

Trying for a pick off



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

Colby College sophomore pitcher Mitchell Bean threw to sophomore first baseman Brendan Miller in an attempt to pick off a Seward County Community College runner on first base during the front half of a doubleheader Saturday against the Saints at the college baseball diamond. The Trojans went 1-3 against Seward County this weekend.

Colby rodeo star makes it to finals

Meka Melvin, a member of the Colby Community College rodeo team from Tryon, Neb., qualified to compete in the College Nationals Finals Rodeo from June 12 to 19 in Casper, Wyo.

Melvin, the top finisher for the 2009-10 team, finished third in breakaway roping out of 127 contestants in the Central Plains Region. She won or placed at Southeastern, northwestern and Garden City rodeos, qualifying her to compete in the college finals.

The Trojans' rodeo team finished the year on a high note at the 44th annual Fort Hays State University Rodeo from April 16 to 18. Two women made it to the final round with excellent first runs.

Breakaway roper Kelsie Johnson from Sutherland, Neb., split fifth in the first round with a 3.5-second run. Barrel racer Shaileigh Smith from Abilene also made it back to the short round after finishing sixth in the first round with a time of 16.21 seconds.

The men's team had a successful weekend, with two members making it back to the final round in team roping. Cory Hatcher from Syracuse finished 10th in the first round with 8.3 seconds. Lane

Wood from Imperial, Neb., finished eighth in the first round with an eight-second run.

Earlier this year, Jared "Don" Shroyer from Superior, Neb., qualified for the finals in steer wrestling at the Fort Scott Community College Rodeo. Fellow steer wrestler Bret Spandel from Anselmo, Neb., made it back into the finals at the Colby, southeastern, Garden City and southwestern rodeos this year.

Team ropers Chance Remington from Palco and Austin Carter from Beloit qualified for the finals at the Oklahoma Panhandle State University rodeo this spring, where they finished second in the round and third in the average.

"I'm looking forward to attending the nationals in June," said coach Allen Russell. "With many sophomores returning and a talented group of incoming freshmen, our fall 2010 season looks very promising."

The team competes in the Central Plains Region of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association, which includes two- and four-year colleges in Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri.

Junior wins two hurdle events

Colby High junior Andrew Flanagin took first Friday in both the 100-meter and 300-meter hurdles at Trego Community High School in WaKeeney.

Flanagin finished the 100 meters in 15.78 seconds and the 300 meters in 42.06.

The Lady Eagles girls' team came in second out of 13 teams with 64 points, while the boys finished seventh out of 13 with 40. Russell won the girl's meet with 67 and Ness City took first in the boy's meet with 112.

On the girls side, the 4-by-400 relay team of sophomore Morgan Bell, junior Katrina Kaus, sophomore Emilea Finley and freshman Alexa Haas took first with 4:15.4.

Finley took second in the 1,600 meters with 5:35.4 and the 800 meters with 2:28.7. Kaus was second in the 3,200 meters with 12:46.4. Bell came in second in the high jump with a leap of 4 feet, 10 inches and Haas snared second in the 200 meters with 28.2.

Finley, took third in the triple jump with 31' 2.5" and Haas came in third in the 400 meters with 1:02.5. Bell finished fourth in the 300-meter hurdles with 50.75. Haas came in fifth in the 100 meters with 12.83, Kaus took fifth in the 1,600 meters with 5:56.1 and senior Rachel Lamm finished fifth with 17.05.

For the boys, freshman Beau Brown took third in the 100 meters with 11:02. The 4-by-

800 relay team of seniors Torey Taylor and Kalen Rasmussen and juniors Christian Wilson and Kale Arnberger finished third with 8:51.3. Brown finished fifth in the 200 meters with 28.2 and the 4-by-100 team of senior Adam Weber, junior Troy Koon, Brown and freshman Wiatt Binder came in fifth with 45.79.

Weber took sixth in the shot put with a heave of 42' 5" and the men's 4-by-400 relay team of Binder, Flanagin, Rasmussen and Arnberger finished fifth with 3:41. Senior Braden McKee snared sixth in the triple jump with 38' 11" and the high jump with 5' 8".

The Eagles will compete again at 3 p.m. Tuesday at Garden City.

Summer ball season begins in early June

Summer ball season is fast approaching, with youth baseball, softball and T-ball teams to form in early May and games to start the week of June 7.

The Colby Recreation Department calendar is full of lessons, events, leagues and seasons.

Swim lessons for ages 4 and up also will begin the week of June 7, said Recreation Director Stacy Lee. Three sessions will be offered at two-week intervals, from Monday through Thursday, levels 4-6 from 10 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. and levels 1-3 from 10:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Private lessons are available with pool manager Jill Nech.

Other youth programs this summer will include Kids a'Cookin, a Firecracker Fair, volleyball camps for third through sixth grade girls, Taekwondo and youth basketball camps for preschool through eighth grade for boys and girls.

The department also has several programs planned for adults. Men's and coed softball will be-

gin in late May, the third annual Harvest Hustle 5K is coming up Saturday, June 26, and the third annual Iron Athlete Triathlon will be Saturday, July 31.

