

Couples, ladies golf underway

Ladies and couples both rolled into action during events at Meadow Lakes Golf Course last week.

The weekly Ladies' Night featured a One-Hole Mulligan that attracted 11 participants.

Audrey Hines won the event while Susan Wark placed second.

Anita Beckman and Mary Lou Jones tied for third place. Cheryl Edmundson finished fourth.

Couples Night was even more popular on Friday as 14 couples competed in a One Couple Scramble.

Dave Kern and Miranda Kern proved again to be a winning combination. Joe Hackett and Rosalee Hackett took second place while Brady Jasper and Stacy Jasper claimed third.

All three groups continue competition this week. Another event at Meadow Lakes will be a "Swinging Fore The Lord" 4-person scramble on Friday.

Registration takes place from 8 a.m. to 8:45 with tee time set for 9 a.m.

Besides 18 holes of golf, Swinging Fore The Lord will also include two meals, hole prizes, flight money and a "Holy" in one contest.

Children age 10 and younger can golf with an adult.

Contact Jeannie Solko at 462-2179 or 460-2833 to obtain more information about the event.

Colby team leaders react to 4A 'split'

By R.B. Headley
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Clearing the biggest obstacles out of Class 4A didn't inspire any happy dance-like reactions from Colby High School coaches.

At least none witnessed by local media. The YouTube videos will have to wait for another day. Sorry.

Polite golf applause better describes how five current and former Colby team leaders reacted to the 42-22 vote on Monday. The decision officially splits 64 4A schools into divisions of 32 for five sports: football, baseball, softball and both basketball (girls, boys) squads.

A vote that drew some less than super-thrilled reviews.

It's just going to water down 4A," former Colby girls' basketball coach Parker McKee succinctly responded.

"I've liked the 4A competition. I thought it has been one of the best competitive divisions," Colby volleyball coach Jerry McKee said. "I've even liked playing 5A and 6A. If you are a good volleyball team, you're going to go through whatever level you're playing at."

"It doesn't affect us," Colby coach Matt Sims added after his wrestlers finished No. 2 among all 4A squads last winter. "And I didn't want to see it dwindle down to 32 schools. Lower half (in enrollment) teams have won the state title a number of times. We think 4A is one of the toughest divisions because of its depth and parity."

Yet this success also helps coaches see both sides clearly. While strong individuals can determine wrestling team success, pure numbers often wear down talented football or basketball

squads with fewer players. "I'm not a football coach, but that definitely seems like a sport where the (enrollment) difference really shows up," Colby baseball coach Rick Williams said. "When a school like Buhler brings 100 guys in uniform and doesn't suit up freshmen, it's a pretty clear reminder."

Class 4A enrollment for 64 schools ranged between 200 and 700, according to most available sources. Schools like Ottawa, Winfield and McPherson were more than double the size of 4A Colby or Goodland.

"It's a positive thing for Colby," CHS Activities Director Larry Gabel said while confirming Colby did vote yes for the split. "It's been such a wide discrepancy in enrollment."

The big schools are now 4A Division I along with 29 others, meaning state tournaments or playoffs are now far more reachable for smaller 4A schools. "On To State" is what drives many teams through long, grueling seasons.

"It will be really good for the schools out here in western Kansas," former Colby boys basketball coach Jerad Johnson said. "It will level out the playing field, and help kids feel more confident about post-season play. And do you really think 5A or 6A teams feel less about going through 32 teams rather than 64? I don't think so."

"It might be case of trying something new and seeing that it is pretty neat," volleyball Coach McKee added. "If your main goal is to advance, then it (the split) is a definite plus. I'm anxious to see how teams will be assigned."

Colby baseball coach Rick Williams believes his Eagles will challenge the usual region foes like Goodland, Hugoton and pos-



Kayla Cornett/Colby Free Press

Colby High teams like volleyball will still face plenty of tall challenges even after the vote to split Class 4A on Monday.

sibly Pratt. He sees one major change in four-team regionals rather than eight, two wins rather than three.

"That means you'll need a lot less pitching depth, and depth has been a little bit of an issue for us," he explained. "'Now we're just

one good performance from the regional final. And once you get to the regional final, anything can happen."



R.B. Headley/Colby Free Press

Golfers line up putts in the Chamber-Rotary tournament.

Nearly 100 golf in Chamber-Rotary event

There was no better place for 99 golfers than Friday's annual Colby Rotary-Chamber tournament at Meadow Lake Golf Course.

Sunflower Bank rose above 24 teams as Jim Stanley, Gabe Stanley, Quintin Flanagan and Marybeth Flanagan took home the first flight championship.

The Moss Rentals quartet of Brent Moss, Matt Smith, Jake Moss and Jeff Dennis captured second place, while Farm Credit's

Paul Bange, Darris DeGood, Alicia Siruta and Jeanne Tuma finished third.

Another three flights featured these final results:

Second flight: 1. Western State Bank (J.L. Ewins, Tyson McGreer, Randy Jones, Rick Ritter), 2. Kansas Quick Lube (Andy Lee, Brady Jasper, Stacy Jasper, Tanner Lee), 3. The Bank (Jake Harper, Lynn Marcy, Bert Maxfield, Branden Oien).

