



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Colby Middle School eighth-grader Elaine Lamm practiced her discus technique Monday afternoon at Dennen Field. The Eagles travel to Hoxie Thursday for a meet with Hoxie, Goodland, and Oakley.

Middleschool Eagles do well at Quinter

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

The Colby Middle School track teams were in Quinter recently, with the 8th grade boys taking second, the 8th grade girls third, the 7th grade boys third, and the 7th grade girls first. Here are the individual results:

8th grade boys: 2nd
Discus: Decker, 4th, 112'1"
High jump: Horinek, 1st, 5'4"
Long jump: Wilson, 5th, 13'9 1/2"
Triple jump: Haeffner, 1st, 37'3 1/4"; Wilson, 4th, 30'10 3/4"
Pole vault: Grove, 1st, 10'3"
100 m hurdles: Simmering, 3rd, 16.90
4X200 relay: 4th, Finley, Bieker, McCurdy, Decker 2:01.00
100 meter: Horinek, 2nd, 12.81; Grove, 4th, 13.93
4X100 relay: 1st, Grove, McCurdy, Simmering, Horinek, 50.20
400 meter: Haeffner, 1st, 55.49
200 meter: Haeffner, 1st, 25.36
3200 meter: Bieker, 4th, 12:41.62
Medley relay: 3rd, Finley, Bartlett,

McCurdy, Simmering, 1:59.25
8th grade girls: 3rd
High jump: Rasmussen, 4th, 3'10"
Long jump: Fry, 4th, 13'9"
100 m hurdles: Schroeder, 2nd, 20.87
100 meter: Barker, 1st, 14.09
1600 meter: Stephens, 1st, 5:53.63
4X100 relay: 1st, McKee, Stephens, Fry, Barker, 57.74
400 meter: Stephens, 1st, 1:05.68; McKee, 5th, 1:10.87
800 meter: Schroeder, 1st, 2:53.85; Lamm, 3rd, 3:19.15
200 meter: Barker, 1st, 28.48; Fry, 4th, 32.12
7th grade boys: 3rd
High jump: Heier, 1st, 4'8"
Pole vault: Gatz, 5th, 7'6"
100 m hurdles: Siebert, 3rd, 19.71
4X200 m relay: 2nd, Ladenburger, Sporing, Powell, Donn, 2:09.96
100 meter: Munderloh, 3rd, 14.03; Gatz, 5th, 15.75
1600 meter: Siebert, 3rd, 6:02.43; Flanagan, 4th, 6:16.75; Grob, 5th, 6:21.46

4X100 relay: 1st, Powell, Munderloh, Ladenburger, Heier, 55.24
400 meter: Hildebrand, 4th, 1:03.31
800 meter: Hildebrand, 5th, 2:40.31
200 meter: Munderloh, 3rd, 28.40
Medley relay: 3rd, Donn, Flanagan, Ladenburger, Heier, 2:08.59
7th grade girls: 1st
Shot put: Ritter, 5th, 25'5"
High jump: Barnes, 1st, 4'6"
Long jump: Hudson, 2nd, 12'5 1/2"
100 m hurdles: Henry, 2nd, 21.81
4X200 m relay: 1st, Cox, Johnson, Cox, Martin, 2:10.25
100 meter: Kersenbrock, 1st, 14.36; Bickner, 5th, 17.46
1600 meter: Hudson, 1st, 6:14.99
4X100 m relay: 1st, Cox, Barnes, Henry, Kersenbrock, 59.79
400 meter: Weaver, 4th, 1:15.68
800 meter: Hudson, 1st, 2:52; Martin, 3rd, 3:01.81; Cox, 4th, 3:07.12
200 meter: Barnes, 1st, 30.56
Medley relay: 1st, Cox, Johnson, Henry, Martin, 2:17.43
Next up for Colby is a trip to Hoxie Thursday.

Sports Briefs

BASEBALL

DETROIT (AP)— Tony Muser became the fourth manager fired in the season's opening month when the Kansas City Royals dismissed him following another slow start.

The Royals (8-15) haven't had a winning record since the strike-shortened 1994 season. Muser, the losingest manager in franchise history, had a 317-431 record (.424) since taking over the team in the middle of 1997.

CLEVELAND (AP) — Outfielder Wil Cordero was placed on waivers for the purpose of his unconditional release by the Cleveland Indians, who will have to pay the rest of his \$4 million salary.

Cordero was designated for assignment last week, giving the team 10 days to trade him, place him on waivers or send him outright to the minor leagues.

He batted .222 (4-for-18) with one RBI in six games this season for the Indians, who were reluctant to play the 30-year-old because of his lack of productivity.

SEATTLE (AP) — There was a no-no at Safeco Field this weekend and it had nothing to do with New York pitcher Ted Lilly's near feat.

This one was a scolding. Seattle Mariners fans who tried to wear "Yankees Suck" T-shirts during a three-game series against New York were told to turn their shirts inside out, take them off or leave.

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Jerry Royster will remain manager of the Milwaukee Brewers, shedding the "interim" title he took when he replaced Davey Lopes.

General manager Dean Taylor would not confirm Royster's selection, but said he expected to make an announcement on a new manager Tuesday or Wednesday.

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Darryl Strawberry was sentenced to 18 months in prison for violating his probation on a 1999 conviction on drug and solicitation of prostitution charges.

