

# Colby Sweet Thunder wins at Salina

Colby Sweet Thunder's 16 and under team snagged first place last weekend in the Salina Invitational.

Concordia Crushers was the first team they faced, and both teams were held scoreless until the top of the fifth. Kiri Kendrick and Brena Jones both took walks and scored on passed balls for the first two runs. In the seventh, Jordan Krzycki and Logan Wark both hit singles and stole on passed balls for the final two runs. Concordia scored at the bottom of the seventh after two errors let two runs in. Pitcher Logan Wark took the win, 4-2.

Game #2: Against Larned Renegades, Colby lead batter Kendrick scored with a single base hit and an RBI and hit by Jones. Other scoring runs and hits were by Danielle Pettibone with a triple and run; Keesa Wright, RBI sacrifice; Caitlyn Wark, single; Krzycki, two singles, one stolen run; Jones, one single and RBI, one run; Logan Wark, a triple, single, two RBIs, and three stolen runs. Pitcher Pettibone took the win with a final score of 7-3.

Game #3: Colby faced off with Great Bend Quicksilver and Colby began to have batting problems and errors. The errors helped Quicksilver to three runs early in the game, and Thunder's only score was Logan Wark's single and steal home. Singles were also hit by Krzycki, Pettibone and Ericka Gonzales. Pitcher Pettibone took the loss, 5-1.

Game #4: Colby played Quicksilver again and the Colby showed their mettle this game, allowing only six hits and one run. They saved their 2-1 winning score in the bottom of the seventh by throwing out Quicksilver's tying run coming home to end the game. Pitcher Logan Wark took the win.

Hits and scoring runs for the game were: Krzycki, double, walk, run; Kendrick, two singles; Logan Wark, double, two RBIs, Caitlyn Wark, single, run; Lindsay Frahm, single.

Thunder began their season the



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Colby Sweet Thunder pitcher Logan Wark aimed a pitch for home plate last weekend during the Salina tournament. Colby won the tournament.

previous weekend in Dodge City at the Miss Kitty Classic, with eight 16-U teams participating in pool play until Saturday evening, when they moved into bracket play.

Colby won all three games on Saturday, only giving up one run between during the day. The win against the North Platte Belles, 6-0, was taken by pitcher Logan Wark. Thunder only allowed one hit, had only one error, and Wark had nine strikeouts in 17 at-bats.

Game two was against Spearville with Danielle Pettibone at the

mound. She took the win, 8-0, with six strikeouts and two walks.

Game three against Dodge City Magic began bracket play, giving pitcher Wark the win 6-1, allowing five hits, pitching 10 strikeouts, walk, an error and one run.

Day two of the tournament in bracket play pitted Thunder against the Colorado Springs Quicksilver and saw Colby struggle with pop-ups and strikeouts. Final score was 5-2 with Pitcher Wark taking the loss.

Final game against the Larned

Renegades again saw batting struggles. Defensively, they played very well, holding the Renegades scoreless until the third inning, when errors and some good hits began Larned's run scoring.

Colby caught them 6-5 in the sixth, but was unable to score as home team in the bottom of the seventh. Pitcher Pettibone took the loss with Wark relieving. Thunder's record is 6-3. They travel to the Nebraska Days Fastpitch Tournament in North Platte, Neb., this weekend.

# Spurs win fourth title

CLEVELAND (AP) — True roundball royalty, the San Antonio Spurs are once again wearing the crown.

LeBron James, Cleveland's pre-ordained king, isn't quite ready for his.

MVP Tony Parker scored 24 points, Manu Ginobili had 27 — 13 in the fourth quarter — and the Spurs moved in among the NBA's greatest franchises with an 83-82 victory Thursday night for a sweep of the Cavaliers — court jesters through much of their first finals.

With their fourth championship since 1999 — and third in five years — the Spurs joined the Boston Celtics, Los Angeles Lakers and Chicago Bulls as the only teams in NBA history to win four titles.

"It never gets old, it never gets old," Tim Duncan said. "Unbelievable. Such a great run, a great journey, a great bunch of guys."

