



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

## Spring athletes training hard

The Colby High School softball (above) and baseball (right, below) teams have been hard at work practicing at the Colby rec fields despite winds blowing at more than 30 mph. The season begins Friday, April 1, with games against Holcomb. The Lady Trojans will face the Longhorns at home while the baseball team will play in Holcomb. Both games begin at 4 p.m.



## Help Red Cross at Friday event

The Colby High Young Humanitarians dodgeball tournament will begin at 6 p.m. Friday in the grade school gym.

The tournament is a fund raiser for the Thomas County Red Cross' Local Disaster Assistance Fund, which helps provide for families affected by a disaster, such as fire or flooding.

Director Sherry White said the

tournament has 18 teams in two categories, one for middle-school kids and one for high schoolers, college students, adults and business people. Winners in each class will get prizes.

The tournament is open to the public. Donations will be accepted. For information, call White at 462-7161.

## Team mom helps KU players get by

LAWRENCE (AP) — Whether they need a ride, a hug, or a home cooked meal, the Kansas players know Angel Morris is there for them.

Her twin sons, Marcus and Markieff, are the team's leading scorers and rebounders. Bill Self is their coach. But "Miss Angel," as the players affectionately call her, is the unofficial mother of the Jayhawks.

When Thomas Robinson's mother died, she flew to Washington, D.C. with the director of basketball operations and helped plan the funeral. A few weeks later, when the motherless young man underwent outpatient knee surgery, Angel Morris picked him up at the doctor's office and brought him home, insisting that he drink every drop of the chicken soup she'd made just for him.

When point guard Tyshawn Taylor was in the doghouse, she lent an understanding ear. She organizes Sunday dinners and outdoor cookouts, bringing together players and their families.

It's just the way she was raised, says the tall, perpetually smiling mother of 6-foot-9 Markieff and 6-8 Marcus.

"My mom had two sisters and one brother," she said. "One sister had seven kids. The brother had 14 kids and the other sister had 10. And we were always close. Every one of us has always been close to one another. A cousin has a baby, everybody is there for her. My mother always stayed as close as she possibly could. Each generation has. That's just the way we are."

It was Self who first started referring to the twins' mom as the mother of the Jayhawks.

"The thing about Angel is she's never in the way, but she's always looking out for others," Self said. "She doesn't do it with our direction and our knowledge. She just does it on her own."

She'll be there, of course, right behind the Kansas bench when the top-seeded Jayhawks meet Richmond on Friday night in the NCAA tournament's round of 16. If a player should be helped off the court injured, rest assured she will not remain in her seat.

All in a day's work, says Miss Angel.

"We're all family here. All of us together are one big family."

## Rockies take down Mariners 6-5

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Carlos Gonzalez had two hits and drove in three runs and Jorge De La Rosa struck out eight in six innings in the Colorado Rockies' 6-5 victory over the Seattle Mariners on Wednesday night.

De La Rosa allowed three runs on four hits and no walks.

Ryan Spilborghs drove in two runs and Troy Tulowitzki added an RBI for the Rockies.

"It had a lot of resemblance to games we played last year," manager Jim Tracy said. "With two strikes, we put the ball in play. That signifies an understanding of where we came up short last year."

De La Rosa, coming off a poor start in a minor league game in his last outing, allowed three runs on four hits and didn't walk a batter. "This time when I pounded the

strike zone, I did it with quality pitches," De La Rosa said. "The last time I threw strikes, but they were over the middle of the plate. I'm ready to throw a hundred pitches."

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