach for the Colby Community College baseball team. His column usually appears in Monday's edition. He plans to continue sharing his baseball knowledge with the readers each week, although the college's season is complete.*

# Eagle golfers finish ninth at state tourney

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS  
Colby Free Press

Although it wasn't quite what they had hoped for, the Colby Eagle golf team can be proud to have participated in the Class 4A state golf tournament on Tuesday where they finished ninth.

Twelve teams from across the state had earned the right to compete at Buffalo Dunes golf course in Garden City for the state title. Colby's young team was disap-

pointed with their final score of 345, but will have five of the six players returning with the experience next year.

Graduating senior, Deni Wieland, who placed first at the regional meet last Monday, finished at the top of the Colby contingent with a score of 81. He finished in a tie for 16th place and after the playoff, cinched 19th.

Sophomore Christopher Finley shot an 83 and was followed by jun-

ior Jared Helin with 87. Sophomore Sean Mengel fired 94, while junior Dason Wente and sophomore Derek Elliott shot 95 and 108 respectively.

Assistant coach Tom Bowen said although the boys were disappointed, he was encouraged about their experience.

"This is a different atmosphere and a tough golf course," he said.

Bowen said that there were many good teams and good individual

golfers represented at the state tournament and that with five returning varsity members, hopefully they can play tough again next year.

The following is the complete list of team scores: Andover - Central 316; Topeka - Hayden 324; Chanute 325; Ulysses 328; Coffeyville - Field Kindley 330; Kansas City - Piper 334; Ottawa 338; Andover 343; Colby 345; Concordia 345; Atchison 348 and Kansas City Ward 354.

# Colby natives take over Sherman County Speedway

By SHERRY BARRETT  
Thomas County Speedway

If you haven't been to the races at Sherman County Speedway yet this year you should add it to your list of fun things to do this next weekend. Lloyd and Rebecca Koel, have taken on the new responsibilities as track promoters. Now residing in Goodland, the Koel's were originally Colby natives.

Lloyd is employed by the Northwest Technical College as an instructor in Diesel Technology. Rebecca is a registered nurse, employed by Northwest Regional Medical Center as a charge nurse. The couple has two sons.

Lloyd is no stranger to racing, he is a former racer in the cruiser division. He is also beginning his fourth year as the track official at Thomas

County Speedway. As track official, he lines up the cars in the pits and sends them on to the track.

When asked what the goals for their first year at the track were, the couple said they hope to increase both the grandstand crowd and the car count, by increasing efficiency in the pace of the show and scoring of the races.

Another challenging goal is learning the intricacies of proper track preparation (including out-guessing the weather) and eventually updating and improving equipment to produce a good track surface that racers will want to race on.

Sherman County Speedway is one of many area tracks with a long history of racing. Many agree, it is good to see this couple taking both a huge investment risk of time and money to see that this great tradition continues.

At the May 17 races, the speedway played host to 24 of the American Sprint Car Series 360 Winged Sprint Cars, along with 42 cars of the three regular class divisions. Action will return to the speedway this Saturday evening May at 7:30 p.m. CDT, so plan to attend another great evening of excitement and speed.

# Trojans sign four in-state recruits

Colby Community College head men's basketball coach, Brian Ostermann, recently announced four Kansas high school basketball student-athletes will continue their playing careers with the Trojans.

Matt Zerr averaged 18.2 points and 8.5 rebounds per contest during a stellar senior season. The Grainfield native posted season highs of 28 points and 13 rebounds. Zerr played at Wheatland High School for coach Charles Packard. Zerr shot 58.1 percent from the field and connected on 64.2 percent of his free throw attempts. For his efforts, he was named All-League two consecutive seasons.

Pike Valley high school standout Nathan Lindberg averaged 26.1 points and 10.7 rebounds per game. Lindberg was named First Team All-League two consecutive seasons and was named to the Salina Journal All-Area First Team. Lindberg shot 44.5 percent from the field and 79.5 percent from the free throw line. His career high in points was 39 and in rebounds was 21.

Lionel Womack, a 5'11" guard

from Kansas City Schlagle High School, averaged 14.3 points for Coach J.J. Libal during his stellar senior season. Womack was selected First Team All-Kansas City Kansas League and was honored by the Kansas City Coaches Association as an All-Academic selection. He also averaged 4 rebounds, 2 steals and 2 assists per contest while shooting 46 percent from the field, 33 percent from beyond the three-point stripe and 74 percent from the foul line.

El Dorado High School's Korey Garland averaged 10 points per contest during his senior year. Garland also contributed 5.4 assists, 2.1 steals and 6.2 rebounds per game this past season. For his efforts, the 6'4" Garland was named Second Team All-Ark Valley League. Garland had season highs of 10 assists and 14 rebounds. He ranks second in El Dorado High School history with 152 connected free throws throughout his career. He also had 119 assists, leading his team and finishing with the second best mark in school history.

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# Royals lose to Mariners at home

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Freddy Garcia took a big step toward turning around his disappointing season.

Garcia gave up four runs — two earned — in seven innings, and Edgar Martinez homered twice and Randy Winn got a career-high five hits to lead Seattle past Kansas City 15-7 on Tuesday night.

The Mariners led 11-0 after three innings and went on to set season highs for runs and hits (20).

Garcia (4-6) lost his previous three starts, including a 14-5 setback to Kansas City last week.

"Freddy did what we wanted him to do," Seattle manager Bob Melvin said. "You try to pitch the same way (with a big lead), but you don't want to walk guys. You pitch on the plate more, which may be the reason for some of the runs."

"That goes a long way in righting his ship," he said.

Garcia said his pitch selection was the key to his success.

"Fastball, fastball, fastball," he said. "It must have been 75 percent fastballs. When my fastball is good, my breaking ball looks better. I had better location. It's that simple."

Martinez hit a two-run homer in the first inning and a three-run shot in the third. It was the 21st

multihomer game of his career and first of 2003.

Ben Davis homered and drove in four runs and John Mabry hit a solo home run for Seattle. Winn was 5-for-5 and John Olerud added four hits.

Chris George (5-4) lasted only 1 1-3 innings, giving up eight runs on six hits and three walks.

"He just didn't have it," Kansas City manager Tony Pena said. "He was getting behind in the count. He was pitching up in the strike zone, which is the reason he got hit."

There was little to complain about from the Seattle perspective.

"Obviously our offense was an encouraging sign," Melvin said. "Randy, Edgar and Olerud all had great games. It was a good offensive night all the way around."

Mabry hit a home run in his first at-bat after replacing Ichiro Suzuki in the outfield. Mike Sweeney had two hits for Kansas City, scoring a run and driving in one.

The Royals have lost 20 of 30 games since beginning the season 16-3. They are just 2-8 at Kauffman Stadium after winning their first 11 games at home.

"We're not down," Sweeney said. "We're fine. We'll come back tomorrow and try to win and split the series."

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