



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Senior shortstop Cade Carter fielded a ground ball at a Colby High Varsity Baseball practice last Friday. Carter, along with his fellow Eagles team, will be competing in the state 4A tournament today and Saturday.

Broncos receiving tight end meets coach with clean slate

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) — Tony Scheffler has no beef with Broncos coach Josh McDaniels and insists he's on board even after the team traded his good buddy, Jay Cutler.

Any friction that might have existed dissipated after a recent chat the tight end had with his head coach.

Scheffler and McDaniels sat down to clear the air, discussing his role with the team.

The conversation was cathartic. "Everything's fine," Scheffler said Thursday after the third day of passing camp. "It's not about me. It's not about any individual on this team right now. We're really focused on the team and moving forward. I think we're doing a lot of good things."

There were rumors swirling in the offseason that Denver was shopping Scheffler, not sure how he would fit into the new intricate offense that McDaniels was implementing.

The meeting with McDaniels staunchly those.

As for frayed feelings, there are none.

"Water off a duck's back — move forward and move to the next day," said Scheffler.

"You can't really have hurt feelings in this league or else you'll get left behind in a hurry."

These days, McDaniels is envisioning a big role for his reliable receiving tight end, who's looking slimmer and sleeker.

"Tony's a very, very highly skilled player," McDaniels said. "He can do a lot of things — he can run, he can catch, he can block. We're going to take advantage of every skill that he has."

He's made a good impression on our team here."

McDaniels admits he's never coached a tight end quite like Scheffler, one with the ability to stretch the field with a combination of speed and athleticism.

"Tony is probably the most skilled pass-receiving tight end that I've had an opportunity to be around," McDaniels said. "That's a weapon for us that we can move around on the field. We're going to try to feature him in that role."

Now if he can just stay healthy. That's been the knock on Scheffler, who missed three games with a groin injury last season and was bothered by a broken foot before the 2007 season.

"The whole hurt label is kind of overrated with me," he said. "I've only missed four games in three years, if you really look at it. It's

frustrating, don't get my wrong, but at the same time it's something you've got to battle through and learn from. I think I've done that. It makes you really appreciate being on the field and being out there with the guys."

Scheffler and Cutler formed quite the connection after the two were taken in the same draft class. Scheffler was a frequent target for the strong-armed quarterback when Cutler found himself in a jam.

However, that came to a halt when Cutler was traded to the Chicago Bears in the offseason after deciding he didn't want to play for McDaniels.

The two remain close, texting and talking all the time.

"I'm sure Jay is going to have a lot of success, a ton of success, in Chicago," Scheffler said.

Colby baseball team has solid year at the plate

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It has been a fun year to be a Colby High Eagles baseball fan. The team's impressive 22-1 record has been full of blow-outs, strong pitching performances and powerful bats and solid defense. But even the team's nearly flawless record was eclipsed by Colby winning the regionals for the first time in the program's history.

While the post-season is far from over here are what the team's statistics look like at this point.

Senior Levi Schlick leads the team with 34 runs batted; seven home runs (the all time school record) a .577 batting average, and a .676 on-base percentage. Senior Corey Sager trails only Schlick in batting average with .567, he hit five home runs, drove in 31 runners and had an on-base percentage of .639.

Junior Preston Krzycki had the team's third highest batting average. He batted .481, hit two home runs, drove in 19 runners and had an on-base percentage of .576. Senior Stephen Dinkle tied for third place with Krzycki in runs batted in driving in 19 runner. His batting average is .455, he hit two home runs and he had an on-base percentage of .538.

Seniors Cade Carter and Brent Arnberger batted .448 and .414 respectively. Senior Eric Blanton came in second in home runs with six.

Schlick lead all Colby pitchers in strikeouts this season with 60. He also had the lowest earned run average among Eagles' pitchers with 0.41. Dinkle had the second most strikeouts with 38.

The Eagles play Towanda-Circle (7-14) at 4 p.m. Today at Dean Evans Stadium in Salina. If they win this game they will play the winner of a game between Mulvane and Ottawa at 12:30 p.m. on Saturday.

Speedway sees late start

Eric Gaede

Thomas County Speedway

The Thomas County Speedway season had a late start with the first scheduled races canceled because of rain.

On Sunday the weather was perfect for a great night of racing. Darren Deloach, Bryan LaRiviere, BJ Dauer, and Alex West started the season with wins in their classes. The next races will be this coming Sunday.

Race car No. 21 Darren Deloach won a restart-plagued main event. It took three tries to get the race started, but once they did all 20 laps were run without a caution. Car No. 21m Matt Morris, car No. 37 Jeff Tubbs and car No. 737 Nick Tubbs were all knocked out of contention before the race got started. Car No. 42 John Fabrizio made it past six racers to take second and car No. 21b Ja-

son Brees held onto his third place starting spot at the finish. Car No. 8x Adam Morris came in 4th and car No. 6c Wheat Lippelmann finished fifth in his second main of the night. There were 18 modifications on hand.

Car No. 2 Bryan LaRiviere came to Colby for the first time and came away with a win in the stock car class. The top five racers put on a great show for the fans in the final five laps. LaRiviere used a restart to get past car No. 37 Jason Rogers who ended up finishing third behind Travis Towns who used the bottom of the track to almost get the win but had to settle for second. Car No. 8 Ryan Wark came from the back of the pack to grab fourth and was just a car length from the win. Car No. 95 Randy Tipton ended up fifth. Car No. 13 started the main.

The hobby stock division also had a first time winner at Colby.

Car No. 33 BJ Dauer finished his week off with his third win in three days with wins in Hays, Goodland, and Colby. Car No. 26 Travis Glassman tried to get past Dauer on a couple restarts but had to settle for a second place finish. Car No. 6m Jason McIntyre dodged a multi-car crash and placed third, car No. 96 Josh Latka came in fourth and car No. 3d Jeff Doty finished fifth. There were 14 cars in the Hobby Stock class.

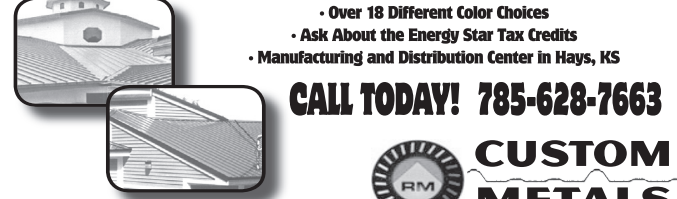
The Econo main was a rare race because there were no cautions. Car No. 31 Alex West took the lead early and held on for the win. Car No. 07 Joe Austin came in second with car No. 37 and John Luckert placed third. Car No. 12 Tyrel Smith stayed ahead of car No. 32 Jason Gray. They finished fourth and fifth respectively. Eleven cars were on hand at the speedway.

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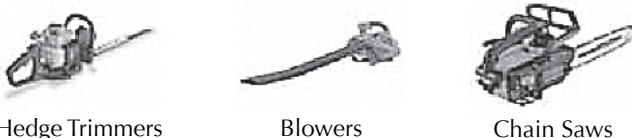
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