

## Bringing the heat



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Hot weather didn't hinder the intensity of Colby fast-pitch girls' softball action Thursday evening. A Sapphire pitcher shows maximum effort while unleashing her best fastball against the Purple team in a Recreational League contest.

# Colby wins Jayhawk League

By R.B. Headley  
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WaKeeney was primed and ready to knock off league powerhouse Colby Wednesday night until their game actually began.

"They almost beat us twice last time we played them in Colby," Colby coach Jeff Krzycki said about his third through sixth grade team. "This time, we were ready. We took care of business right away."

Business was very, very good from the opening pitch. Colby plated five runs before WaKeeney could record three outs in the first inning of game one.

Colby hitters let up a little during game two, "only" scoring four runs during its first half-inning.

It all added up to Colby rocking WaKeeney early, chalking up two more decisive victories 12-1, 15-0; and clinching the Jayhawk League West championship.

"There's no way we can finish second now," Krzycki proclaimed. "We have a five-game lead and only four games left to play. You can call us league champions."

The Colby boys improved to 17-1 overall and remained unbeaten against league foes. Their closest calls were against WaKeeney on June 10, winning just 8-5 and 9-4 at Carl Adams Field.



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Colby coach Jeff Krzycki, left, has seen a lot of runners round third base against Oberlin Monday night and throughout this season as his third through sixth grade baseball team is 17-1.

Everything pointed to a potential WaKeeney victory Wednesday night except reality.

"In both games, we took con-

rol early and never looked back," Krzycki said. "We went through our lineup in the first inning and everyone hit the ball."

"Our hitting, pitching and defense were all very good," he added. "We put it all together."

Colby's strong pieces included pitcher Tyler Zerr, who threw all three innings in his first complete-game win.

Carter Stanley started game two with two shutout innings while Colby's offense built another big lead.

"We started a lot of our younger kids who don't play a lot and scored seven runs in the first inning," Krzycki said. "Then we brought our regular guys back and added another eight runs late. We basically slammed the door on them (WaKeeney)."

Playing the perfect role of closer was Jason Krannawitter. He quickly became the hero for all "little guys", using a blazing fastball to silence any faint hopes of WaKeeney coming back.

"Jason's the smallest kid on our team, but he just goes out there and throws 'smoke'," Krzycki observed. "He just wants the ball and takes control right away."

Colby also controls its chances of 20-plus wins this season. The boys host doubleheaders on Monday and Wednesday with a chance to be 21-1 entering tourney play.

## Colby gets help for fire victim

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Colby made a great impact on at least one Colorado fire victim last weekend.

Recreation director Stacy Jasper happily reported that she delivered a carload of needed items and more than \$1,400 to Colby Community College alumna Hannah Thornton Sunday afternoon.

The Dublin, Ireland, native lost almost all her possessions when Black Forest wildfires destroyed

her Colorado Springs house earlier this month. Thornton and her roommate have been homeless ever since.

Jasper immediately started a collections effort to help the former Trojans basketball player. Thornton averaged nearly 14 points per game for then-coach Brady Jasper's team from 2009-11.

Colby area residents responded with cash, checks and gift cards. Jasper also transported a car load of clothes, shoes and household items during her visit to Denver.

"It was a very humbling experience for my husband and I," Stacy Jasper commented. "Again, we are just so proud of the community for helping her out. Hannah cried and is so thankful."

Thornton's currently working at Red Line Athletics in Colorado Springs and told the *Free Press* last week that she'll be finding a home again "very soon." She just finished two more years of playing basketball for the University of Northern Colorado, where she earned her degree in sports management.

## Royals still show little offense

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Kansas City's pitching staff owns by far the best earned run average in

the league, and Jeremy Guthrie turned in another more-than-serviceable start.

Yet Samuel Deduno pitched seven sharp innings and one of Justin Morneau's two doubles drove in Minnesota's first run, sending the Twins to a 3-1 victory.

## Sharks were lethal in 266-point effort

The final Colby Swim Club results from Saturday's home meet at Aquatic Park.

**Age 11-12 boys**  
Jaren Rush placed third in 50-freestyle (38.88), second in 200-freestyle (3:14.72) and seventh in 100-individual medley (1:52.59).

Joseph Yanez placed 23rd in 50-freestyle (1:07.56), 17th in 50-backstroke (1:30.06) and 10th in 50-breaststroke (1:23.35).

Riley Kraft placed fifth in 200-freestyle (4:16.84), fifth in 50-butterfly (1:05.08) and ninth in 100-individual medley (2:22.06).

Trey Stramel placed 22nd in 50-freestyle (1:06.9) and 14th in 100-freestyle (2:36.04).

Relays: Swim Club A of Rush, Vrbas, Barton and Lanning placed seventh in 200-freestyle (2:45.76). Swim Club B of Reed, Yanez, Stramel and Kraft placed third in 200-freestyle (4:01.32). Swim Club A of Vrbas, Lanning, Rush and Barton placed first in 200-medley (3:26.74). Swim Club B of Reed, Yanez, Kraft and Stramel placed fourth in 200-medley (4:46.45).

**Age 13-14 girls**  
Amelia Culver placed 16th in 50-freestyle (40.27), 16th in 100-backstroke (2:15.09) and 25th in 100-breaststroke (2:11.17).