Boot Camp and Water Aerobics exercise classes will resume this summer. Boot Camp will begin June 7 from 5:45 a.m. to 6:30 a.m. on Monday, Wednesday and Friday and Water Aerobics will be Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. beginning June 3.

The recreation department plans two new events for the summer, Lee said: The Global Legends Basketball Camp and the Iron Athlete Triathlon for youths as a team relay. Lee said the relay will feature teams of three. She said one person will do the swim portion of the triathlon, one will do the run and one will do the bicycling. The event will be Saturday, July 24.

The basketball camp will run from June 7 to 11. It will be taught by former Globetrotter Elbert "Tree" Gordon.

Bulldogs finish second at meet in Oakley

Golden Plains High sophomore Cole Christiansen took second place in the high jump and junior Rilee Spesser snared second in the shot put when the Bulldogs track and field teams competed on a stormy April 20 at Oakley.

Christiansen leaped 5 feet, 8 inches and Spesser heaved the shot 42' 6".

Junior Devinn Ritter took fourth in the shot put with 41' 4" and sixth in the discus with 124' 9.25. Senior Jarrett Marker took fifth in the javelin with 142' 5".

Sophomore Kalyn Weber finished the 100 meters in 11.98 seconds and freshman Andrew Luna ran it in 12.46. Luna ran the 200 meters in 25.36 and sophomore

Trey Schwarz in 27.6. Christiansen completed the 400-meter dash in 58.77 and freshman Jesus Garcia finished the race in 1:03.66.

The 4-by-400 relay team of Luna, Rilee Spesser, Marker and Weber finished with 48.49. The 4-by-3,200 relay team of twin seniors Issac and Jonathan Broeckelman, Schwarz and Garcia completed the race in 10:19.38.

Spesser finished the long jump with 17' 9.25", Weber in 17' 3" and Garcia in 12' 9.25. Spesser did the triple jump with 36' 8" and threw the shot 42' 6". A.J. Stoll had a 27' 9.25" shot put throw and Marker tossed the discus 79' 11".

On the girls side, Junior Avery Spesser took sixth in the triple

jump with 29' 9" and senior Jenna Bruggeman finished sixth with 87' 25.

Freshman Morgan Walz completed the 100-meter dash with 15.75 and freshman Angela Ritter finished the 200 meters with 24.47. Sophomore Viri Beltran ran the 200 meters in 30.94 and Walz finished with 32.09.

Ritter ran the 400-meter dash with 1:08.61 and Beltran finished with 1:10.49. Beltran did the 100-meter hurdles in 20.94. The 4-by-400 relay team of Beltran, Spesser, Walz and Ritter completed the race in 58.76. Spesser finished the long jump with 12' 2.25 and Walz did a jump of 11' 5.25".

Bruggeman threw the shot 27' 5.75", junior Rachel Bomba in 27' 2" and sophomore Hannah Antholz in 23' 11. Junior Randi Cressler tossed the discus 67' 2" and Antholz threw it 64' 1. Cressler tossed the javelin 72' 5" and Bomba threw it 68' 2".

"The weather wasn't the best, but everyone tried their hardest and we even improved several of our times," Beltran said.

Chiefs rookie befriends hall of famer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — First-round draft pick Eric Berry had barely set foot in Kansas City before he made a new friend — a valuable new friend.

The night before the Chiefs opened their rookie minicamp this weekend, the safety from Tennessee got to meet hall of famer Emmitt Thomas, the Chiefs' career leader in interceptions who is also their defensive backs coach.

"I have Emmitt Thomas in my meeting room, so I can ask him all type of questions," Berry said

Saturday with a sense of excitement. "He's a hall of famer. I have a good tool in him."

As a cornerback for the Chiefs' Super Bowl teams in the 1960s, Thomas set the team record with 58 interceptions. He spent the past eight seasons with the Atlanta Falcons as an assistant coach, and was interim head coach for the last three games in 2007. The Chiefs added him to their staff in January, and Berry is delighted that they did.

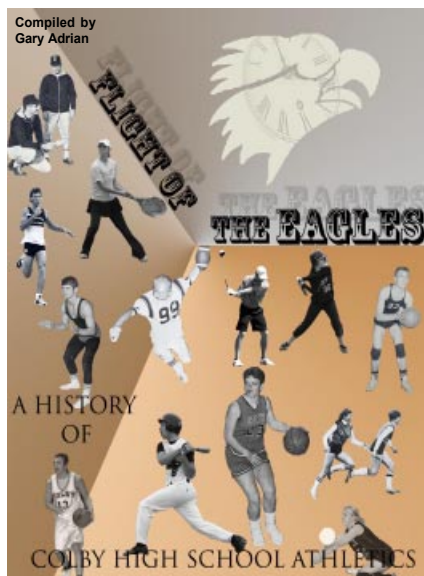
"Coach Thomas, he's a very

personable guy. He's down to earth. He doesn't have that big ego," said Berry.

Berry, who was drafted No. 5 overall, said Thomas appears to be someone who all the young players could learn from.

"He was talking about how much the game changed. But really, I think a lot of the guys can relate to him in the secondary, just because he's that type of guy. He's always smiling and he's always trying to teach us something new."

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