Third flight: 1. Frahm Farm-land #2 (Wendy Weishaar, Mike Brockelhurst, Shannon Hopson, Parker Weishaar). 2. McCarty Family Farms (Jordan Spreser, Drake Moss, Tanner Moss, Brett Oelke). 3. Donelan Jewelry (Chris Soehner, LeAnna Soehner, Tyson Davis).

Championship wannabes: 1. Thomas County Economic Development Alliance (Christy Rocca, Terry Preson, Leesa Wark, Cody

Wark). 2 GSS Tree Works (Tracey Galli, Fred Britt, L.J. O'Neal, Justin Umberger).

Matt Smith and Nikki Carroll won the "long putt" competition in this tournament. Stacy Jasper and Gabe Stanley earned "long drive" honors.

Jeff Dennis didn't just get "closest to the pin"; his best effort rolled right into the cup.

Carroll claimed "closest to the pin" for women who participated.

Colby club swimmers made big splash at Colorado meet

The Colby Swim Club team made its season debut at Holyoke, Colo., on Saturday and many highlights were mentioned in Monday's *Colby Free Press*.

Colby totaled 199 points while placing second among eight teams. More results are featured today beginning with the pool record-setting girls' 200-yard relay. All events are measured in yards.

Age 11-12 girls

Relays: Swim Club A 200-freestyle team of Paige Schroer, Madison Lemman, Tayler Bieberle and Macy Catlin placed first (2:15.74.) Swim Club B 200-freestyle team of Meghann Elling, Jessilyn Weis, Alexandra Quattlebaum and Alexis Carney placed fifth (2:44.21).

Swim Club A 200-freestyle team of Bieberle, Carney, Lemman and Catlin placed first (2:42.27).

Age 11-12 boys

Brysen Barton placed eighth in 100-freestyle (1:49.4), 12th in 50-freestyle (43.8) and fourth in

50-backstroke (48.85).

Cade Lanning placed second in 50-fly (42.98) and fourth in 50-backstroke (52.67).

Jaren Rush placed sixth in 100-freestyle (1:44.59), seventh in 50-freestyle (39.57) and fifth in 100-individual medley (1:54.52).

Blaise Vrbas placed fifth in 100-freestyle (1:31.82), eighth in 50-freestyle (42.02) and fifth in 50-breaststroke (56.63).

Joseph Yanez placed 18th in 50-freestyle (1:06.77) and 10th in 50-breaststroke (1:20.64).

Relays: Swim Club A 200-freestyle team of Barton, Rush, Vrbas and Yanez placed second (3:16.77).

Swim Club B 200-medley team of Barton, Rush, Vrbas and Yanez placed first (3:53.78).

Mixed relays: Swim Club A 200-medley team of Elling, Weis, Quattlebaum and Lanning placed third (3:21.62).

Age 13-14 girls

Lynnsey Elling placed 22nd in 100-freestyle (1:33.87) and 18th

in 100-breaststroke (1:51.47).

Desiree Foster placed 18th in 100-freestyle (1:26.87), 15th in 100-backstroke (1:53.91) and 22nd in 100-breaststroke (1:57.65).

Natalie Oren placed 24th in 100-freestyle (1:35.65), 24th in 50-freestyle (40.54) and 14th in 100-backstroke (1:52.21).

Quinlee Niblock placed fifth in 100-backstroke (1:31.26), seventh in 100-breaststroke (1:37.8) and seventh in 200-individual medley (3:27.45).

Kyndra Rush placed 17th in 100-freestyle (1:26.79), sixth in 100-backstroke (1:31.51) and 11th in 100-breaststroke (1:42.64).

Relays: Swim Club A 200-freestyle team of Foster, Niblock, Oren and Lynnsey Elling placed fourth (2:31.59).

Swim Club A 200-medley relay of Rush, Niblock, Oren and Lynnsey Elling placed fifth (2:59.58).

Age 13-14 boys

Kory Finley placed third in

100-fly (1:36.64), eighth in 100-breaststroke (1:42.95) and third in 200-individual medley (3:25.65).

Lander Niblock placed 14th in 100-freestyle (1:27), 16th in 50-freestyle (42.58) and 10th in 100-backstroke (1:55.28).

Mark Faber placed third in 50-freestyle (28.66), fifth in 100-backstroke (1:17.88) and second in 100-breaststroke (1:25.27).

Michael Quattlebaum placed fourth in 100-freestyle (1:09.62), fifth in 50-freestyle (29.71) and fourth in 200-individual medley (3:35.95).

Relays: Swim Club A 200-freestyle team of Finley, Niblock, Faber and Quattlebaum placed third (2:10.35).

Age 15-18 girls

Madison Rogers placed fourth in 100-backstroke (1:19.96), sec-

ond in 100-fly (1:22.02) and second in 200-individual medley (3:04.18).

Age 15-18 boys

Aaron Faber placed fifth in 100-freestyle (1:07.89), fourth in 50-freestyle (28.56) and second in 200-individual medley (3:09.77).

Gabriel Schriener placed sixth in 50-freestyle (29.24) and second in 100-fly (1:24.26). That completes the Colby results.

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