



MORGAN WALZ/Golden Plains Middle School  
Eighth grader Cole Ziegelmeier leaned back to throw the softball during the Golden Plains Middle School's first track meet in Cheylin at the end of March. At the second meet in Logan, Ziegelmeier took second in the 800 meters, second in the 1,600 meters and fifth in shot put.

# Middle school team competes in Logan

By Russ Aumiller  
Golden Plains Middle School

On April 13, the Golden Plains Middle School track teams competed in the second meet of the season, the Husky Invitational sponsored by Northern Valley High but held in Logan.

The weather cooperated, providing a pleasant day for outdoor events.

The meet was split into two divisions: sixth grade and seventh and eighth grade teams. School competing included Grinnell-Wheatland, Logan, Western Plains, Paradise, Thunder Ridge, Northern Valley and Golden Plains.

The seventh and eighth grade girls brought home the first-place plaque by scoring a total of 94 points. Thunder Ridge was in second with 90.

The eighth grade girls continue to excel in their performances as well as in leadership.

Point winners were:  
**Seventh/Eighth Grade Girls Kaycie Clapp:** sixth, triple jump, 25 feet, 9 inches.

**Kami Miller:** first, long jump, 15'4.5"; first, 100-meter hurdles 16.77 seconds (meet record); third, 400 meters, 1:11.51.

**Tayler Petersen:** sixth, shot put, 31'1".

**Kyndra Rush:** first, 800 meters, 2:44.8; second, triple jump, 27'7.5"; second, 100 meters, 13.99.

**Brianna Stoll:** sixth, 400 meters, 1:16.14.

**Madison Walz:** fifth, 100-meter hurdles, 21.45.

**Courtney Heinrich:** fourth, 800 meters, 2:54; fourth, 1,600 meters, 6:44.18.

**Jessica Koerperich:** third, high jump, 4'4"; third, 100-meter hurdles, 20.07.

**Gabrielle Schiltz:** sixth, 800 meters, 2:58.

**4 x 100-meter relay team:** fourth, 1:05.21, Kellee Snyder, Arianna Camacho, Walz, Petersen.

**4 x 200-meter relay team:** first, 2:03.24, Rush, Clapp, Koerperich, Miller.

**Medley relay team:** fourth, 2:21.13, Schiltz, Heinrich, Clapp, Stoll.

**Sixth Grade Girls Jennifer Esparza:** first, discus, 59'10"; second, shot put, 26'7.25".

**Kaylie Schaben:** fifth, high jump, 3'8".

**4 x 100-meter relay team:** fifth,

Schaben, Charlotte McCurdy, Esparza, Leann Fringer.

Eighth grader Cole Ziegelmeier continues to work hard and is a great leader to have on the boys' team. He, along with several other of the boys, placed in their events:

**Seventh/Eighth Grade Boys Koi Wessel:** sixth, discus, 79'10".

**Cole Ziegelmeier:** second, 800 meters, 2:34.27; second, 1,600 meters; fifth, shot put 29'4".

**Jesus Aragon:** fourth, high jump, 4'2"; sixth, 800 meters, 2:51.69.

**Bodie Sauvage:** sixth, high jump, 4'0".

**Sixth Grade Boys Clayton Bange:** first, 800 meters, 3:08.1; sixth, long jump, 8'10.5".

**Zak Brown:** fourth, 400 meters, 1:26.37; fifth, long jump, 9'10"; sixth, 100 meters, 16.4.

**Devin Davidson:** fourth, discus, 58'6"; fifth, shot put, 21'.

The middle school will have a week off to prepare for the next meet in Quinter on Friday.

## Barnstormers headed to Colby

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thomas County is sponsoring an appearance by the Kansas Barnstormers basketball team, featuring graduating seniors from the University of Kansas team, at 5 p.m. Sunday, May 6, at the Colby Community Building.

The team will feature stars of the KU team which played for the NCAA national championship, Tyshawn Taylor, Conner Teahan and Jordan Juenemann, and the Kansas Barnstormers against top boys' and girls' players from northwest Kansas high schools.

Tickets, \$10 per person for all ages, can only be purchased at participating sponsors: Palace Drug Store, Farmers and Merchants Bank at Dillon's, the Sports Shoppe, J & B Meat Market, Peoples State Bank in Colby and Farmers Bank & Trust of Brewster. All tickets are for general admission seats only. Businesses cannot hold or reserve tickets.

Ticket holders can get au-

tographs and purchase team T-shirts from 3 to 4:45 p.m. at the east door of the Community Building. Kansas Barnstorming does not guarantee ticket holders an autograph. There won't be time to pose for pictures with the players, and no pictures or autographs may be taken after the game.

The southwest door will open to senior citizens 65 and older and handicapped or disabled persons at 3:30 p.m. All others will be allowed to come in the south doors at 4 p.m.

There is no guarantee that tickets will be available to purchase at the door. Tickets will be sold first come, first served.

No alcohol, food or drink will be allowed into the game. Concessions will be sold by Wings Upon the Prairie.

Sponsors for the event include KRQ-KXXX Radio, the Colby Free Press, Leroy's Printing, J&R Marketing, the Colby Public Schools and the City of Colby.

## Colby baseball team undefeated

By Kayla Cornett

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The Colby High varsity baseball team continued its winning streak last week, remaining undefeated so far this season with eight wins overall.

The Eagles (6-0 Great West Activities Conference, 8-0 overall) defeated Goodland in two conference games last Tuesday, 9-6 and 14-9.

In game one against Goodland, Zack Stones pitched the entire game, throwing 6 strikeouts and allowing 6 runs, 10 hits and 2 walks. The boys had 5 errors.

