

Ball handling



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press

A rookie girl trapped a ground ball during a rookie girls softball game earlier this month at the Colby ball fields. The girls league will begin its tournament on Wednesday, July 11.

Rockies lose at home 2-0 to San Diego Padres

DENVER (AP) — Drew Pomeranz became a different type of pitcher the past few weeks and paid the price.

The Colorado Rockies left-hander went back to his dominant fastball and was impressive through six innings, but took the loss as the San Diego Padres won 2-0 on Sunday.

“Our starting pitcher put on a clinic today on pitching effectively inside,” Rockies manager Jim Tracy said. “He pounded the ball on the inside part of the plate with a four-seam fastball, and I figure he broke at least a half-dozen bats.”

That was a big difference for the 23-year-old Pomeranz, who was relying heavily on a cutter he couldn’t control with negative results. He went winless in his first five starts with a hefty 4.70 ERA.

“I don’t know how I became a cutter guy, but it took a trip to Colorado Springs to figure things

out,” said Pomeranz, the key figure for the Rockies last July 31 in the trade that sent Ubaldo Jimenez to Cleveland.

Pomeranz (0-3) turned in an impressive outing after being recalled from Triple-A before the game. He was sent to Colorado Springs on May 11 to work out kinks in his delivery, and for one start it seemed to pay off.

Pomeranz allowed an unearned run on two hits, walked three and struck out one. He worked out of a jam in the second inning and retired 11 of the last 12 batters he faced.

“The game boiled down to we made a throwing run to give them a run and we gave up a two-out, two strike base hit,” Tracy said.

Chris Denorfia led off with an infield single in the third inning that got under the glove of third baseman Jordan Pacheco. Denorfia stole second and scored when Pacheco misplayed a soft popup

and Pacheco complicated it by throwing wildly past first base.

The Padres added another run in the seventh. Alexi Amarista reached on a one-out single, advanced to second on a sacrifice and moved to third on a wild pitch. He scored on Denorfia’s single to right to make it 2-0.

Kip Wells (1-1) allowed just six hits, walked two and struck out two in his longest outing since his last win — nearly three years ago. The Rockies failed to capitalize on a two-out triple by Dexter Fowler in the third inning and Tyler Colvin’s double with two outs in the fourth.

The Padres signed Wells to a minor league contract May 7, and he was 1-4 with a 4.97 ERA in seven starts for Tucson. He was called up Tuesday and that night made his first big league start since Oct. 1, 2009, tossing five innings in a 5-3 loss to Houston.



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Flat track racing returns to Colby

By Kayla Cornett

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The Kansas Fair Flat Track Series “Battle on the Plains” motorcycle racing series is coming back to Colby on Saturday, Aug. 11, at the Thomas County Fairgrounds.

Flat-track, a type of dirt-bike racing, has a long history in north-west Kansas.

Paul Covert of Crooked Creek Promotions said motorcycle racers have been coming to Kansas since the early 1900s.

He said the races in Stockton have been going on since 1909, with breaks during World War II and the Depression.

“We’re keeping alive the reminiscence of what used to be a whole summer-long happening,” Covert said.

The flat-track series will run four races in five days. The first will be in Norton on Friday, July 10, followed by the Colby races on July 11. The series will finish in Stockton on Monday and Tuesday, July 13 and 14.

This year’s event will feature top grand national riders such as John Kocinski, Davey Durrelle and Shayna Texter.

Kocinski, who lives in Los Angeles, is a three-time world champion. He is making a very rare appearance.

“He’s heard how great the Kansas races are,” said Covert, “and he wants to come out and be part of it.”

He said Kocinski has 13 victories in the Grand Prix and 14 in the World Superbike races.

Durrelle, of Colorado, owns Durrelle Racing and sells racing products through the company.

On his website, www.durrelle-racing.com, Durrelle says he started working on bikes while he was

still racing.

“Within a few years, I had a lot of work to do and less time to go racing,” he said.

Texter, of Pennsylvania, became the first woman to win a Grand National event in 2011 and won the American Motorcycle Association’s Most Outstanding Performance Award that same year.

She won several main events last year and in 2010, and has won many awards since she began racing in 2003.

The races will have classes for not only professional riders but for local riders and youth racers.

Mark Ostmeyer of Ride-n-Slide Racing said his company, along with Crooked Creek Promotions, is trying to get younger people involved in this type of racing.

Covert said he will be offering reduced entry fees for youth racers 16 and under. If these kids have a trail bike or any kind of bike, they can come out and race in front of the crowd.

He said the local riders are usually motocross-type riders. Another class offered will be for quad, or four-wheeler, racers.

Gates will open at 2 p.m., practice laps will begin at 2:30, races will start at 4 and the main event will be at 7:30 p.m.

Admission for ages 11 and up is \$10, children 6 to 10 are \$5 and children 5 and under are free.

Last year, Covert said, 700 or 800 people attended the races here and the racers raved about how fast and fun the Thomas County Speedway was. He said the pro racers will be competing for a purse of almost \$7,000.

Ostmeyer said all of the money raised at this event goes for putting together another event the following year. He said it costs about \$15,000 to put the races on.

For entry and race information, go to www.crookedcreekspeedway.com or contact Covert at (501) 804-3656 or at rowdyracer@comcast.net.

Lake Atwood race set for Wednesday

The 32nd Lake Atwood County Challenge Race will be held at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday.

The men will run four times around the lake for a distance of 8 kilometers (5 miles) and the women will run twice around the lake for a distance of 4 kilometers (2.5 miles).

Every age-division finisher scores points for his or her county. In nearly every race, the team having the most participants won the competition.

There are no awards and no entry fees. Runners take part for

the honor of their county. All you have to do is show up.

County residence is not a requirement to join a team. Bring an out-of-county friend to the race and have that friend run for your county.

The County Challenge Race is the first event of the annual Lake Atwood Day celebration, with the Atwood Rotary Club as the hosts.

For information or to register, contact Charles A. Peckham at (785) 626-3295 or (785) 626-9516 or by e-mail at atwood01@ruraltel.net or bcp@ruraltel.net.



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