

At the plate



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

Aimee Payton batted for Coors/Stephens Construction during co-ed softball league play Sunday night against the Red Rhinos.

Colby Eagle football camp begins next month

The Colby Eagle football camp will be from July 22-25 this year. 7th and 8th grade camp will be from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., and the high school squads will work out from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Registration deadline is June

30. For sign-up forms or more information, contact head coach Brad Wildeman at the high school weight room from 6 to 9 a.m. or 6-9 p.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays or call him at 462-7815.

Fall football league forming for 5th, 6th graders

Any fifth or sixth graders interested in participating in Federation football (similar to Pop Warner) this fall need to contact the following people: 5th grade-Chris Erickson at 462-3890 af-

ter 5 p.m.; 6th grade-Brian Wolf at 443-2407. Team size is limited to 22 players per team, so interested players are encouraged to sign up as soon as possible.

Royals shutout Marlins in rain-shortened game

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Darrell May knew the Royals were counting on him for a strong game. Kansas City used eight pitchers 24 hours earlier, and it was left to May to make a good start. The left-hander did just that, pitching a 6-0 shutout over the Florida Marlins on Tuesday night in a game called after five innings because of rain. May said that while watching Monday's loss in which Florida scored seven runs in the 14th inning — all off Mac Suzuki — he was thinking, "Geez, we used all our pitchers." "I didn't feel a weight on my shoulder, but it was a big challenge," he added. "I want to soak up those innings, so that we don't have to use our bullpen." May (2-3) gave up just four singles and two walks in winning his second straight decision. He's allowed just

four earned runs over 16 1-3 inning in his last three starts, dropping his ERA to 4.65. "I would have loved to have gone a little longer, but you can't control the conditions," May said. "I felt pretty good. I got a little lackadaisical in the fourth and fifth innings. I walked a couple of guys, which is not typical for me." Joe Randa drove in four of the Kansas City runs with a homer and a double, and Mike Sweeney raised his average to .338 with three hits. Randa's two-out double in the first off rookie Michael Tejera (1-1) scored Sweeney and Carlos Beltran. Randa then homered off a Tejera changeup in the third with Sweeney aboard. "A lot of good things happened," Randa said. "We swung the bats good. May pitched well. The storms came at a good time."

Coaches Miller, Hibbs, prepare for Shrine Bowl

Ask Frontenac Raiders head football coach Leon Miller what's different about the conversations he's having this summer about football, and he has a definite answer. "Usually at this time of year, people want to know about what kind of team we'll have at Frontenac. This year, all the talk is about the Shrine Bow," he says. And with good reason. Miller will serve as the head coach of the East squad at Kansas Shrine Bowl game on July 27. The game will be a homecoming of sorts for Miller. The head coach at Frontenac for the past 13 years will be returning to nearby Pittsburg State's Brandenburg Field at Carnie Smith Stadium where he played for four years (1981-84). Miller was a fixture on defense for the Gorillas at nose guard, defensive end, and outside linebacker, and even played some fullback during his junior year before his season was cut short by an injury halfway through the 1983 campaign. It will be Miller's first year as head coach for the Shrine Bowl, and his third Shrine Bowl game overall. Miller served as an assistant coach in last year's game, the first-ever tie in the long Shrine Bowl history (a 12-12 tie in Manhattan), and as an assistant in

1993, a game won by the East 26-22 in a game played at Wichita. Miller is aware how important the game is to football fans in southeast Kansas. With a sellout crowd expected at newly renovated Carnie Smith Stadium, a brand-new artificial surface on Brandenburg field, and a statewide television audience looking on, he's already begun preparation for the game. "I've met about 50 percent of the players already," he says, "and I've seen film on several others. These are good players, and are very motivated to play in this game." Two of the players will be from his own team. Standouts Brett Kunshek (tight end) and Kyle Martin (wide receiver) will join 32 other players selected from eastern Kansas to form the East squad. He says the biggest challenge will be to get the players to play together. His approach, given the short preparation time for the game, will be "systematic and simple." Other East coaches include Jon Brown, Lyndon; Todd Dain, Shawnee Mission East; Rich Giesen, Field Kindley; Bill Lowe, Topeka Seaman; and Tony Trimble, Neodesha. Giesen played in the Kansas Shrine Bowl's 1979 game and Lowe was an assistant coach for the 1987 East team.

Two coaches who won state championships in two of the three largest Kansas classifications in 2001 will lead the West team. Head coach of the West will be Linn Hibbs, whose Wellington Crusaders were 12-1 en route to the 4A state championship. One of Hibbs' assistant coaches will be Michael Hall, assistant coach of the Salina Central Mustangs, who capped a perfect 12-0 season by winning the 5A crown. Hibbs is no stranger to the Kansas Shrine Bowl. He played in the 1982 game won by the East 12-7, playing both defensive back and quarterback for the West. Last year, he served as an assistant coach for the West team. Like his counterpart from the East, Hibbs will have two of his own players on the West squad. Quarterback Taylor Zeka and defensive tackle Justin Wagoner were integral parts of the Crusader's march to the 4A championship last fall. Hibbs says his approach to preparing his team for the Shrine Bowl also will be based on simplicity because of the short amount of preparation time. "We'll work on getting as many reps in as possible," he says. "The focus will be on the offense, and we'll work a lot on timing." With three throwing

quarterbacks in camp, including Zeka from his Wellington team, the West offense will no doubt feature some passing, although Hibbs points out that his backfield will include all-state running back Donnie Anders from Salina Central, "so we'll no doubt run the ball as well." Other West coaches will be Bill Arnold, Scott Community; Jerry Mick, Minneapolis; Todd Puetz, Garden Plain; and Weston Shartz, Wichita West. Shartz also served as an assistant coach in the 1997 game. Kickoff for the 2002 Shrine Bowl is set for 7 p.m. on July 27. Advance tickets may be purchased by phone at 1-800-530-5524. Reserved seats prices are \$20. Advance general admission tickets prices are \$9 for adults, \$5 for students. General admission tickets at the gate will be \$10 for adults, \$6 for students. All proceeds from the game will go to support the Shriner's Hospitals, a network of 22 hospitals throughout North America that provides cost-free orthopedic and burn treatment for children under 18.



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