Desiree Foster placed 14th in 100-freestyle (1:33.08), 13th in 100-backstroke (2:02.78) and 23rd in 100-breaststroke (2:05.02).

Emily Delzeit placed 16th in 100-freestyle (1:34.12), 24th in 100-breaststroke (2:10.66) and seventh in 200-individual medley (4:09.31).

Kyndra Rush placed fifth in 100-backstroke (1:39.15), fifth in 100-butterfly (2:00.77) and ninth in 100-breaststroke (1:48.8).

Lynnsey Elling placed 25th in 50-freestyle (47.01), 20th in 100-freestyle (1:40.82) and 18th in 100-breaststroke (1:56.64).

Natalie Oren placed 21st in 50-freestyle (43.13), 19th in 100-freestyle (1:39.63) and 12th in 100-backstroke (2:02.18).

Quinlee Niblock placed fourth in 100-backstroke (1:38.37), sixth in 100-breaststroke (1:44.46) and third in 200-individual medley (3:36.45).

Relays: Swim Club A of Carney, Rush, Foster and Niblock placed sixth in 200-freestyle (2:39.55). Swim Club B of Delzeit, Elling, Oren and Culver placed seventh in 200-freestyle (2:51.62). Swim Club A of Foster, Rush, Niblock and Oren placed sixth in

200-medley (3:17.74).

**Age 13-14 boys**  
Jose Davila placed 11th in 50-freestyle (53.9).

Kory Finley placed sixth in 100-freestyle (1:20.97), third in 100-butterfly (1:43.09) and fourth in 200-individual medley (3:28.86).

Lander Niblock placed 10th in 50-freestyle (42.17), ninth in 100-freestyle (1:42.4) and seventh in 200-freestyle (3:33.6).

Mark Faber placed second in 100-backstroke (1:29.83), first in 100-breaststroke (1:32.61) and second in 200-individual medley (3:13.06).

Michael Quattlebaum placed fifth in 50-freestyle (34.83), fifth in 100-freestyle (1:19.15) and fifth in 200-freestyle (3:06.92).

Tanner Reed placed ninth in 50-freestyle (40.05), eighth in 200-freestyle (3:46.64) and fifth in 100-backstroke (2:18.47).

Relays: Swim Club A of Niblock, Davila, Reed and Finley placed third in 200-freestyle (3:00.46). Swim Club A of Quattlebaum, Faber, Finley and Reed placed second in 200-medley (2:52.94).

Mixed relay: Swim Club A of Lander Niblock, Delzeit, Culver and Elling placed third in 200-medley (3:31.08).

**Age 15-18 girls**  
Brittany Carney placed 11th in 50-freestyle (1:03.26), seventh in 100-backstroke (2:44.82) and 10th in 100-breaststroke (2:45.22).

Madison Rogers placed second in 100-backstroke (1:35.56), first in 100-butterfly (1:29.72) and second in 200-individual medley (3:18.87).

Taylor Lemman placed fifth in 50-freestyle (35.6), sixth in 200-freestyle (3:07.49) and third in 100-breaststroke (1:49.34).

**Age 15-18 boys**  
Aaron Faber placed sixth in 50-freestyle (31.23), sixth in 100-breaststroke (1:37.95) and fourth in 200-individual medley (3:34.3).

Gabriel Schriener placed eighth in 50-freestyle (32.37), second in 100-butterfly (1:38.02) and third in 200-individual medley (3:09.27).

Nickolas Delzeit placed fourth in 50-freestyle (30.84), fourth in 100-freestyle (1:12.89) and third in 100-breaststroke (1:28.41).

Mixed relays: Swim Club A of Faber, Schriener, Rogers and Delzeit placed second in 200-freestyle (2:07.42). Swim Club A of Faber, Delzeit, Schriener and Lemman placed second in 200-medley (2:41.78).

## K-18 ready to start homestand

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15-and-under boys have already ventured to Norton, Oakley, WaKeeney and Goodland.

They were undefeated in all those trips until losing the opener at Goodland Tuesday evening.

Now the 16-3 team welcomes all these same teams to Colby. The stretch starts with a tough McCook, Neb., opponent visiting on Saturday for a noon twinbill.

WaKeeney then visits Monday evening starting at 6 p.m.

After a Fourth of July weekend

tournament in Garden City, the Jayhawk League leaders visit Atwood July 8.

But then it's home doubleheaders against Goodland on July 11, Oakley on July 14 and Norton on July 17. All these games lead up to the regional tournament at Colby on July 20-21.

The ultimate goal? One more week of road tripping to Lucas for the state tournament July 26-31.

Watch for results from these games in the *Free Press*.

## Rockies, Nationals are fizzling

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back to those Blake Street Bomber days of Larry Walker and Dante Bichette.

Yet when I look at the current Rockies, only Carlos Gonzalez and Michael Cuddyer create any fear at all. The loss of Troy Tulowitzki to a broken rip was definitely another dud.

At least the Rockies won't tease Denver fans like the Broncos and

Nuggets.

2. Washington Nationals.

It's patriotic justice after the Nats shut down ace Stephen Strasburg before last year's playoffs. Nothing's automatic in this country or baseball.

3. Kansas City Royals?

I put a question mark because there's hope in the weak A.L. Central. But not that much hope.

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