And No. 5 might not be far away either with Parker, Ginobili and Duncan leading this Texas-oiled machine. Coach Gregg Popovich and the Spurs, now a perfect 4-for-4 together in finals appearances, spent most of the postseason dismissing talk that they should be considered a dynasty.

But with titles in 1999, 2003, 2005 and 2007, there's no more reason to pretend they aren't one. As the final seconds ticked off

on Cleveland's finest season, Duncan stood at center court with both arms raised triumphantly as the rest of the Spurs danced around their center in a huddle. San Antonio's star sought out Cleveland's Eric Snow, but was unable to find James in the pandemonium.

Moments later, the Spurs, who moved over from the ABA in 1976, put on champions baseball caps, which has almost become a June ritual for them.

Their road to a championship was bumpier than in previous years.

The Spurs weren't the Spurs earlier this season, and Popovich, ever the task master, criticized his squad, calling it the worst defensive one he had coached. San Antonio was 33-18 at the time, "struggling" for by its lofty standards, but it wasn't long before they started playing Spurs basketball.

They beat Denver, Phoenix and Utah to win the Western Conference title and then stormed through the Cavs, who were exposed during four games that looked competitive on the scoreboard but were hardly even close.

"This one's sweeter," Duncan said. "The road that we took to get here was as tough as we ever had it. Guys persevered, we had great performances from one to 12."

## SportsBriefs

OAKMONT, Pa. (AP) — Nick Dougherty, a one-time protege of Nick Faldo, shot a 2-under 68 for the early first-round at the U.S. Open, but the real story was how Oakmont was living up to its reputation of one of America's toughest courses.

About six hours into opening round play, only nine golfers were under par, despite speculation that a late-afternoon thunderstorm Wednesday created better scoring conditions by slowing — if just a little — Oakmont's traditionally fast greens.

Tiger Woods was three shots off the lead with a 1-over 71, tied with defending champion Geoff Ogilvy.

Phil Mickelson, dealing with inflammation in his left wrist that requires him to wear a brace, played 18 holes for the first time since he won The Players Championship. He didn't have many looks at birdie, but he played the final eight holes without a bogey.

BASEBALL  
LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Dodgers fired Hall of Famer Eddie Murray as hitting coach after completing a three-game sweep of the NL East-leading New York Mets in which they got 31 hits and scored 18 runs.

Bill Mueller, hired as special assistant to general manager Ned Colletti during the offseason, will serve as interim hitting coach.

Colletti said the move had been considered for some time.

HOCKEY  
TORONTO (AP) — Sidney Crosby skated away with the Hart Trophy, becoming the NHL's youngest MVP since Wayne Gretzky.

The vote wasn't even close. The 19-year-old Pittsburgh captain — who received his trophy from six-time winner Gordie Howe — got 91 first-place votes and 1,225 points in a poll of Professional Hockey Writers' Association members.

Crosby began the evening with a trophy, too. Canadian prime minister Stephen Harper gave the Pearson Award, an MVP prize voted on by the players' union, to the teenager from Cole Harbour, Nova Scotia.

Vancouver goalie Roberto Luongo was second with 25 first-place votes and 801 points. New

Jersey goalie Martin Brodeur was third with 21 first-place votes and 763 points, though he got to take home the Vezina Trophy for top goalie.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL  
TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — University of Alabama trustees approved the eight-year, \$32 million contract for football coach Nick Saban.

The deal that doesn't include a buyout clause if he wants to leave early and puts a cap on the number of public appearances Saban must make every year.

Saban's base salary will be \$225,000 with the rest coming in an escalating personal services fee that rises from \$3.275 million this year to \$3.975 million each of the final

three years. The contract, which is the richest awarded a college coach, also allows the former Miami Dolphins coach to limit his public appearances, while offering incentives that could reach \$650,000 for academic and on-field success.

SOCCER  
HOUSTON (AP) — Two players on Cuba's national soccer team didn't show up for a game in Texas, while authorities tracked down 13 young Haitian players who disappeared from a New York airport.

Cuban players Osvaldo Alonso and Lester More skipped a first-round game Wednesday night as Cuba faced Honduras in the CONCACAF Gold Cup soccer tournament.

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