

# Rec leader joining ex-Colby coach at Cloud



What a super six-year run that Stacy Jasper will certainly never forget.

"This has been one of the best experiences of my life," Jasper said about being Colby's Recreation, Community Building and Aquatics Director since 2007. "I am so thankful to have been given the opportunity to work in this community."

Jasper announced she officially resigned from her position on Tuesday. She's preparing to soon make the move with husband Brady Jasper, who recently accepted a women's basketball coaching position at Cloud County College in Concordia.

Brady Jasper has been head coach for the Colby Community College Trojans during these past five seasons. He'll now be assisting legendary coach Brett Erkenbrack.

Erkenbrack's 535 head coaching victories are the most in Kansas Junior College women's basketball history.

Cloud County finished 21-10 last season.

Cloud County has won 25 or more games in 11 different seasons under Erkenbrack's direction.

Stacy Jasper will be seeking new employment when she ar-



Colby recreation director Stacy Jasper (right) directed a youth basketball camp this week. She resigned on Tuesday to begin preparations for joining husband Brady Jasper at a new coaching position at Cloud County Community College.

Brady Jasper, former Colby Community College women's head basketball coach, has accepted an assistant coaching position at Cloud County College. He'll be working with head coach Brett Erkenbrack, who owns 11 seasons of 25 coaching wins or more.

rives in Concordia.

Until then, she'll continue her Colby recreation director duties. She plans on working in Colby until mid to late September, or until a replacement is hired.

"I've learned a lot and gained some pretty good relationships during my term," she commented in an E-mail. "So it will be very difficult to leave this place."

Stacy Jasper thanked her devot-

ed staff and all who've supported Colby recreation through volunteer, coaching and/or assisting with programs.

"It has been a memorable six years," she concluded.

# League champ K-18 knocks off Norton twice

By R.B. Headley  
Colby Free Press  
rbheadley@nwkansas.com

While ESPN was presenting its prestigious ESPY awards Wednesday night, Colby K-18 was putting together a highlight reel that would make any videographer proud.

The otherwise ho-hum 15-0, 16-1 doubleheader wins over zone foe Norton delivered some memorable award nominees such as:

Yow! "Catch it before you blink" award goes to pitcher Ben Matchell, who snagged a line drive right back at him out of the air and promptly turned it into an inning-ending double play.

"He's got the hops" award goes to third baseman Shevin Martin. He proved high chopping grounders could be thrown smoothly across diamonds, something that eluded Norton infielders more than a time or two.

"Kind of high riser" honors go to second baseman Hudson Stramel. With Norton men on base, a looping fly ball threatened to drop in and perhaps prolong the game-two mismatch.

Yet Stramel stretched to his tip-toes and caught the baseball. It preserved Colby's 11-1 lead, and five more runs finished this season finale early.

"Dirty deeds done dirt cheap" honors go to Mark Faber and Jonah Thompson. They never hesitated while consistently being called upon to courtesy run for pitchers or catchers Wednesday night.

After all, it was a cool July eve-



Colby's Jonah Thompson clearly slides in safe as the baseball's taking a break behind this Norton third baseman during K-18 league action Wednesday night. The Colby team won both games and takes a No. 1 seed into region tournament play this weekend at Colby.

ning and what's cooler than leaving the ballgame with dirt all over you? Both scored multiple runs for the K-18 machine.

Finally, "best between games talk" must go to Colby K-18 coaches.

Recent home losses against Oakley and Goodland had annoyed Colby leaders like head

coach Brian Quagliano.

"We just didn't play well against Oakley in that second game (Sunday)," he explained. "So we decided to make a pact. We made a pact that nothing would get us out of our game."

"Because when we play our game," Quagliano added. "We feel like we can defeat anyone."

Five K-18 observers would argue that point Wednesday night.

Norton brought momentum into Colby and hopes to perhaps secure the No. 2 seed for this weekend's all-important region tournament.

Exactly six innings later, it was Colby 31, Norton 1 and who's No. 2 seems rather irrelevant.

The Colby boys (25-9 overall)

are No. 1 seeded with plans to go far beyond this weekend's regional.

