

# Girls all set for big tourney

Softball players from all over the area will converge on Colby this weekend for the Colby Girls Fast Pitch Association's invitational tourney. Action will take place on the Colby Rec Department's fields. Among teams entered are three Colby Sweet Thunder teams. Action begins at 9 a.m. on Saturday and concludes with championships game around 1:30 p.m. on Sunday. Twenty-two teams will be taking part and the competition will involve 10/under, 12/under, 14/under and 16/under divisions.

## Regional Briefs

**NORMAN, Okla. (AP)**—Oklahoma football coach Bob Stoops said Thursday that senior Jason White will begin fall practice as the Sooners' starting quarterback. Sophomore Paul Thompson is listed at No. 2 on the depth chart, redshirt freshman Noah Allen is third and sophomore Brent Rawls fourth, Stoops said. Sooner coaches have said they would wait until August to announce the depth chart at quarterback, but Stoops said the choice to name White No. 1 is clear. White has been the Sooners' starter each of the past two seasons, but was knocked out of the lineup each year by knee injuries. White has played in 14 games, starting four and completing 94-of-149 passes for 871 yards and six touchdowns. He has also rushed for 255 yards on 59 carries.

**WARRENSBURG, Mo. (AP)**—Central Missouri State named Darin Hendrickson its new baseball coach Thursday. Hendrickson left St. Louis Community College at Forest Park after four seasons to replace Brad Hill, who was named coach at Kansas State earlier this month. Hendrickson, 33, spent his first four years at Fontbonne College in St. Louis. He has a career record of 281-128. Hill was 418-91 in nine seasons leading the Mules and left after leading the team to this year's NCAA Division II national title.

**DENVER (AP)**—The Colorado Rockies gave outfielder Gabe Kapler his unconditional release Thursday night. Kapler, 27, had been optioned to Triple-A Colorado Springs on June 3. He was designated for assignment Tuesday. "As an organization, we felt the release was in the best interests of Gabe," general manager Dan O'Dowd said. "He is a major league player and we could not give him a major opportunity." Kapler was hitting only .224 with no home runs and four RBIs in 39 games when he was sent to Colorado Springs. In 12 games at Colorado Springs he hit .171 with two RBIs. "You need more than an at-bat a game," manager Clint Hurdle said. "We couldn't provide it." Kapler was obtained with outfielder Jason Romero from the Texas Rangers on July 31, 2002 in exchange for outfielder Todd Hollandsworth and left-handed pitcher Dennys Reyes.

**AMES, Iowa (AP)** — As he recalled watching Iowa State in the 2000 NCAA basketball tournament, it became clear that Jeff Grayer's allegiance still ran strong. Long after Grayer left the school as its career scoring leader, he didn't talk about what Iowa State had accomplished. It was what "we" had done. "It has always been a part of me," said Grayer, who has returned as an assistant to new coach Wayne Morgan. "From day one when I decided to come to Iowa State, this was home for me — back in 1984, a long time ago. "So yes, I always say we. This is home. This is family." Grayer brings a strong link to the past, a reminder that while Iowa State never will be mistaken for Duke or Kansas, it does have some basketball tradition. He also brings considerable experience in the game — a member of the 1988 U.S. Olympic team, nine years in the NBA, a head coach in the CBA.

## Getting Ready

TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Deni Wieland, right, and Curt Beringer loosened up this morning for the "Harvest for Health" golf tournament at the Colby Country Club. The tourney, the 13th annual, is a benefit fund raiser for the Citizens Foundation. Registration was at 8 a.m. with tee-off at 9:00. Twenty teams were expected to take part. Partly cloudy skies, warm temperatures and breezy conditions were forecast.



