

Popular racers ready for hot Sunday night

By R.B. Headley

Colby Free Press
Will "Spiderman" climb the Thomas County Speedway fence again?

Can "Bam Bam" blast past all the fastest Hobby Stock foes for another championship?

Or will drivers without famous nicknames deliver more victories?

Questions like these and many others are what should make for another exciting Sunday night of racing around the 3/8 mile track in Colby.

The evening lineup will feature five very competitive classes: Econos, IMCA Hobby Stocks, IMCA Sportmods, IMCA Stock Cars and IMCA Modifieds.

Grandstands open at 5:30 with hot laps scheduled for 6 p.m. Racing begins at 7 p.m. and should

continue past sunset on what's expected to be a sunny Sunday. Forecast is high of 93 degrees and only a 20 percent chance of showers or thunderstorms before 9 p.m.

Intensity was high during the Speedway's last showdowns on June 9.

Nick "Spiderman" Tubbs took the Stock Cars checkered flag and then climbed that fence in his trademark victory celebration.

Meanwhile, Cody "Bam Bam" Graham delivered his own drama when he passed three cars coming out of turn two. He fought off early leader Mike "The Flying Goose" Giesenhagen and others to win the Hobby Stocks title.

Nicknames were obtained in report from Johnathan Schmidt at mwarep@org.

Perhaps Billy Turner made the



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Racing was fast and furious at Thomas County Speedway on June 9. Expect nothing less when drivers resume their season

Sunday evening as five top classes are expected to compete. Grandstands open at 5:30 p.m. with hot laps set for 6.

night's best comeback, charging up from the last starting position and capturing an Econos champi-

onship. Other June 9 champs were Adam Morris (modifieds) and

Dustin Daniels (sport mods).

Morris stayed in front of closest pursuer Dylan "Dynamite" Sher-

ick. Turner topped challengers Alex West and Rocky Baalmann.

Sluggers focus targets on Goodland tourney victory

Rolling into Goodland after a championship game appearance, the Colby Sluggers started another tournament title quest on Friday against familiar foe Burlington, Colo.

Burlington beat the Sluggers, 14-11, in their season opener on June 9. Colby rebounded with a 7-0 victory, and then won three of four Burlington Wood Bat tourney contests last weekend.

Colby reached Sunday's title game but lost 16-1 to a powerful Wray/Northeast Colorado select team.

Wray is not among six teams competing for Goodland's 15th

annual Levi Hayden Memorial Tournament honors beginning today.

However, there are four other quality potential Sluggers foes in Ellis, Ulysses, Leoti and the host Goodland Outlaws.

Pool play continues through tonight with Saturday single-elimination tourney starting at 9 a.m. Any postponements due to weather will be made up on Sunday.

The complete tourney schedule,

Friday

Pool A: Ulysses vs. Leoti, 2 p.m. Goodland vs. Leoti, 6 p.m. Goodland vs. Ulysses, 8 p.m.

Pool B: Colby vs. Burlington,

10 a.m. Colby vs. Ellis, noon. Burlington vs. Ellis, 4 p.m.

Saturday

Game 1: Pool A No. 2 vs. Pool B No. 3, 9 a.m. Game 2: Pool B No. 2 vs. Pool A No. 3, 11 a.m. Game 3: Pool B No. 1 vs. Game 1 winner, 1 p.m. Game 4: Pool A No. 1 vs. winner of Game 2, 3 p.m.

Game 5: Championship, 5 p.m. The tournament was named after Levi Hayden, who was killed in a rural Sherman County car crash on Feb. 21, 1997. He was an avid baseball player.

A scholarship is presented each year to one of the tournament players.



Kevin Bottrell/Goodland Star-News

Colby Sluggers catcher Jake Thompson, right, steps on home to force out a Burlington, Colo., baserunner during the first inning of their opening game Friday morning at Levi Hayden Memorial Tournament in Goodland. The Sluggers had built a 2-1 lead through one inning, according to early reports from observers. Colby (4-2 season record) was just beginning a Pool B doubleheader with another contest against Ellis scheduled to begin at noon. The Sluggers and five other legion teams will advance into Saturday's single-elimination tournament starting at 9 a.m. Championship game is set for 5 p.m.

