

Racing against the clock



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

This cowgirl wore a determined look on her face while competing in barrel racing at the Kansas Professional Rodeo Association Rodeo on Monday night at the Thomas County Fairgrounds.

Colby K-18 team makes state

The Colby K-18 baseball team advanced to the state championship by winning two of its three games at the regional tournament Saturday and Sunday in Hays.

The boys will go into the K-18 state tournament at Lucas as the No. 3 seed in the Western Division. They will face Clifton-Clyde, the No. 2 seed in the Eastern Division, on Friday right after the conclusion of a Hays-Beloit game that starts at 6:30 p.m.

If Colby wins, the team will play the winner of the Hays-Beloit game at 6:30 p.m. Sunday.

The team began the regional tournament with a 10-6 win over Phillipsburg. Zack Stones pitched all seven innings for Colby, giving up 12 hits and striking out eight.

"Zack was able to pitch out of a couple spots," said coach Russell Rodenbeck, adding that Stones was tired by the end of the game but he was able to work through his fatigue and finish.

Colby put up three runs in the bottom of the first. The team scored two more in the second to make it 5-0. Phillipsburg picked up a run in the third, but the boys answered with three runs in the bottom of the fourth.

Phillipsburg scored one run each in the fourth and fifth, cutting Colby's lead to 8-3. Both teams managed to get two runners across home plate in the sixth.

Phillipsburg put up one more run in the top of the seventh, but Colby prevailed 10-6.

Luke Cox went 2-for-4 with two doubles, and Daalan Organ, Marc Bremencamp and Brady Rose all were 2-for-3. The boys were out-hit 12-10 by Phillipsburg.

Colby lost to Ellis 11-8 in their first game on Sunday, despite outpitching their opponents 14-9. Rodenbeck said his team just didn't get any timely hits.

"We left guys on second and third in at least three innings," he said.

Cox started the game on the mound for Colby, but had trouble finding the strike zone. He walked

five batters and gave up five runs before being relieved by Organ in the first. Organ got out of the inning without allowing another run.

"We stumbled out of the gate," said Rodenbeck. "We had trouble throwing strikes in the first inning that got us in a big hole we couldn't get out of."

Ellis picked up two more runs in the second, extending its lead to 7-2. Colby got a run in the third and Ellis picked up a run in the top of the fourth.

The boys scored two more in the bottom of the fourth, narrowing the gap to 8-5. Ellis answered with two runs in the top of the fifth and one in the sixth. Colby's offense staged a small rally in the seventh, but Ellis won 11-8.

Organ went 3-for-4 and Cox, Stones and Trek Keck all went 2-for-3. Cox had two doubles. Macen Shull went 2-for-5 and Josh Matchell went 1-for-1.

Colby beat Ness City 8-6 in a consolation game Sunday.

Shull started, allowing six runs in a little over three innings. Organ relieved Shull in the fourth. He gave up no runs in one-plus innings and Stones sealed the win with two shutout innings.

Both teams picked up two runs in the first, then Colby put together a five-run-inning in the bottom of the third. Ness City's went on a four-run rally, narrowing the gap to 7-6. The boys added another run in the fifth. Neither team scored for the rest of the game and Colby prevailed 8-6.

Keck had a monster game at the plate, going 4-for-4 with a double. Shull, Organ and Cox had two hits each.

Rodenbeck said he was happy with his team's effort. "Everyone tried hard," he said. "They never gave up."

The coach added he was really pleased with the way his team had hit the ball.

Admission to the state tournament is \$5 for adults and \$2 for kids 6 to 12.

To get to Lucas, take Interstate 70 about 150 miles east from Colby. Take the K-282 exit and turn left, going north about 15 miles. Turn left at South Harvest St. and go eight-tenths of a mile west to Main Street. The ballpark should be on your left. The ride should take a little less than three hours.

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Rockies lose to Pirates

DENVER (AP) — Zach Duke threw six solid innings to help Pittsburgh snap a four-game losing streak. Colorado lost reliever Huston Street to a freak injury before the game.

The Rockies returned home from a 2-9 road trip and lost their seventh straight game, to the Pirates 4-2.

Street bruised the right side of his abdomen when he was hit by a line drive as he warmed up in

right field during batting practice. Street was taken off the field by ambulance, examined at a local hospital and sent home to rest. His availability will be on a day-to-day basis.

Duke (5-9) gave up three hits and struck out four.

Octavio Dotel finished the ninth for his 21st save.

Duke gave up homers to Brad Hawpe and Clint Barmes in the fifth.