



JJJ PHOTO

A bull rider made the eight second buzzer at the 2010 Kansas' Biggest Rodeo in Phillipsburg. This year's event is Thursday through Saturday, Aug. 4 to 6.

## Rodeo arrives in August, tickets go on sale this week

Tickets go on sale Friday for the annual Kansas' Biggest Rodeo in Phillipsburg. The rodeo will be from Thursday through Saturday, Aug. 4 to 6, at the rodeo grounds north of town.

It will feature several hundred cowboys and cowgirls competing for over \$100,000. The rodeo is the destination for about 15,000 fans over the three-day event, and it's been going on since 1929.

"It's maintained its popularity," said Tad Felts, long-time radio favorite on KKAN-KQMA and Phillipsburg resident, in a press release. "A lot of things wane through the years, but the rodeo in Phillipsburg continues to grow."

This year's rodeo features two specialty acts: "the Wild Child" Troy Lerwill, and Big Horse Productions. Lerwill is a barrelman and rodeo clown who jumps a truck and trailer with his motorbike. Big Horse Productions has 15 members that do a variety of trick riding, vaulting and Roman riding on eight

Belgian horses.

The rodeo was named one of Kansas Tourism's "34 Faces and Places" for 2011.

The rodeo isn't the only activity in town that week; the Phillips County Fair also takes place. Both events "encompass a lot of people," Felts said.

Heritage Insurance Group, the former Tri-County Insurance, is the ticket outlet for the rodeo. Its doors open at 8 a.m. and tickets go on sale Friday. Tickets can be purchased in person or by calling Heritage Insurance at (785) 543-2448. All major credit cards are accepted.

Reserved tickets for adults are \$14 and for kids ages 3 to 12 are \$10. General admission tickets for adults are \$12 and for kids are \$9. Children ages 2 and under are free. For information, visit [www.kansasbiggestrodeo.com](http://www.kansasbiggestrodeo.com), call (785) 543-2448, or visit the rodeo's Facebook page.

## Rockies win in extra innings

DENVER (AP) — Ty Wigginton didn't exactly clobber the ball. He got enough of it to produce the game-winning hit, though.

Wigginton blooped a single with two outs in the 13th inning to score Troy Tulowitzki all the way from first base and lift the Colorado Rockies over the Chicago White Sox 3-2 on Tuesday night.

"You'd never guess that it would end with a blooper and a guy on first base, but that's a tribute to Tulo running hard and playing the game the right way, and (third base coach) Richie Dauer having the guts to send him there," Wigginton said.

Tulowitzki, who drew a one-out walk from Will Ohman (0-1), took off as Wigginton's flare dropped in shallow center field among three charging White Sox players. Center fielder Brent Lillibridge was playing especially deep to guard against an extra-base hit.

"When you hit a ball like that, you're not expecting it to exactly fall in, but when I saw where the outfielder was, and in this park when you're playing for no doubles, stuff can fall in, and that's exactly what happened," Wigginton said. "It's a W, and that's all that matters. We found a way to

scratch it out."

Lillibridge said he had a long run to the ball and couldn't get there in time.

"We're playing no doubles at one of the biggest ballparks in this league," he said. "To see he blooped it right in there behind second base — the first thing I'm doing is sprinting in there but I can't go on a barehand sprint and miss the ball, so I made sure to get it. It was a good call by the third base coach, because he knew I had to break down and get the ball. He knew where we were playing."

"It's just a weird, weird play that I've never seen or definitely haven't been a part of."

It was the Rockies' first win in five extra-inning games this season.

Rex Brothers (1-0), the Rockies' seventh pitcher, worked a hitless 13th to pick up his first major league win and help Colorado snap its three-game losing streak.

"We definitely needed a win like that," said Todd Helton, who played in his 1,999th career game. "Hopefully, it will be a momentum-builder."

The White Sox, making their first appearance in Colorado since 2005, fell to 4-8 in extra-inning

games this season.

"That was the worst game we played all year long, to me," manager Ozzie Guillen said. "We don't take opportunities over and over and over and over. When you do that, the baseball gods get you."

Colorado came close to breaking the deadlock in the bottom of the 12th. Charlie Blackmon blooped a single off Jesse Crain to start the inning and was sacrificed to second by Chris Iannetta. Ohman relieved Crain to face pinch-hitter Jason Giambi, who grounded out to first, with Blackmon taking third. Carlos Gonzalez was intentionally walked before Ohman fanned Chris Nelson to end the threat.