LAGUNA NIGUEL, Calif. (AP) — An innocent plea was made on behalf

of actress Tawney Kitaen, for alleged domestic violence injury to her husband, Cleveland Indians pitcher Chuck Finley.

Superior Court Judge Pamela Iles set a June 3 pretrial hearing on two misdemeanor charges, corporal injury on a spouse and battery.

OLYMPICS

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (AP) — The International Skating Union held a nine-hour hearing into the Olympic figure skating scandal, with the French judge at the center of the dispute complaining she was the victim of an "organized massacre."

A lawyer described the opening session of the two-day, closed-door hearings as "intense."

Judge Marie-Reine Le Gougne and French skating boss Didier Gailhaguet were called before the council to answer charges they manipulated the result of the pairs competition at the Salt Lake City Games.

BASKETBALL

NEW YORK (AP) — In the wake of the controversy over a buzzer-beating shot that was waved off in a Charlotte-Orlando playoff game, NBA commis-

sioner David Stern says the league plans to discuss using instant replay in similar situations.

In Saturday's Hornets-Magic game, Charlotte's Baron Davis banked in a shot that clearly beat the buzzer after the Hornets inbounded with 0.7 seconds left and the score tied.

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jerry West, architect of the Los Angeles Lakers' team going for its third straight NBA title, has agreed to run the Memphis Grizzlies, a source close to the Lakers said.

TORONTO (AP) — Two high-ranking members of the NBA players' union said they are opposed to changing the first-round playoff format from best-of-five to best-of-seven, although the union and the league are discussing the issue.

HOCKEY

NEW YORK (AP) — Toronto forward Shayne Corson was suspended by the NHL for Tuesday's Game 7 of the Maple Leafs' playoff series against the New York Islanders.

Corson was suspended for kicking New York defenseman Eric Cairns during a fight Sunday night.

Royals fire Tony Muser

By DOUG TUCKER

AP Sports Writer

Tony Muser sounded as if his dismissal as manager of the Kansas City Royals made perfect sense.

The losingest manager in Royals history was informed of the decision in a meeting in Detroit with general manager Allard Baird early Tuesday.

The firing came after the Royals (8-15) beat the Tigers 4-0 Monday night. Muser was in the final year of his contract.

"Everybody understands the circumstances, the mood of our fans," Muser told The Associated Press by telephone just minutes after talking with Baird.

"They need a change," he said. "It's just a part of this business. Managers are hired to be fired. I understand it, and life goes on. The most important thing is the success of the organization."

Muser, 317-431 (.424) since taking over midway through the 1997 season, became the fourth manager fired in the season's opening month.

Since 1900, there had never been more than two managers fired in the season's first month before this year, according to the Elias Sports Bureau.

Phil Garner was let go by Detroit on April 9, Milwaukee fired Davey Lopes on April 18 and Colorado got rid of Buddy Bell last Friday. All four teams have seen large attendance drops. The Royals are down about 4,500 a game through 14 home dates.

Boston fired Joe Kerrigan during spring training.

Muser, who was ejected in the third inning Monday night, did not learn of his dismissal until he got back to his hotel room about midnight and called Baird.

"It was very, very emotional. It was very difficult for Allard," Muser said. "I respect Allard Baird as much as I respect any man I've ever met in baseball."

With the Royals off to another poor start, Muser faced a torrent of criticism from fans and media. A 2-7 homestand that ended with a three-game sweep by Baltimore on Sunday gave the Royals a league-worst 4-10 home record.

colbysports@nwkansas.com

"It's a business, very competitive," Muser said. "These things happen. I'm not ashamed. I did the best I could possibly do, and life goes on. I'm a baseball guy and I'm proud of it. I wish this organization the best."

Muser was fired after the Royals beat the Tigers in one of their finest efforts of the season, with Jeff Suppan throwing a two-hitter.

Muser said he did not discuss with Baird who his replacement would be. There has been speculation that Bucky Dent, hired this year to manage the Royals' Triple-A team in Omaha, was standing by in case Muser was removed. Dent managed the New York Yankees in 1989 and 1990.

Another possibility was John Mizerock, the highly successful manager at Omaha the last two seasons who moved up to Muser's staff this year as bullpen coach.

The Royals haven't had a winning record since the strike-shortened 1994 season.

Saddled with one of the major leagues' lowest payrolls and weak pitching, Muser's teams struggled in one-run games, going just 69-115 and losing a franchise-record 97 games in 1999 and 2001.

Still, Muser was not bitter that he had

been let go.

"I'm grateful for the opportunity I had here," he said. "I gained a great experience. It's a great organization with a lot of great people. I think we're headed in the right direction and I like to believe I had something to do with that."

Baird has been a staunch Muser supporter, sticking with him at the end of last season.

Muser was never popular with fans and critics had been calling for his ouster since the Royals lost the 97 games in 1999. Many embittered fans called the Royals and said they would not be back after Muser was brought back despite matching that number last year.

Hired off the Chicago Cubs' staff to replace Bob Boone during the 1997 All-Star break, Muser's best season was 72-89 in 1998.

He has the lowest winning percentage of anyone who has managed at least one full season with the team.

The Royals, who have traded many of their best players in recent years, are second-to-last in the AL with a 5.58 ERA and 12th in runs scored with 104.

Kansas City entered this season with a \$47.3 million payroll, eighth-lowest in baseball.

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