Colby provides aid to alumna

By R.B. Headley

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Colby Recreation Director Stacy Jasper reported Thursday that she's collected clothing along with more than \$850 in cash or gift cards for Colby Community College alumna Hannah Thornton.

Jasper will be delivering these gifts and some Colby College

memorabilia to Thornton in Denver today.

The former Trojans basketball player lost virtually everything when Black Forest wildfires destroyed her Colorado Springs home last week. Thornton was starting a new job and just moved into this house five days earlier.

"I'm really proud of how this community has shown its support," Jasper commented. "It

means so much to my husband Brady and I as well as Hannah."

Thornton played for then-coach Brady Jasper's Colby team from 2009-11, averaging about 14 points per game before moving on to play at the University of Northern Colorado.

She graduated from UNC in May and began working for Colorado Springs-based Red Line Athletics.

Guard needed a leash

By R.B. Headley

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Just some final remarks from a sportswriter who's disappointed that he's the only snarling mutt around on "Take Your Dog To Work" day.

My newest canine would have to be named Manu Ginobili.

Nothing against the ancient San Antonio Spurs guard, considering I love dogs plus he's several years younger and zeroes wealthier than me.

But didn't Ginobili remind you of that little pooch who goes charging up against "the big dawgs" (LeBron James, Chris Bosh, Chris "Birdman" Anderson, etc.) under a hoop and then has no idea what to do next?

Ginobili's chase-your-tail and throw-the-ball-like-a-frisbee mentality doomed San Antonio's chances to win Kansas 6 or 7. I barely watched either game and could easily see that.

However, don't we all agree the NBA Finals followed its script perfectly?

Think about it, especially since I have little else rattling around this empty space.

The mighty Miami Heat get down three times and almost blow Game 6, before magically rallying to finish a fantastically-watched dramatic Game 7.

I called perfection two weeks ago. Check out the June 6 *Free Press* if you're suspicious.

Most importantly, big basketball fan President Obama had to be pleased.

Where are the more Democratic votes for his party, Miami or San Antonio?

Come on, it's no contest.

Sorry about sounding so cynical.

Last night's final showdown was actually a lot of fun. Congratulations to the Heat and ex-Kansas Jayhawk Mario Chalmers. Don't get upset, Kansas State fans, football season isn't that far away.

Spurs melt down to Heat in Finals repeat

MIAMI (AP)— LeBron James and the Miami Heat remain atop the NBA, and not even a proud push from the San Antonio Spurs could knock them down.

James led the Heat to their second straight title, scoring 37 points and grabbing 12 rebounds in a 95-88 victory Thursday night in a tense Game 7 that lived up to its billing.

Winning the title they needed to validate the best season in franchise history — and perhaps the three-superstar system they used to build it — the Heat won the second straight thriller in the NBA's first championship series to go the distance since 2010.

"It took everything we had as a team," Dwyane Wade said. "Credit to the San Antonio Spurs, they're an unbelievable team, an

unbelievable franchise. This is the hardest series we ever had to play."

Two nights after his Game 6 save when the Heat were almost eliminated, James continued his unparalleled run through the basketball world, with two titles and an Olympic gold medal in the last 12 months.

He made five 3-pointers, defended Tony Parker when he had to, and did everything else that could ever be expected from the best player in the game.

The Heat became the NBA's first repeat champions since the Lakers in 2009-10, and the first team to beat the Spurs in the NBA Finals.

The Spurs, so close to a fifth title just two nights earlier, couldn't find a way to grab it in this one,

perhaps the last shot Tim Duncan, Parker and Manu Ginobili will ever get together.

They were trying to become the first road team to win a Game 7 on the road since Washington beat Seattle in 1978, but those old guys ran out of gas just before the finish.

Duncan had 24 points and 12 rebounds for the Spurs, but missed a shot and follow attempt right under the basket with about 50 seconds left and the Spurs trailing by

two. James followed with a jumper — the shot the Spurs were daring him to take earlier in the series — to make it 92-88, sending San Antonio to a team a timeout as Glenn Frey's "The Heat is on" blared over the arena's sound system.

He then came up with a steal and made two free throws for a six-point lead, and after Ginobili missed, James stalked toward the sideline, knowing it was over and the repeat was complete.

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