Starting pitchers Gavin Floyd of the White Sox and Jason Hammel of the Rockies each had a solid outing, with both going seven innings and allowing two runs.

# Sports documentaries open a door to the past

In 2009, ESPN launched a documentary series called "30 for 30," which features 30 films that celebrate 30 years of sports, from 1979 to 2009. If you have never heard of this, I insist you look it up right now.

I have only seen 12 of these films so far, but from this sample, I have become engrossed by these stories and now I'm determined to see all of them. I have always loved watching documentaries, but this series has combined my love of documentaries with my love of sports. In short, the people who came up with this idea are brilliant.

Each film was directed by a different person or production company, such as Major League Baseball Productions and National Basketball Association Entertainment, so they aren't all told in the same format. For example, "June 17th, 1994," directed by Brett Morgen, is told through media coverage alone; there are no interviews and there is no narrator.

The film focuses mainly on the O.J. Simpson trial and car chase, but also shows all of the sporting events on that day, which were quite important events on their own. Arnold Palmer played his last round at a U.S. Open, after 40 years of playing golf; the World Cup soccer championship kicked off in Chicago; the Rangers celebrated their Stanley Cup victory in a parade in New York City; the New York Knicks pursued a championship against the Houston Rockets in Madison Square Garden; and the Major League Baseball lockout negotiations heated up, which soon led to a strike.

I couldn't tear my eyes away from the screen during this documentary. Maybe it's because I was too young when this day happened, but I didn't know all of the details of the O.J. Simpson case, and watching this film was like watching the event unfold in real time. It was fascinating and sad at the same time because I felt like I was watching Simpson's life fall apart, but I think that makes for a successful film. If the director can make me feel like I was there, then he has done a good job.

Another film I had this feeling about was "Without Bias" by Kirk Fraser. This documentary told the story of Len Bias, who died two days after being drafted second overall in the 1986 National Basket-



Kayla Cornett

### On the Sidelines

ball Association draft due to a cocaine overdose. I was shocked when I watched this film, mainly because of this sad event, but also because I had never even heard of Len Bias before this film came out. How does no one in the sports world talk about such a talented player, who could have been outstanding if he had not accidentally died — especially since his death spurred the war on drugs? Either way, Bias' story was not well-known to me and probably still isn't to others around my age, so this film is a great way to get his story out there to a new generation.

"30 for 30" has also expanded my sports knowledge immensely, including the story of the Southern Methodist University's football program, which I used as an example in my previous column. Had it not been for "Pony Excess" by Thaddeus D. Matula, I would have not known what happened at SMU in the 1980s and why it received the death penalty for the first and only time in the history of its football program. I believe this documentary series is making an important contribution to the sports community, and these films will be important in preserving sports history.

So if you're a die-hard sports fan or even a history buff, this series should be on your must-watch list, as it has become essential on mine.

Only 18 films to go....

The Colby Free Press is looking for sports columns from fans, coaches and players. Send your column to [colby.sports@nwkansas.com](mailto:colby.sports@nwkansas.com) or by mail to 155 W. Fifth St. Include your name, address and phone number. Columns should be less than 600 words.

Kayla Cornett is the sports reporter for the Colby Free Press. She has been interested in sports her entire life and has been writing about sports since high school. She is native Coloradoan.

## Drag racers raise money for tornado victims

TOPEKA — Race fans from all over the world joined CarSafe Motorsports and the Red Cross to raise more than \$6,000 at races June 17 and 18 for Joplin, Mo., and Reading tornado victims.

People traveled by air, car and recreational vehicle to enjoy the American Drag Racing League's "Kansas National Guard Indepen-

dence Drags V," held at Heartland Park in Topeka.

Race car driver Richie Stevens Jr. and world champion superbike racer Kim Morrell were on hand to take pictures alongside CarSafe Motorsports' new "Racing to Help" car.

The CarSafe Motorsports race car has been temporarily redeco-

rated with decals designed to represent the ongoing effort to see the two communities rebuild.

CarSafe and CarSafe Motorsports are working with the Red Cross to form an ongoing partnership on the American Drag Racing League's 2011 Tour.

CarSafe was to present a check to the Red Cross today in Topeka.



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