



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Todd Kane dove for first after leading off the base late in the varsity baseball team's first Thursday night game against the Thomas Moore Prep-Marian Monarchs. The Eagles came back in the seventh inning with a 10-9 victory. They will be playing here again Monday in regionals against the Goodland Cowboys.

# Colby teams to compete here in the regionals

Colby High School's varsity baseball and softball teams will both be going to the class 4A regionals here on Monday. The baseball team will face off against the Goodland Cowboys in the quarterfinals, starting 5 p.m. at the ballfields. If they advance, their semifinal game will be at 2 p.m. Wednesday, in Hugoton and the final game for class 4A will be at 7 p.m. the next day. The Lady Eagles softball team will play their quarterfinal game at 5:30 p.m. against the Ulysses Tigers. The semi-finals in Ulysses will be Tuesday at 3 p.m. and the final class 4A game will be the same day at 6:30 p.m. The state championships will be Thursday, May 23, in Salina.

# Kansas high school 4A class will vote on splitting five sports into divisions

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Colby schools will be voting by next month on whether to stay in the same state athletic conference with other schools or split in to a smaller group. The vote concerns whether the state class 4A grouping for football, baseball, volleyball, softball and girls' and boys' basketball

should be split into two divisions according to size. Gary Musselman, executive director of the Kansas State High School Athletics Association said the groups' board of directors voted April 26 to put the idea to a vote among the conference's 64 school districts. The votes are due June 3. "It would definitely be in favor for Colby to do that," said Larry Gabel, athletic director for the district. "We're right towards the

bottom of 4A." The association has been considering the decision all winter long, he said, because some of the largest schools in the class are over two times the size of the smallest ones, which gives them an unfair advantage. Gabel said Colby was not part of the decision making process. We would not say for certain which way the district will vote, but said that "I can't imagine why

we wouldn't." The class includes high schools statewide with between 258 and 729 students. Colby High School had 215 students enrolled by the start of this school year. "You can go from Hugoton and Ulysses to Colby and Goodland and they're all in 4A," Musselman said. "So if you're in one of the smaller 4A's, it's like we don't have the numbers." If the districts vote to split, foot-

ball will be divided into two divisions starting in 2014, and the rest will divide immediately. All other sports will stay in one 4A grouping. The five sports, he said were the ones where it was decided the size advantage was a big enough problem. "I think they felt like some times it's the nature of the sport,"

Musselman said, "there's about as many opinions as there are people in this." Gabel felt that track is the next sport the class should consider splitting up.

## Softball must register soon

The Colby Recreation Department's coed and men's softball deadlines are coming up on Wednesday May 22. League play will begin for men on Thursday, May 30 and for coed on Sunday, June 2. Team entry for men is \$225 and coed \$250. Register at the Community Building or Sports Shoppe, at 2080 South Franklin. All players must sign the roster as a release form. Be sure to review the rules because there are a few changes, specifically with the use of illegal bats. McCarty Dairy and Crop Production Services/Coors won the coed and men's Championships last season and have free entry for this year's league. Call or e-mail Recreation Director Stacy Jasper at 460-4440 or colbyrecreation@gmail.com if you have questions or comments.



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