

Local man reaches goal, runs birthday marathon



MARANDA WHORTON
Garrett Whorton ran 26 miles for his birthday Tuesday in Colby. He was aiming for 27 miles since he turned 27 years old, but he decided to stop after walking or jogging the last four miles.

By Maranda Whorton

It all started last fall when my husband, Garrett Whorton, and I each made a list of things we wanted to accomplish before our next birthdays. One thing on his list was to run a marathon. He looked to see if there were any marathons around the area close to his birthday, but there weren't. This is when he decided he wanted to run it on his birthday. After all, a marathon is almost 27 miles and he would be turning 27 years old - perfect.

In order to run it on his birthday, he would be running right here in Colby. So he started training in early April. All the while, no one was pushing him to do this. He was motivated enough to train by himself. What set him back a little though, was a two-week vacation in late May and early June.

Marathon day finally came on Tuesday. We woke up at 3:30 a.m. so he would be ready to hit the trail by 4 a.m. He ran 22 straight miles and then walked or jogged the last four. In the end, he did it. He accomplished his goal and ran a marathon on his birthday.

I'm so very proud of my husband. What an accomplishment. He was motivated enough to train for a marathon by himself, he had the physical toughness, mental toughness and endurance to succeed. He is also very happy with what he accomplished, but let's just say he is ready to turn in his status as a runner and get back into the weight room.

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

Colby roper wins Colorado team roping championship

A local roper qualified to rope in the nation's richest team roping during the recent United States Team Roping Championships Colorado Championships held July 22 through 24 in Colorado Springs, Colo.

Steve J. Bugbee of Colby was the winner in the No. 8 PickDraw division, defeating 192 other teams with partner Buford Neugebauer of La Junta, Colo. The duo roped three steers in 31.62 seconds to win Gist trophy buckles and split a \$4,204 paycheck from the \$13,808 total purse.

The win qualified both ropers for the national finals Oct. 22 to 30 in Oklahoma City.

The Colorado Championships is one of more than 300 events sanctioned by the group in 2011. A total of 1,722 teams from 13 states competed in the event with more than \$158,670 in cash paid to more than 453 ropers, along with 12 trophy saddles and 21 trophy buckles.

Sanctioned events, like the Colorado Championships, give team ropers an opportunity to qual-

ify for the premier team roping events in the nation - the Regional Finals Series and the National Finals of Team Roping.

Team roping is a timed event that requires a team effort. A team is made up of a "header" and a "heeler." The header's job is to catch the steer around the horns, and then set it up by turning it across the arena. The heeler then rides in and ropes the steer around both hind legs. The clock is stopped when the steer is secured between both ropers and their horses are facing each other.

Much like in the sport of golf, ropers are handicapped or receive a classification rating based on their skill level and competitive ability. Ropers can be classified from a No. 1 to a No. 10, depending on their roping position and ability.

The added total of both roping partners' handicaps determines their division eligibility. For example, if the division is a No. 11, the total rating for both ropers cannot equal more than 11, with some divisions requiring a handicap floor.

Royals cap winning trip with 5-3 win

CLEVELAND (AP) - The Kansas City Royals aren't playing like a last-place team.

Sunday's 5-3 victory over Cleveland completed a successful road trip for the Royals, who split four games in Boston and won two of three against the Indians.

Manager Ned Yost hopes his club has picked up some momentum to start a homestand that begins Monday against Baltimore.

If not for Joakim Soria's blown save in Saturday's 5-2 loss, the Royals would have pulled off a sweep. Soria redeemed himself by closing out Sunday's win, his 20th save in 26 chances. Asdrubal Cabrera drew a one-out walk, but Carlos Santana hit into a game-ending double play.

Danny Duffy pitched into the sixth inning starting for the injured Kyle Davies and Jeff Francoeur and Alex Gordon homered. The Royals have won eight of 12.

Duffy (3-4) allowed two runs in five innings, giving up eight hits and striking out six. He also picked two runners off first. Duffy

was told Saturday night that he would replace Davies, who has been bothered by a sore right shoulder for most of the season.

"I told him (Saturday) to start thinking about being ready," Yost said.

Duffy said it would not have mattered when Yost told him because he warms up quickly.

"I'm pretty microwaveable," he said. "You give me 30 minutes and I'll be ready. Today was a really good win for this team. Our bullpen went four good innings and we ended up winning the road trip."

Yost isn't sure when Davies, who is 1-9 with a 6.75 ERA, will pitch again.

"It bothers him playing catch and it bothers him when he tries to extend on his fastball," Yost said. "So we thought it was best to go ahead and skip him. We'll re-evaluate it (Monday) and see where we're at."

Francoeur homered to lead off the second while Gordon's home run came with one out in the fifth.

Kansas City scored an unearned run in the fourth. Francoeur drew a one-out walk and went to third on Mike Moustakas' double over first. Francoeur scored when Kosuke Fukudome's throw from right field skipped away from second baseman Jason Kipnis. Fukudome was charged with an error.

Billy Butler hit a sacrifice fly in the eighth, while Alcides Escobar added an RBI single in the ninth, capping a 14-pitch at-bat against Tony Sipp.

Catcher Matt Treanor was placed on the seven-day concussion list after he was knocked unconscious in a collision at home plate with Matt LaPorta on Saturday.

"He's doing fine," Yost said. "His neck is sore and he has a slight headache. He was still fuzzy last night after the game. I've never seen anybody with that much glaze in their eyes. He was totally unaware of where he was and who he was. I've seen concussions end careers, so it's a scary thing."



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August 6th
11:00 AM

Big Splash Event

Free 1/2 day pass to
Colby Aquatic Park

FREE BBQ

Help the City win the \$100,000 Take Charge Challenge

-  Learning Tree event will be held at the Community Building and will start at 11:00 AM with a 10 minute Energy Bandit skit, followed by three projects (each about 15-20 minutes long) taught by a teacher who has completed the Kansas Association for Conservation & Education Workshop.
-  The first 400 people age 4 and above, to complete Learning Tree activities will be admitted to the free barbecue sponsored by Farmers & Merchants Bank and held at the Colby Aquatic Park.
-  The first 200 people who complete Learning Tree activities will receive free admission to Colby Aquatic Park that afternoon.
-  The barbeque will start at 12:30 PM and the pool opens at 1 PM. The Take Charge Committee will have a booth set up in the entrance to the pool so we can count it as an event, and we will get credit for everyone attending the pool that day.
-  The city gets 30 points for each participant that completes the three projects, and 10 points for each person present for the Energy Bandit Skit.

For more information please call the City office at 460-4400

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