

Passing it around



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
Billy Selley, an incoming freshman at Colby High School, made a pass during a basketball contest on Monday at Fike Park.

Kansas City defeats Oakland

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Alex Gordon hit a leadoff double and scored on Greg Blanco's ground-out in the ninth inning to give Kansas City the 3-2 win. Gordon also homered, while Mitch Maier and Yuniesky Betancourt added two hits apiece for the Royals, who snapped a four-game losing streak to the A's.

Newly acquired reliever Jesse Chavez (1-0) pitched two scoreless innings for the win before Joakim Soria worked the ninth for his 30th save. Gordon's homer in the second, a solo shot with one out, was his fourth overall and third in five games after being recalled from the minors on July 23.

Gordon doubled leading off the ninth against Craig Breslow (4-3). Kyle Davies allowed two runs with six strikeouts and five walks in five innings but left with a no-decision for the seventh time in his last 11 starts.

Colby High junior wins second mini-derby

By Andy Heintz

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When the all dust had settled and all collisions had ceased Wednesday, Colby High junior Nathan Quagliano had won his second consecutive mini-demolition derby at the Thomas County Fair.

This year, Quagliano's car outlasted eight others at the fairgrounds during the fair. He said he wouldn't have won if it wasn't for his dad, Brian Quagliano.

"He was a big help," Nathan Quagliano said. "He helped me a lot with motivation."

He said his dad also helped build the car. Quagliano said it took them about a month to finish it, and he really enjoyed putting the car together.

How many times do you get to put a car together without having to worry about dinging it up? Quagliano asked. He said the hardest part about building the car was making sure it ran and making sure all the parts on the front end were working.

Quagliano estimated the race lasted 20 to 30 minutes, but he said it seemed like forever. He said he was surprised he took first this year.

"Halfway through the race, I realized I might actually win it," the young driver said.

This year's mini-derby was only the third Quagliano has entered. Even though he's still relatively inexperienced, he said he has already learned a few things about competition.

"You start to learn what you can

and can't do," said Quagliano.

The Colby junior said one of the keys to doing well in mini-derbies is to stay away from hitting people with the front end of your car. He said since the mini-cars have front-wheel drive, a lot of their vital parts are in the front end.

The other derby Quagliano entered was in August at Hoxie. He said he finished fourth out of 26 drivers. Quagliano said the event consisted of three heats of eight drivers, followed by a main event. In order to qualify, you had to be one of the top two finishers in your heat, Quagliano. He said he took first in his.

Demolition derbies are in Quagliano's blood. He said he has been going to watch the smashups since he was 5, and his family has always been a part of derby's in Colby. He said Andy Blackhart, a family friend and a promoter of demolition derbies, also helped him get into the sport.



N. Quagliano

Quarterback may finally retire

MANKATO, Minn. (AP) — With everyone assuming Brett Favre was returning for a 20th NFL season, the Minnesota Vikings were enjoying a relatively calm and quiet training camp as they started preparations for another run at the Super Bowl.

All that tranquillity, and certainly, is out the window now.

Favre has told some teammates and Vikings officials that his surgically repaired left ankle is not healing the way he would like it to and that he will not return this season.

"He told a couple guys on our team he's going to retire," tight end Vianthe Shiancoe said after practice on Tuesday. "He hasn't told me yet. I'm going to check my phone right now, but it hasn't been said publicly yet so I don't

know what to believe."

Even with Favre's history of flip-flopping, the revelations came as a surprise to most surrounding the Vikings. They reported to training camp last week confident that after they wrapped things up in Mankato on Aug. 12, Favre would join them in the Twin Cities — just as he did last season.

But Favre's messages to teammates turned things upside down.

Head coach Brad Childress said after the morning practice that he had not been directly contacted by Favre and called the 40-year-old quarterback's status with the team "fluid." Childress has shown a great deal of patience with Favre, saying he would not set a deadline for a decision and allowing him to skip training camp for a second straight year.

"It wouldn't surprise me one way or the other, whether he elects to play or whether he elects to retire," Childress said. "I think all of us can live with it either way. The big thing is that he is at peace with it."

With Favre, of course, there is always the chance that he changes his mind, and that's what the Vikings are hoping for yet again. He told the Vikings last year he wouldn't play, but ultimately ended up joining them after they broke training camp. Childress even drove to the airport to pick him up for his 19th NFL season.

And it's not like Favre has vanished: He was out Wednesday morning, throwing passes at the Hattiesburg, Miss., high school where he's kept loose over the past several years.

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