College rider qualifies for nationals

The Colby Community Col- Devon Felts of Manhattan qual-

lege Equestrian Team traveled to the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association Western Finals at Missouri State University in Springfield on March 26 and 27.

The college represented by Anna Schurter, Valley Center, in beginner horsemanship; Rachael Kruse, Ellsworth, in advanced horsemanship; and Elizabeth Kennedy, Topeka, in open horsemanship.

Semifinals include one-third of the association's teams and individual riders vying for the top four placings to compete at nationals.

"Anna and Liz both were called back to the top 10 to ride in the finals," said coach Shanda Mattix. "In the final heats of horsemanship in their respective classes, Liz placed ninth and Anna placed fifth. All three ladies rode very well and were great representatives for CCC.

The following weekend, April 2 and 3, the team competed in





Rachael Kruse

ified in novice fences, Faye Miller of Topeka in walk-trot-canter equitation and Kruse in walk-trot-canter equitation. These riders qualified for zones by placing in the top two at the regional horse show.

The show was for the top riders in Zone 8, California, Nevada, Arizona, Montana, Idaho, Utah, Washington, Oregon, British Columbia, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Wyoming and Colorado. The top two riders in each event at zones qualified to compete at nationals.

"In walk-trot-canter equitation, Rachael placed seventh and Faye placed eighth," said Mattix. "In novice fences, Devon placed second, earning a spot at IHSA Nationals. She will ride on May 5 at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington."

Colby Community College has the only two-year equestrian team in Kansas, the coach said. This is the

the Hunt Seat Zones at Cal Poly second year that Felts has qualified to compete at nationals.

Making the throw



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

toward first base after fielding a line drive in the Lady Eagles by recreation fields.

Colby High junior right fielder Madison Gawith fired a throw softball game against the Hays Indians on Tuesday at the Col-

Lady Eagles split games * with Goodland Cowboys

of the season to rival Goodland on Monday, splitting a doubleheader with the Lady Cowboys in Good-

The loss came in a close game that ended 2-1 after seven innings.

Mengel and Kenzie Curry each hit doubles. Caitlyn Wark, Bailey Koerperich and Karly Kriss hit singles

and Lacy O'Neal got the team's sole run batted in. "We did not play with any confidence in the first game," said coach Jack Elliot, "but we hung in to

The Colby High softball team suffered its first loss ond game, thanks in large part to Curry, who allowed no runs, one hit, no walks and struck out 16 batters.

"Kenzie dominated the second game, striking out 16 of the 18 outs," Elliot said.

O'Neal hit a grand slam in the team's 6-run fifth inning. Curry had a single, a double and scored twice. Skyler Mengel took the loss. She allowed 2 runs Kriss had a single and three runs batted in. Brittany on 7 hits, but struck out 6 batters and only walked Bange and Madison Gawith each had a run batted in. Wark had a double and scored twice.

The Lady Eagles won the game 11-0.

"We need to get out of the gates quicker," Elliot

The Lady Eagles played Hays High on Tuesday at the Colby recreation fields and will travel to play Lakin on Thursday, April 28.

The Lady Eagles turned things around in the sec-Bad luck doesn't stop Royals

By Doug Tucker

AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. - The bullpen phone quit working at just the wrong time. The bat boy unwittingly caused a power hitter to lay down a bunt in an RBI situa-

Then in a shaky ninth inning, they had an error, a hit batsman

and a bases-loaded walk. "And still we won a ballgame," Kansas City manager Ned Yost exclaimed Tuesday night after the Royals held on for a wild 5-4 victory over division rival Cleve-

The long-woeful and perhaps lucky Royals crept to within one game of the surprising Indians in the AL Central with the help of Bruce Chen's strong pitching and

Alex Gordon's strong everything. Chen (3-0) went seven innings and beat the Indians for the fourth straight time, stretching his personal winning streak, dating to last season, to seven games over 11 starts. Jeanmar Gomez (0-1), making his first major league start after being called up from Triple-A Columbus earlier in the day, took the loss on a night when the wind chill hovered near 30 degrees.

Gordon stole two bases, scored a run, had two hits, threw out a runner at the plate and made a ter-

Grady Sizemore's sinking liner in the ninth. "Gordon pretty much saved

the game on that very nice play on Sizemore down the left-field line," said Cleveland manager Manny Acta.

in 5-4 win over Cleveland

Chen cruised into the seventh with a two-hitter and a 5-0 lead, and hadn't allowed an earned run in 20 innings. But then his stuff flattened out and things got

After Orlando Cabrera singled for the first hit of the inning, Yost grabbed the bullpen phone to tell Blake Wood to get ready.

"But the phones went on the blink," said Yost. "So we had no communication to our bullpen."

A tired Chen kept throwing. The energized Indians kept hitting. Austin Kearns singled. Lou Marson hit a two-run double.

"Bruce gives up another hit and we're trying to get Woody up and we can't," said Yost.

Finally, it was Kansas City's finest to the rescue. The uniformed police officer near the Royals dugout used his hand-held communication device to call the officer in the bullpen and tell him to tell Wood to get ready.

"It was kind of a (mess) there for a little while, but we got it straightened out," Yost said. "Don't ask me why or how or what, but every once in a while the phones shut

In the KC eighth with a runrific diving catch in left field of ner on base and nobody out, Kila Ka'aihue laid down a bunt that probably puzzled every fan in the

Turns out the bat boy ran between Yost and third base coach Eddie Rodriguez just as Yost was going through his signs.

"Eddie was blocked out and thought I put the bunt sign on and I never put the bunt sign on," said Yost. "That was a miscommunication. Eddie thought I'd put the bunt on and I never did. That's not a situation we want Kila bunting

Ka'aihue, to his credit, did get the sacrifice bunt down. But the runner was stranded and the Royals had to sweat the ninth when Joakim Soria got his fifth save in six opportunities even though the Indians loaded the bases with two outs on a single, third baseman Wilson Betemit's throwing error and a hit batsman. Shin-Soo Choo drew a walk that forced in a run.

But then Soria threw three straight called strikes to Carlos Santana to end it.

"He's a very good hitter and he was facing a good pitcher," said Acta. "Soria made three pitches there right on the black. I think everybody wants him to swing the bat, but you also have to take your hat off sometimes to the pitcher." Gordon threw out Marson try-

ing to score in the seventh on Michael Brantley's single. Chen went seven innings and

allowed two runs on six hits, with three walks and five strikeouts.

Gordon singled in the first and had an RBI double in the fifth.

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