# Hard work pays off for track star

#### Colby runner breaks personal bests, looks forward to college recruiting

By Kayla Cornett

Colby Free Press

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Emilea Finley is just like every other high school student when it comes to college; she doesn't know where she's going or what goes, she will be an athlete.

Finley is a track and cross country runner and she will be a senior year before. at Colby High School this year. She has been running track since seventh grade and it shows.

She took first place in the 800 and 1600 meter runs at the 2011 Kansas State Track and Field mile." Championships, and she took secbroke her previous personal best records in all three events, running a 2 minute, 18 second time in the 800, a time of 11:20.75 for the 3200 meter run, and just over five minutes for the mile or 1600 meter run.

"The mile is always my first event and so it's the one I have the most energy for," she said. "I have energy for the other ones, but it's where I put my focus on. I always think, 'Get the first event over

with' and then generally it kind of to be the state champion, fingers sets the tone for the day."

She said that running cross country made all the difference last season in improving her times.

"I was really happy," she said. "Last year was my first year to do cross country so it kind of set the degree she plans to get. However, tone for the year. For my freshman she does know that wherever she and sophomore years, I competed and I competed well, but my times were pretty much the same as the

> "This year, I started training in July, then I did cross country and then I trained all through the winter and then I ran track (where) I improved 10 seconds off my

And even though it was her ond in the 3200 meter run. She first time running cross country, she still made great strides. She took first place in the 4000 meter run at the GWAC Championships, setting a personal best time of 15:30.43. Then at the Kansas State Cross Country Championships for Class 1A-4A schools, she took Finley said if she had to choose, second place in the same event. the mile would be her favorite She also placed fourth in the 5000 event to compete in during track meter run at the Cross Country Coaches National Youth Championships, which set her personal best time at 18:40.26.

She has an even larger goal in mind for the cross country season this year.

"In cross country, I'm hoping

crossed," she said. "The girl who beat me last year was a senior so she's going to be gone.'

Still, Finley said she's going to fit in relaxation as much as possible this summer.

"Right now my summer consists of giving swimming lessons and I do a lot of relaxing," she said. "Then I have just little jobs, like babysitting, and then I just relax cause swimming and running and playing basketball all day just sucks everything out of you."

This relaxation is needed because soon she will be going through the process of choosing a college to bring her talents to. She said she has been talking with a few coaches about scholarships, but she cannot be fully recruited until July.

"I've been talking to the K-State coach a lot and there's been other coaches and stuff, it's kind of hard right now cause they can't call you until July 1," Finley said. "Then they have a period in July of when they can come visit you, and the K-State coach is gonna come visit me. It's still a lot of waiting, I have no idea."

All she knows is that she's ready to go to any college.

"I definitely wanna go out and see where I can go," Finley said.



SONDRA FINLEY

Emilea Finley (middle) ran in the homestretch of the first lap of the 1600 meter run at the Kansas State Track and Field Championships May 28, where she set three new personal best times. She took first place in this event with a time of 5:05.62.

## Baseball team stuck on two wins since start

The K-18 baseball team has already played 11 day and lost 12-1. They played the Hays Renegades games this season, but it has not had much luck in after that, and lost 4-1. defeating its opponents.

The team just returned from the Hays tournament where they played three games against the Hays Renegades. The first two games were played on Saturday, and Colby lost both with scores of 13-7 and 17-2, respectively. The third game was played Sunday where the team lost again, this time 10-2.

in a doubleheader. Once again, they lost both games, game. 11-5 and 13-8, respectively.

on June 11 and 12. Colby played Hays Drive the first

The games scheduled for the second day were suspended due to the weather, and no makeup date has

On June 6, Colby played at Quinter, losing both games with scores of 12-2 and 11-7, respectively.

The first games of the season were played on June 2 at WaKeeney. Colby won both games by double This past Thursday, Colby took on Quinter at home digits, 21-2 in the first game and 18-7 in the second

Colby will be trying its luck again tonight in one The team previously played another tournament game at Goodland. Start time is 7 p.m.

#### Lessons canceled

The Colby Recreation Department swim lessons have been canceled for all sessions today. Make-up classes will be Friday.

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### Golfer shatters overall score record, puts previous meltdown in the past

**Eddie Pells** 

AP National Writer

BETHESDA, Md. (AP) - Rory

McIlroy never wished for a doover – only a second chance. When he got it, he grabbed on

and didn't let go. He won with a performance that the history of the sport – a wire-

record book and tears in his home of Northern Ireland.

to-wire stranglehold that spilled

fresh ink all over the U.S. Open

tory, there's quite a bit of relief, as well."

Sunday to finish his four-day U.S. Open golf clinic and set aside the pain of his Masters meltdown for good. His overall score of 16-under 268 shattered the U.S. Open goes down as one of the best in record - held by Jack Nicklaus, Tiger Woods and two others – by four strokes.

> Jason Day's second-place score of 8 under tied for the third-best score in relation to par in U.S.

said, "and especially with this vic- one else, knew how this one was going to turn out.

"I'm not going to go home and McIlroy shot 2-under 69 on cry because I got whooped," Day said. "But Rory, you can't beat a guy that's gone out and played as well as he has this week.

Golf has been looking for someone to take the spot Woods once held, before his personal life and game took a turn for the worse. Over a near-flawless week at Congressional, McIlroy put on a performance that foreshadowed bigger things to come.



