

Cross country team takes second at home

The Colby Community College women's cross country team took second place Friday in their home meet, the Colby Invitational.

Oslyn "Melissa" Collins, Guyana, was the top runner, finishing third with a time of 15:52.82. Denet Sang, Kenya, was next, finishing 15th. She was followed by Emily Chestnut, Clay Center, who finished 17th.

"Melissa ran a very good race; she looks very strong," said Coach Crystal Berndt. "Denet and Emily ran well; we just need to get both of them healthy again."

Sierra Besmer, Loomis, Neb.; Heather Schneider, Herndon; and Stephanie Hornbaker, Holcomb, finished 23rd, 24th and 26th.

"Sierra and Heather worked hard together again, having another great race," said Berndt. "Stephanie has been right behind these ladies. Amanda Duvail, Spurger, Texas, finished 36th. Amanda is getting stronger each week. She

just needs more confidence in herself and her running.

"We finished second as a team, and again these ladies did an awesome job. What a way to represent us at our home meet!"

The Lady Trojans competed against runners from Fort Hays State University, Oklahoma Panhandle State, Barton County Community College (Great Bend), Butler Community College (El Dorado) and Dodge City Community College. The Fort Hays team beat out Colby for first place.

The Colby women will run in Colorado Springs at 11 a.m. Saturday at Monument Valley Rock North.

The men's cross country team also ran in the Colby Invitational Friday. The men are coached by James Ortiz.

"We didn't race our full men's team in uniform this weekend," said Ortiz. "We are trying a different approach this season. In past

years, we have raced well to open up the season and have jumped into the national rankings. Two years ago, we were ranked fifth in the country and last year we earned the top national ranking."

Peter Koskey, third; Jonathan Burgess, fourth; Juan Pacheco, sixth; and Damarius Lowery, seventh, all eligible Colby student-athletes, ran unattached in the meet.

"Hopefully, by racing these guys unattached, we won't have a high national rank and the pressure that comes along with it," said Ortiz. "I'm trying to teach these guys that rankings are only for fun, and it only matters where we are in the polls at the end of the season."

Gunnar Hays, a freshman from Almena, led the men's team at the meet by finishing 12th overall.

The men will be run at 10:30 a.m. Saturday at the Woody Green/Nebraska Invitational in Lincoln, Neb.



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press

Oslyn "Melissa" Collins ran towards the finish line Friday during the Colby Community College women's cross country team's home meet held on campus. Collins was the lead runner for the Lady Trojans, taking third place with a time of 15:52.82. As a team, the women took second.

Golden Plains football season starts in Quinter

By Judy Rogers

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The Golden Plains High School Bulldogs' 2012 football season was launched under a full moon in Quinter.

The boys from Golden Plains had been practicing for three weeks and were eager to face another team. The Bulldogs received the kickoff Aug. 31 and junior Chance Hoeting caught the ball for a good return and the season was underway.

After several short gains by senior Andrew Luna, junior Tristan Schwarz punted back to Quinter who quickly ran the ball in for the first touchdown of the game. After receiving the ball back from Quinter the Golden Plains boys continued to make short gains but punted back to Quinter once again.

The defense was all over Quinter with senior Jesus Garcia and sophomore Joseph Koerperich bringing them down just short of a first down. Schwarz dropped them behind the line of scrimmage and another stop by Koerperich put the Quinter team at fourth and five, forcing them to punt.

Hoeting received the ball from junior quarterback Grant Spresser and ran for a

five-yard gain. Andrew Luna gained another four yards, but no gain on the third down had Schwarz punting from the 21-yard line.

The defense stepped up once again with a stop by sophomore Colter Miller, but Quinter still managed to get into the end zone and added two extra points to gain a 14-0 lead. On their next possession, senior Jose Bermudez returned the ball. Carries by Andrew Luna and Hoeting gained the Bulldogs eight yards as the first quarter came to a close.

The Golden Plains defense continued to pound Quinter down during the second quarter of gridiron action despite offsetting penalties. With 7:13 still in the first half, Quinter scored another touchdown. They were backed up by a flag on the extra point attempt, but caught a pass on the second try to extend their lead 22-0.

The Golden Plains offense broke through for a first down and gained several yards before turning the ball back over to Quinter. Stops by Garcia and senior Camron Spresser broke up several plays by Quinter. They finally broke through for a long run but Camron Spresser stopped the runner just short of the goal line with 24 seconds until half.

Quinter made a short gain to make it first and goal with 5 seconds remaining. A quick pass connected and the extra point was good to give Quinter a 30-0 lead as the buzzer sounded.

Quinter scored yet another touchdown halfway through the third quarter and one more with just over three minutes remaining in the quarter expanding their lead to 42-0 as the third ended. When the fourth quarter began, it looked as if the Golden Plains team might be shut out, but the Bulldogs' offense took to the field with determination and grit.

