

## Burning up the track



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Cars roared around the track during the F&M Insurance Store Summer Shootout races on Saturday at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. Three races were run at the fairgrounds on Friday and four on Saturday.

## Baseball squad loses state game

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The Colby K-18 baseball team ended its season with a 20-9 loss to Clifton-Clyde on a bug-infested field in Lucas in the first round of the state tournament.

It was around midnight on Friday when the northcentral Kansas team ended Colby's season. During the game, parents and players alike were constantly swatting at clouds of bugs that hovered over the field after a heavy rain earlier that evening. The army of black beetles found their way onto the clothing of Colby fans. They seemed somewhat relieved when the game came to an end, although it wasn't the way they wanted their team to finish.

The game started over an hour late because of a 30 minute downpour during the sixth inning of a game between Hays and Beloit. After the rain stopped, that game was called and Hays was declared the winner because they were ahead when the game was suspended. Colby and Clifton couldn't start until crews finished working on the field, which couldn't be done until it was reasonably dry.

Zack Stones started the game on the mound for Colby. He looked sharp in the first couple of innings, but Clifton-Clyde was still able to get a couple of runs off Colby errors. Their first runs came in the top of the second when a throw from shortstop Andrew Taylor deflected off the glove of first baseman Hunter Butts, allowing two runs to score. Clifton scored one more run in the inning when a batter hammered a line drive over Colby's left fielder.

Marc Bremenkamp scored Colby's first run of the game after a shallow fly ball to center by Brady

Rose was dropped by the fielder. Clifton got a run early in the top of the third off a wild pitch. Then a hard line drive up the middle slammed into Stones' leg. He went down, grasping his knee in pain, but managed to get back to his feet and continue pitching.

Clifton's offense had a breakout in the fourth, putting up six more runs to take a 10-1 lead. The Colby boys' picked up three runs in the bottom half of the inning to narrow the gap to 10-4.

Taylor pounded a grounder that got under the glove of Clifton's second baseman to start the bottom of the fifth. He eventually attempted to steal third and Clifton's catcher fired an off-target throw that got past the third baseman, allowing him to score. Then Stones ripped a line drive single to left, scoring Dalaan Organ to make it 10-6.

But Clifton unleashed a ferocious offensive attack in the sixth. They extended their lead to 14-6 after hitting a barrage of singles off Organ, who relieved Stones at the end of the sixth. Then a hard line drive deflected off the glove of third baseman Keegan Morgan and caught him in the collarbone. Morgan had to leave the game.

Clifton continued to do damage on offense, scoring six more runs to go up 20-6 before the inning came to an end. The boys proved they still had some fight left in them in the bottom half of the inning. Taylor blasted a line drive to left with the bases loaded, allowing all three runners to score. But the boys were unable to score again and Clifton pulled out a 20-9 win.

"We had a few errors and they scored on all of them," said coach Bruce Aramberger.

Coach Russell Rodenbeck noted that the first four runs Clifton scored were unearned.

## Golfer gets better of hometown favorite

SAMMAMISH, Wash. (AP) — Fred Couples took the safe route. It likely cost him a chance at winning his first major on the Champions Tour before his adoring hometown fans.

Instead, Bernhard Langer tapped in on the 18th on Sunday to win the U.S. Senior Open by three shots at Sahalee Country Club, capitalizing on Couples' one lone mistake to crash the party a partisan crowd was ready to throw for Couples.

Playing in an atmosphere more suited for a Ryder Cup than the final round of a major, Langer was undeterred by the more than 30,000 rooting for Couples, shooting a bogey-free 3-under 67 to win his second Champions Tour major in consecutive weeks.

"There was definitely them against me and for Freddie, you could feel that and that's not the case in a normal golf tournament," Langer said. "Normally the people when you hit a bad shot they keep quiet and when you hit it good they applaud for everyone. ... If I play my hometown they want me to win, it's quite normal and I knew I was going to be up against that but when you pull through that and you win in difficult circumstances it just means that much more."

A week after winning the Senior British Open title at Carnoustie, Langer finished at 8 under for the tournament.

But Langer's route to the title was made far easier by Couples' one mistake that proved impossible to recover from.

Already with a birdie in his pocket and a one-stroke lead after birding the opening hole, Couples' tee shot on the second drifted slightly right and into the first cut of rough.

He had 200 yards to the front of the green and 225 to the pin. Couples pulled his hybrid to go for the green, then put it back.

"I had never hit it (hybrid) in a spot like that," Couples said. "I thought if it's a cut shot, if I don't cut it, I'm going to rip it over the green. And as it turned out, where the pin was, it might not have been that bad."

His layup shot was fine, but his third shot from about 65 yards was chunked into the greenside pond, leaving everyone in a bit of shock.

"You know I've done it," Langer said. "It happens to most of us. They're pretty tight fairways out there, certain areas there's not a whole lot of grass there and it doesn't take much when you only

have five yards to work with and that's about what he had, and it's easily done."

After dropping, Couples hit his fifth shot over the green, then needed a chip and two putts to finally walk off the second with an 8. Couples said it took him a while to get that hole out of his head. His concern was not so much over his chunk but his decision to lay up.

"If I could walk out there tomorrow, I would go for the green, no matter where I hit it," Couples said. "I think I would beat 8, that's for sure."

From there, Langer simply didn't make any mistakes to let Couples close. Langer dropped a long birdie putt at the third when Couples hit it close, then added a birdie at No. 6. He closed his round with 12 straight pars, including impressive saves at Nos. 8 and 9.

The closest Couples got was two shots after birdies at Nos. 14 and 16 — but it was too late.

"I never had the tee. He was up first all day. He hit it down the middle of every fairway," Couples said. "As I told him, he played eight great rounds to play the British Seniors and this without really a poor round of golf, which is tough to do."

## Rockies earn fourth straight victory

DENVER (AP) — Jorge De La Rosa pitched into the seventh inning to earn his first win in three months and Colorado earned its fourth consecutive victory.

Chicago scored three times in the ninth against Huston Street but Jeff Baker struck out, giving the Rockies a 8-7 win. Rockies center fielder Dexter Fowler was carted off the field with bruised ribs and a bruised left hip after crashing

into the wall while catching Alfonso Soriano's sacrifice fly.

De La Rosa (4-3) allowed three runs and eight hits in 6 2-3 innings to pick up his first win since April 25 against Florida. He also went 2 for 2 at the plate.

The Cubs used five relievers after starter Carlos Silva (10-5) left in the first inning with an abnormal heart rate. Silva was taken to a Denver hospital, where he will stay overnight for observation.

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