"Our goal to start the season was to make state, and to win state," Quagliano said. "But we have to just take it one game at a time."

Colby displayed great focus during game one and two Wednesday night.

Matchell pitched the first-game shutout, recovering nicely from that tough loss against Oakley Sunday evening. He was on the mound during Oakley's decisive four-run seventh.

"I knew he'd be strong. He's resilient," coach confirmed.

Colby's 11-run third inning began with a dropped pop-up.

Brooks Curry and Shevin Martin both singled to load the bases.

Colyn Gugelman faced a two tough-strike count, but he kept battling and sent one perfectly-placed sharp grounder between the third baseman's legs.

Brady Holzmeister, Rex Branum, Casey Quagliano and Stramel drove in runs to make it 10-0.

Holzmeister's next at-bat was a game-ending, line-drive single that finished the 15-0 triumph.

"We expected a little tougher time (with Norton)," coach Quagliano said. "They played us tough at Norton the last time we saw them."

Curry and Rex Branum pitched game two with Curry earning the win. He also delivered a first-inning RBI-single to help Colby lead 4-1.

**Colby Sluggers regional**

The Colby Sluggers will play their regional in Goodland starting Sunday afternoon.

No pairings have been obtained, but five teams are entered including Goodland, Ellis, Norton, Colby and Oakley.

# Mud Run hits Hays in August

HaysMed's Center for Health Improvement and Fort Hays State University are sponsoring the third annual Big Creek Mud Run on Saturday, Aug. 24.

The mud run is a two-mile obstacle course that winds through the Fort Hays State University Campus.

Participants should be ready to "get their dirty on" as they jump, crawl and climb through mud and other obstacles.

"This has been a great event for the region," said Kelly Flaska, Fitness/Aquatics Supervisor of the Center for Health Improvement. "People from all over the state come to participate."

The Mud Run is carried out in heats of 40 people. The first wave begins at 8:30 a.m. and a new wave starts every 20 minutes with the last one beginning at 11:30 a.m.

At noon, there is a kids mud bath that lets kids age three and older have fun playing in the mud without any obstacles.

There will also be food, music and prizes.

Deadline for registering for the event is Wednesday, Aug. 21.

The fee is \$25 for participants and they must be 18 years and older. All participants will receive a t-shirt, participation medal and a free lunch.

For information, contact Kelly at (785) 623-5900.

# U.S. golfer takes early British Open lead

GULLANE, Scotland (AP) — So much for all the good feelings about Muirfield. The historic venue in Scotland and host to a 16th Open Championship left plenty of the world's best grumbling during the first round on Thursday, even though more than a dozen players were under par.

American Zach Johnson took the early lead with a 5-under-par 66 and was followed by Spain's Rafael Cabrera-Bello, who shot 67, as well as 1998 Open champion Mark O'Meara, whose eagle at the 17th propelled the 56-year-old to within a shot of the lead.

Jordan Spieth, the 19-year-old from Dallas who is coming off his first PGA Tour victory at last week's John Deere Classic, carded three birdies and a bogey in his

Open Championship debut to finish at 2-under 69.

Dustin Johnson and Brandt Snedeker were positioned nicely after 68s.

Tiger Woods was on the course as was approximately half the field, and India's Shiv Kapur got to 6 under par through 7 holes.

And even though Phil Mickelson three-putted the last hole, he shot 69 to get onto the first page of the leaderboard just four days after winning the Scottish Open. Lefty was among several who questioned the course conditions on a breezy but otherwise rather benign day by Open Championship standards.

"Very difficult conditions and playing early gave us at least a fighting chance," Mickelson said.

Johnson, the 2007 Masters champion who lost in a playoff on Sunday at the John Deere Classic to Jordan Spieth, managed to get around with just a single bogey and had four birdies and an eagle.

"Very pleased. It was a very solid day. I felt great," Johnson said.

Johnson, who has nine victories on the PGA Tour, said he quickly put the playoff defeat behind him.

"If anything, I've embraced the fact that I'm playing great and I can put that into play and I can put that into what I'm doing," Johnson said. "And I'm confident."

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