



Pitcher Tyler Hillmer (left) let one fly at the American Legion game on Saturday against Scott City. Hillmer won the \$500 Levi Hayden Memorial Scholarship. Derek Fenner (above), named the most inspirational player, hit a double and a home run in the same game. Goodland won 11-0.

Photos by Liz West/The Goodland Star-News

Colby wins Levi Hayden Memorial Tournament

The Colby American Legion baseball team went undefeated to win the Ninth Annual Levi Hayden Memorial Tournament on Sunday defeating Burlington in the championship, 11-1.

On Saturday in pool play Colby had defeated Burlington in the opening game 19-1 in under three innings, and defeated Norton 13-1,

to be the pool winner. Sunday Colby defeated Goodland 15-6 to advance to the championship against Burlington.

Imperial, Neb., was the other pool winner defeating Scott City 10-6 and Goodland 11-3. On Sunday Imperial lost a close game to Burlington 11-10 to allow Burlington to advance to the championship.

Burlington lost both games on Saturday, losing to Colby and to Norton, 17-2. On Sunday, Burlington turned things around defeating Scott City 14-6 and then defeating Imperial before losing to Colby in the championship.

Goodland split games on Saturday with a 11-0 win over Scott City and an 11-3 loss to Imperial. Sun-

day Goodland defeated Norton 15-5 to advance to the semi-finals against Colby losing 15-6.

Each year the Hayden family donates a trophy to the most inspirational player in the tournament, and this year Goodland's Derek Fenner was selected as the most inspirational by the coaches, umpires and announcers.

Fenner had a double and a home run in the Goodland game against Scott City.

Goodland American Legion players in the tournament included Bryant Plummer, Dustin Zelfer, Kelly Lewallen, T.J. Freeman, Torrey Elder, Tyler Hillmer, Preston Dautel, Rory Kling, Teather Dautel, Brandon Rome, Fenner and Kevin Amthor.

Proceeds from the tournament go to fund a \$500 Levi Hayden Memorial Scholarship given to a Goodland American Legion Senior,

and this year the recipient was Hillmer. The tournament is played in memory of Levi Hayden who fell in love with baseball early in his short life. He believed in the game, like life, was never over until the last strike of the last out of the last inning. He died on Feb. 21, 1997 at age 17, after being in a car accident.

The Goodland American Legion team will play at 5 p.m. on Wednesday in Ellis, and participate in the Burlington Invitational Friday, Saturday and Sunday

Rod Run returns to Colby after year absence

Michelle Myers

Free Press Intern

Following a one-year absence, one of Colby's longtime community events was restored last weekend in Fike Park.

It was about 14 years ago when the idea of a Rod Run was brought to Colby by a group of friends, said Bill Biel, who co-directed the event for many years.

In addition to Biel, others such as Alvin Koenig, Dale Koenig, Leilani Thomas, Dave Wagoner, Chuck Wagoner and Pual Wagoner to name a few also helped get the event started in Colby.

"I've heard from so many people, 'Man, it's nice to be back in Colby,'" said Biel about people who missed the popular event removed from the calendar last year.

"They love it here. It's important to our community," said Biel's wife, Bev.

The couple were pioneers in making the Rod Run what it is today, but decided to take a backseat

for this year and enjoy the event.

The couple registered a 1928 Model A and a 1929 Hi Boy roadster.

To make this year's Rod Run and all of its events happen, was an intense six months for volunteers to accomplish what normally took almost a year in the past, said Linda Taylor, who helped with registration and awards. Taylor met with the other volunteers once a week since January at Gambino's.

It's been a continuing tradition ever since its debut, bringing people from all over the country to the small community of Colby. Taylor said this year's registration saw 135 cars and motorcycles from Nebraska, Colorado, Oklahoma and many Kansas towns including Colby, Hoxie, Oakley, Sharon Springs, Oberlin, Norton, Hill City, WaKeeney, Quinter, Grainfield and more.

And what's the motive for rod runners to drive so far?

"Most people drive in to get to-

gether with friends, interact with the community, and to show off their hot rods, of course, after pouring time and money into it so they can hear the "ooh's" and "ahh's" of all who walked by it," she said.

The Rod Run award winners

Mayor's Choice: Marvin Roberts from Damar.

Fire Chief's Choice: Leroy Kraft, Goodland.

Police Chief Choice: Evan Goltl, Hill City. Pre 1948: Lores Bailiff, Morrison, Colo.; Marvin Roberts; Bob Adams, Trenton, Neb.; Dave Posson, Norton; Jake Brooks, Scott City.

1950s: Kraft; Larry Pruegner, Northglenn, Colo.; Richard Epard, Colby.

1960s: Danny Lewallen; Renee Mullins, Hoxie; Ed Fields, Bennett, Colo.

1970s: Goltl; Edward Desbien, Horace; Shan Holm, Brewster.

1980s: Diane Krayca, Goodland; Jerry Snyder, Scott City.

1990s: Justin Freel, Aurora, Colo. 2000s: David Collard, Aurora, Colo.

Favorite Jeep: Hagan Booi, Colby

Corvette: Jerome Naugle, Boulder, Colo. Motorcycle: Cole George, Colby.

Pickup: Bob Sproul, Almena. Special interest: Max Kreigh, Winona

Cushman and antique motorcycle: Vernon Fischer, Sharon Springs.

Antique farm equipment: Bob Taylor, Logan, Okla.

Work in progress: Ross Rodenbeck, Colby.

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Included in the sale is a house with 2,689 sq ft of total living area on the south edge of Goodland KS, grain bins and a machine shed in Brewster KS, and approximately 1,600 acres of agricultural lands located in Sherman, Thomas and Wallace Counties.

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