# Whatever Minnesota's Corey Koskie said really paid off

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)**—An angry Corey Koskie can get the attention of his teammates and the opposition. Just hours after an emotional speech in the Minnesota clubhouse, Koskie hit two homers and drove in a career-high six runs in a 16-2 victory Thursday over the Kansas City Royals. The speech and the performance couldn't have come at a better time or produced a better result. The Twins pounded 23 hits and avoided a four-game sweep. "Koskie was very emotional after the game last night," manager Ron Gardenhire said, referring to Minnesota's 8-6 loss Wednesday night. "He was one of the guys who came in and said we need to pick ourselves up. And you saw what he did today." Teammate Torii Hunter also was impressed. "He was just telling everybody to bring the energy," center fielder Hunter said. "You don't see Koskie like that very often. You see Koskie upset, you know something's serious." Koskie insisted he was not the catalyst in the Twins' biggest hit

barrage since they got 25 hits against Cleveland last June. "Guys can holler all they want," the third baseman said. "But they've got to put it on themselves. Everybody took it upon themselves. I had nothing to do with it." Joe Mays (8-4) got several nice defensive plays behind him while giving up two runs and six hits in eight innings. The Royals had scored 31 runs while winning the first three games of the series. Koskie hit a three-run homer in the fifth off Kyle Snyder and a solo shot off Kris Wilson that made it 15-0 in the seventh. Cristian Guzman had four hits while Doug Mientkiewicz, Jacque Jones and Hunter had three apiece. Jones also had three RBIs and hit a two-run homer in the fourth. "We came out with a little more sense of urgency, swinging the bats early in the game and getting after them," Gardenhire said. "It just looked to me like we hit a lot of bad pitches." The Twins got rolling against Snyder (1-4) at once. The first three batters singled. Snyder wound up allowing 10 hits and seven runs in four innings.

But at least he kept his job, which is more than Albie Lopez could say. Lopez was tagged for seven runs on six hits and two walks while getting only two outs in his final appearance for the Royals. Immediately after the last out was made, the Royals announced the release of the right-hander — who in his last 11 innings gave up 29 runs. He signed a one-year, \$1.5 million free-agent contract in January and was 4-2, but had a 12.71 ERA. Snyder wasn't sure if the Twins had come out with a little extra fire. "Whether or not that was the case, I don't know. I place the blame in my corner," he said. "I'm sure they were ready to win that game. They were obviously ready to play it."

The Royals could have pulled into a tie with the sweep, but now trail by two games. "They cut our lead in half but we left town in first place," Gardenhire said. "I guess that's what matters most." Notes: @ In the four games, the Twins had 62 hits and 37 runs but got only one victory. ... Two Twins celebrated birthdays on Thursday. Mientkiewicz turned 29 and Dustan Mohr 27. ... It was the shortest outing and most runs allowed by Snyder this year. ... 2B Carlos Febles made his second career appearance at SS for the Royals. ... Mientkiewicz made a nifty

play on Angel Berroa's line drive in the sixth, a diving, lunging catch. ... It was the seventh two-homer game for Koskie. ... The Royals' Mike Sweeney was held out of the lineup with a sore back.

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## National Briefs

**BASEBALL=**  
**DENVER (AP)**—The Colorado Rockies traded All-Star shortstop Jose Hernandez to the Chicago Cubs for infielder Mark Bellhorn and minor league pitcher Travis Anderson. Hernandez was an All-Star with the Milwaukee Brewers last season, when he had 24 homers and 78 RBIs. He also struck out a major league-leading 188 times, one short of Bobby Bonds' single-season record set in 1970. Hernandez played for the Cubs from 1994-99. He has also spent time with Texas, Cleveland and Atlanta during a 12-year career. Hernandez signed with Colorado as a free agent in the offseason to play third base and moved to shortstop when Juan Uribe started the

year on the disabled list. Hernandez hit .237 with eight homers and 27 RBIs, but fanned 95 times in 69 games with the Rockies. Bellhorn hit 27 homers for the Cubs in 2002, a franchise record for a switch-hitter. But he's struggled this season, batting only .209 with two homers and 22 RBIs in 51 games. **TENNIS=**  
**ROSMALEN, Netherlands (AP)**—Richard Krajicek retired because of elbow pain, ending a career in which he won Wimbledon in 1996 and was one of the hardest servers in tennis. The 31-year-old Dutchman leaves the sport two days after losing in the first round at a tournament in his home country. He said he has "lost the fight for my health."

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