"We got a great pitching performance from Zack Stones again," Coach Rick Williams said. "A complete game from Zack was exactly what our pitching staff needed. I knew Braden and Luke's availability on the mound was very limited after their high pitch counts the week before against Hugoton and our plans to use them against Liberal on Thursday. So we needed a complete game from Zack and he delivered."

The Eagles hit the ball well, racking up 10 hits and 9 runs. Luke Cox, Macen Shull, Braden Sager, Stones, Troy Quenzer and Trek Keck all had hits in the game.

"Offensively, we got two extra-base hits from Trek Keck in key moments and Troy Quenzer did a nice job getting 2 hits and getting on base four times," Williams said. "Luke

Cox hit the ball well and had 3 hits. It was nice to score 9 runs on their ace, who is leading our league in strikeouts.

"We were able to get guys on against him and get some big hits and only struck out once against him. When you face a 'strike-out guy,' it's nice to see our guys put the ball in play."

Colby did even better at the plate in game two, but Williams said the team had some problems on the field.

"Austin Boehme started on the mound for us," he said. "We didn't play good defense behind him and he got into trouble early. Austin has pitched well for us this year, but our defense let him down a little and Austin is a guy who pitches to contact and needs a strong defense behind him. He will be fine in his next start, and our defense will play better behind him next time out."

Boehme had 1 strikeout and allowed 6 runs, 4 hits and 2 walks. The boys committed 4 errors during his set.

Williams said he relieved Boehme with Cox in the second inning.

"Luke was able to get us out of the second and through the third and then he ran into a bases-loaded jam in the fourth inning with two outs ... and their best hitter up. I brought Jordan Rasmussen into that situation in the fourth, and he got a huge strikeout to get us out of the fourth, and then he sailed through the fifth."

Cox struck out 4, walked 2 and allowed 3 runs and 6 hits. Another error was made by the

team. Rasmussen, who was on the mound for the first time since last year, struck out 3.

"Jordan was making his first pitching appearance since his sophomore season because he had an injured arm last year," Williams said. "We knew we could use him in limited situations this year on the mound, but I brought him into a tough spot and he came up huge for us."

Sager then pitched the sixth and seventh innings to get a save, but Williams said Cox gets the win because he left the game with a lead and they never trailed again.

At the plate, the Eagles had 14 runs off of 15 hits. Rasmussen, Jake Thompson, Cox, Shull, Sager, Todd Kane, Quenzer, Keck and Dalaan Organ had the hits for Colby.

"Offensively we exploded with a ton of hits and runs," Williams said. "Jordan Rasmussen busted out of his hitting slump with a single, a double and a triple. Todd Kane reached four times with 2 hits and 2 walks and Jake Thompson had his best offensive game of the season. Every hitter in our lineup had a hit in game two."

"Overall, it was great to sweep Goodland because they are our rival and they beat us three times last year on their way to being the GWAC champions. I was pleased with the way our pitching staff battled through game two while our bats woke up and we mounted a great comeback."

## Former Trojans wrestler is Division II champion

Former Colby Community College wrestler T.J. Hepburn was one of three University of Nebraska-Kearney grapplers who won championships at the NCAA Division II national championships on March 10.

Hepburn, wrestling at 157 pounds, helped power the university to the prestigious team championship before a near-capacity crowd at Massari Arena in Pueblo, Colo.

The Lopers finished with 107 points, followed by St. Cloud State at 95.

Hepburn won the championship with a first-period pin of West Liberty's Jarrod Shaw.

Hepburn wrestled at 149 for Colby Community College in 2007-08, taking second at the National Junior College Athletic Association Tournament that season. He took a redshirt season at the college in 2008-09.

As a sophomore at Kearney last season, he went 44-9 and placed third at the NCAA Championships. He continued his success as a junior as National runner-up at 149 pounds He was selected as the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference Wrestler of the Year and was ranked No. 1 during the season.

The East Hampton, Conn., native is the son-in-law of Bob and Donna Schwindt of Colby.

CLEVELAND (AP) — Now the Kansas City Royals want to start a streak they can be proud of — a winning streak.

Billy Butler hit two of Kansas City's four home runs to help the Royals snap a 12-game losing streak by beating the Cleveland Indians 8-2 on Wednesday night.

"A big win, we all felt it and now we want to go run with it," Butler said. "There's too much talent on this team to be losing."

Butler's two-run blast off Ubaldo Jimenez (2-1) put the Royals ahead in the first inning. He added a solo shot in the ninth off reliever

Jairo Asencio, following Alex Gordon's three-run homer against the reliever.

Eric Hosmer's two-run homer in the fifth made it 4-0 — the Royals' largest lead since April 8, when they beat the Los Angeles Angels 7-3.

"I'm just glad we did it," manager Ned Yost said of ending the streak, which tied for the third-longest in team history, seven short of the Royals' record worst in 2005.

"I didn't care how we did it. It's a big monkey off our back," he said. "Now we can focus on day-

to-day baseball."

Before the game, Yost expressed confidence the Royals would start winning. He rattled off several instances of when he managed Milwaukee in 2003-08 and the Brewers followed a long losing streak with a number of wins.

The youngest team in the majors did it in a big way and got good pitching, too.

Luke Hochevar (2-1) allowed four hits and two runs over 6 1-3 innings, recovering from a horrendous home opener start April 13 when Cleveland battered him for seven runs in the first inning of

an 8-3 loss.

The Royals went 0-10 on the homestand.

"A huge start by Hochevar, after they whacked him around pretty good last time," Yost said.

Hochevar worked on a tender right ankle that he hurt in his previous start. He appeared to stumble off the mound when he had to cover first base to retire the first batter he faced.

Gordon had three hits, raising his average 30 points to .197. He fouled off several pitches in the ninth before connecting for his third homer.

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