

Thomas speedway holds summer races

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The Thomas County Speedway in Colby has held four races so far this summer, but still has six to go.

The first races of the season were held on April 29, where Nate Moore took first in the modified class. John Fose finished second, Darren DeLoach third, Adam Morris fourth, Chris Remetes fifth, Milo Lippelmann sixth and Allen Kurth seventh.

The winner of the stock-car class was Jeff Tubbs. Nick Tubbs came in second, B.J. Wagoner third, Brandon Clough fourth, Wheat Lippelmann fifth, Tyler Tipton sixth, Cody Zimmerman seventh, Bruce Plumisto eighth, Travis Towns ninth, Rich Beesley

10th, Allen Snethen 11th, Darin Racek 12th, Jason Rogers 13th and Austin Janousek 14th.

The results for the sport modified class were Michael Wadel, first; Jason Brees, second; Dustin Daniels, third; Jacob Adler, fourth; Blaine Walt, fifth; Jason Gray, sixth; and Donnie Strecker, seventh.

Brian Stich won the hobby stock class that day. Tyrel Smith finished second, John Luckert third, Richard Boon fourth, Joey Snethen fifth, Daniel Irwin, sixth, Jason McIntyre seventh, Matt Giesenhagen eighth, Mike Giesenhagen ninth, Emanuel Young 10th, John Peden 11th, Cody Williams 12th and Michael Johnson 13th.

In the econo class, Joe Harper came away with the win. Jory Friesen took second, Mike Meyer third, Krista Plummer fourth, Bry-

an Guyer fifth, Rocky Baalman sixth, Ryan Baalman seventh, Alex Crossland eighth, Adrienne West ninth, Joey Foster 10th, Kevin Delano 11th, Mark Singer 12th, Billy Turner 13th, Joe Austin 14th, Ron Baalman 15th and Jay Murray 16th.

The next races held in Colby ran on May 20. Joe Harper won the econo class, Brian Stich won the hobby stock class, Dustin Daniels won the sport modified class, Jeff Tubbs won the stock car class and Darren DeLoach won the modified class.

The results of the other racers in each class was not available.

Races will be held at the speedway at 7 p.m. on Sunday. Promoter Jeff Carney said they changed the time from 6 p.m. to 7 due to the heat.



THOMAS COUNTY SPEEDWAY
Brian Stich (No. 21) and Brady Coen (No. 3) drove in the hobby stock race at the Thomas County Speedway on May 20. Stich took first in the race.

Hospital patients visit Emporia for special day

For the first 37 years of its existence, the Kansas Shrine Bowl sent hundreds of Kansas football players to St. Louis to see first-hand the facilities at the St. Louis Shriners Hospital for Children, and to meet the young patients that have benefited from the game they are playing.

But travel challenges have made the one-day trip to St. Louis difficult, if not impossible, and have forced Shrine Bowl and hospital officials to find another way to acquaint the players and coaches with the medical care offered by the hospital. The solution: if the teams can't come to the hospital, then bring the hospital to the teams.

That's what will happen when a busload of St. Louis hospital staff, patients and equipment make the 343-mile journey to Emporia State University's Memorial Union, where they'll "set up shop" for

one day to showcase hospital activities at Hospital Visitation Day on Thursday, July 26.

"The trip to St. Louis has always been a highlight of the Shrine Bowl experience for players and coaches," said Shrine Bowl Executive Director Emeritus Dave Mize. "We don't want to lose that connection, and bringing the hospital to Kansas is the next best thing to going. We tried it last year in Salina, and it worked well, so we're excited about doing it again."

Some 15 to 20 young patients and their families will make the trip via a chartered bus. Many of the patients, called patient ambassadors, will have an opportunity to show those attending what happens at various departments at the hospital.

Susan Bland, a public relations specialist at the St. Louis hospital, says players, coaches and others attending the event

will pretty much see everything they'd see at the hospital itself, with 13 "stations" organized to simulate various hospital departments.

"It will just be a mobile version of it," she said. "We'll be bringing prosthetic devices, and we'll have wheel chairs and walkers. A patient ambassador will host each station, and guests will hear the patient's story, and do an activity that simulates what patients go through in each of the departments."

Bland says having the patients themselves tell their stories and talk about the various hospital departments makes the day more meaningful for those attending.

"When you take the tour, you'll actually hear about a department from someone who has gone through it," she said.

Not only will the hospital send many of its patients, but Shriners Hospital pa-

tients who live in Kansas have also been invited to attend, and even help with the presentation.

"We would love to have their help on that day," says Bland.

One positive about bringing the hospital to Kansas is the increased number of people who will experience what the hospital does.

"In the past, the player visits usually brought a group of about 100 to the hospital," she said. "This year, over 500 people have registered to come through."

The additional people will include the All-State Masonic Band, usually some 200 strong, plus students involved in cross country, cheerleading and dance camps at Emporia State that week. While the event is not a public event, Bland says walk-ins will be welcome, provided they register with the Kansas Shrine Bowl of-

fice at (800) 530-5524.

All Shrine Bowl events are produced and presented to benefit Shriners Hospitals for Children. Shriners Hospitals is a health care system of 22 hospitals dedicated to improving the lives of children by providing pediatric specialty care, innovative research and outstanding teaching programs for medical professionals. Children up to the age of 18 are eligible for care and receive all services in a family-centered environment, regardless of the patients' ability to pay.

The 39th annual Kansas Shrine Bowl will be played Saturday, July 28, at Welch Stadium on the Emporia State University campus. Kickoff will be at 7 p.m. Tickets and additional information are available at www.kansasshrinebowl.com or by calling (800) 530-5524.



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