Andrew Luna broke through for a 60-yard touchdown run just as the quarter started. Although the extra-point pass attempt was broken up, the Bulldogs were on the scoreboard.

Back on defense, Bermudez stopped Quinter short of a first down, Koerperich pushed them out of bounds at the 30-yard line and Camron Spresser ran Quinter aground just past the line of scrimmage. Hoeting stopped Quinter again, putting them at fourth and two. Sophomore Domonic Luna brought down the Quinter runner after he broke through for a gain. With just 1/2 a yard to go on a third down, Quinter pushed over the goal line.

Trailing 48-6 with eight minutes still to play, the Golden Plains boys were not ready to give up the game. Junior Josh Barnhart gained four yards before Domonic Luna gained the first down.

Following another 6-yard gain from Domonic Luna, Hoeting broke through for a 45-yard dash to the end zone. The extra point attempt was no good and the score was Quinter 48, Golden Plains 12 with six minutes remaining in the game.

With the crowd getting excited and enthusiastic on the sidelines, Domonic Luna stopped Quinter with a hard tackle and Hoeting recovered a fumble to give possession back to the 'Dogs. Andrew Luna quickly broke through for one more 55-yard run into the end zone giving the Bulldogs 18 points.

Quinter managed an additional score bumping their total to 54 points as their extra-point pass attempt failed to connect. The Bulldogs finished the game with consecutive first down gains from Andrew Luna and Hoeting. A final carry from Grant Spresser ended the game as the clock ran out with a final score of Quinter 54, Golden Plains 18.

The team had a total of 294 rushing yards during the game with Andrew Luna

gaining 196 yards and Chance Hoeting running 69 yards. Also running the ball were Domonic Luna with 15 yards, Grant Spresser 10 and Josh Barnhart 4.

The team had a combined total of 84 solo and assist tackles led by Jose Bermudez with 14. Others contributing were Camron Spresser with 11, Hoeting 10, Andrew Luna 10, Tristan Schwarz 9, Koerperich 9, Jesus Garcia 8, Benny Martinez 5, Domonic Luna 2, Zach Spresser 2, Colter Miller 2 and Barnhart 1. Schwarz and Hoeting each captured a fumble recovery.

"We worked hard for three weeks to be able to compete with Quinter, but despite our efforts we came up short," Andrew Luna said.

"We tried hard, but I think we could have done better," Jesus Garcia added. "We have been working harder and putting out more effort in practice this week, so we anticipate a better outcome."

"All our work this week will be shown this Friday against Western Plains," Luna concluded.

The Bulldogs will play the Greeley County Jackrabbits at home Friday for homecoming.

Royals beat sloppy Twins 10-5

By Jon Krawczynski

AP Baseball Writer

MINNEAPOLIS — The Kansas City Royals seem as though they've been a team on the rise for years, with each crop of hot young prospects supposedly the group that is going to drag the franchise up from the depths of the AL Central.

Billy Butler is hoping this latest batch of fresh faces will finally help them finish the job.

Butler had three hits and three runs batted in, and the Kansas City Royals' bullpen picked up struggling starter Luke Hochevar with four scoreless innings in a 10-5 victory over the Minnesota Twins on Wednesday night.

"I just think it's good for our young guys to get confidence. I think every year I've been here we've had good Septembers, but we got a good August and Sep-

tember," Butler said. "Outside of a 12-game losing streak earlier in the season we've played really good baseball. ...We've been really consistent after that, and it's something we can build on in the offseason...."

Salvador Perez homered and drove in two runs for the Royals, who sent 10 batters to the plate in their five-run fifth and another nine in a four-run eighth.

The Royals went 17-11 in August and have won four of their last five games to improve to 6-6 in September. But they remain a few front-of-the-rotation arms away from being a legitimate threat.

Hochevar was supposed to be one of those guys, but he continues to underwhelm. He got behind 1-0 in the first on Wednesday night after a leadoff triple from Span, walked three straight batters in the third, including Doumit with the bases loaded, and gave up two

more runs after the Royals handed him a 6-3 lead in the fifth.

"He hasn't won a game in his last seven starts and I wanted to get him over that hump," manager Ned Yost said. "He was working hard out there, maybe a little too hard. He was trying with everything that he had to get over that hump, too. I was bound and determined to give him every opportunity to do it."

Hochevar (8-13) won for the first time since July 31, but he gave up five runs on six hits with four walks and four strikeouts in five innings. Tim Collins pitched two innings before Kevin Herrera and Francisley Bueno finished the game.

P.J. Walters (2-4) gave up six runs on seven hits in four innings and Twins left fielder Ryan Doumit was charged with three errors in the eighth to help the Royals put the game out of reach.

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