

And they're off!



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press
Colby High School senior, Rusty Raymo was quick off the blocks at the Colby Invitational Track meet earlier in the month in the 100-meter dash.

Local sports calendar

Today - Regional track meet at Scott City, field events will start at 3 p.m., running preliminaries at 5 p.m. and finals will start 30 minutes after the conclusion of the preliminaries; Baseball awards night at Joel Powell's home, 6:30 p.m.
Tuesday - State golf tournament at Buffalo Dunes in Garden City

Lady Eagles claim league track title

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS
Colby Free Press
As the Colby High School boys and girls track teams compete today in the regional meet in Scott City, they do so going in with an admirable performance at the Northwest Kansas League meet in Oberlin last Friday.

The Lady Eagles claimed the league title with 124 points and the boys finished third behind Oakley and Goodland with 75 points. Complete team scores for the girls are as follows: Colby 124; Goodland 95; St. Francis 87; Oberlin 75; Hoxie 73; Atwood 64; Oakley 32 and Quinter 25. Complete team score for the boys are as follows: Oakley 136; Goodland 108; Colby 75; Quinter 69; Oberlin 63; St. Francis 54; Hoxie 34; and Atwood 24. Colby had several stellar performances including two league records. Freshman Jessica Stephens broke the record in the 3200-meter race with a time of 11:51.3. Also making history was the ladies 4X800 relay team. The team comprised of Summar Stephens, Emily

Sloan, Amanda Seeman and Erica Erickson created a new record with a time of 10:13.15. In the field events for the girls, Erica Molstad finished second in the long jump with a distance of 15'5.75" and Desiree Sharp placed fourth in the Javelin with a distance of 98'10". Maret Peterson finished fifth in the triple jump with 30'4.5", while Shea McKee was fifth in the pole vault with a height of 6'6". Clarissa Unger came in sixth in the high jump with 4'4". The Colby girls did not have anyone place in the shot-put or discus. For the boys, Brent McCoy was the only placer in a field event as he came in first in the long jump. He had a distance of 20'0.5". The boys did not have anyone place in the javelin, shot-put or discus and had no competitors in the high jump, triple jump or pole vault. In the running events for the girls, Andrea Barker placed first in the 100-meter dash with a time of 12.71, while Peterson finished fifth with a time of 13.29, while Lori Ziegelmeier was sixth with 13.54.

In the 200-meter, Barker also was first with a time of 26.45 and Erickson was second in the 400-meter with 1:01.6. Ivy Ramsey placed first in the 800-meter as she crossed the finish line in 2:27.7, while Seeman followed her in fifth with 2:37.6. Ziegelmeier was fourth in the 300-meter hurdles in 51.7. In the long-distance races, J. Stephens was first in the 1600-meter with a time of 5:26.9 and Ivy Ramsey was second with 5:41.4. With her league-record breaking run in the 3200-meter, J. Stephens finished first in a time of 11:51.3. Zanae Baird was second in the same race in a time of 12:57.8. The girls did not place in the 100-meter hurdles. The boys finished first and second in the 100-meter dash as McCoy crossed the line in 11.09 and Rocky Baalman came in at 11.26. In the 200-meter, McCoy was also first with a time of 22.97. Nick Tubbs placed fifth with 24.24. Baalman was third in the 400-meter as he turned in 52.14. Brothers Shane and Landon Sto-

ver came in third and fourth respectively in the 1600-meter race with times of 4:51.6 and 4:55.8. The boys had no placers in the 800-meter or the 3200-meter and had no competitors in either the 110-meter or 300-meter hurdles. In the ladies relay department, along with the league record in the 4X800, the girls took second in the 4X400 and third in the 4X100. The team of Lauren Kaiser, S. Stephens, Ramsey and Erickson finished the 4X400 in 4:16.48. Ziegelmeier, Barker, Morgan Stephens and Peterson finished the 4X100 in 52.38. All three relay teams for the boys placed as well. The 4X100 was first as Tubbs, Baalman, Chris Haeffner and McCoy completed the race in 44.62. The 4X400 was second with a time of 3:33.24. The team was made up of Baalman, L. Stover, Rusty Raymo and S. Stover. The 4X800 team of Josh Cersovsky, Jared Dinkel, Jared Simmering and Brian Seeman finished sixth with a time of 9:32.49.


Kansas City Royals lose to the Seattle Mariners

By TIM KORTE
AP Sports Writer
SEATTLE (AP)—These days, it seems there's no job that Jeff Nelson and Arthur Rhodes can't handle. Gil Meche earned his fifth victory in the last six starts and Ben Davis homered to lead the Seattle Mariners over the Kansas City Royals 5-1 Thursday, a victory preserved by middle relievers Nelson and Rhodes. Nelson relieved Meche with two outs in the seventh, escaping a bases-loaded jam by inducing a fly ball from Carlos Febles. In the eighth, the Royals trailed 3-1 and had runners on second and third before Rhodes got a fly from Raul Ibanez and struck out Carlos Beltran. "That's our job. We come in during the middle innings with guys on base," Nelson said. "Not to take

anything away from the guys who handle the ninth, but you can't make any mistakes in the middle innings. Sometimes it's a little tougher." The Mariners' bullpen has stranded 35 of 49 inherited runners this season—a rate of 71.4 percent. Closer Kazuhiro Sasaki retired the side in order in the ninth, though it wasn't a save situation. "Gil did a great job, then Nellie comes in and gets a big out," Seattle manager Bob Melvin said. "Arthur and Kaz did the rest of it. That was huge." Meche (6-2), back from two shoulder operations and two seasons away from the majors, earned a starting spot during spring training. He has become a gem in the rotation after a year of rehabilitation and a season in the minors. "I had some doubts when I was rehabbing," Meche said. "You have to push through the good days. You

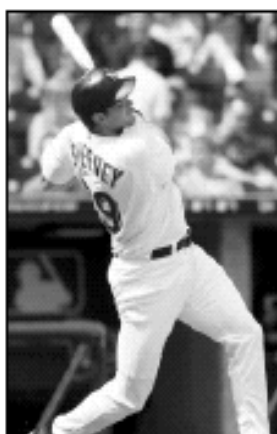
throw at 45 feet just to say you had a good day. I've worked my way back from a lot of bad days." Ichiro Suzuki doubled and scored twice as the AL West leaders won for the eighth time in 10 games. Meche won his second straight start, working with the efficiency of an assembly line. He used sinkers and curves to collect his seven strikeouts, well aware of Kansas City's six homers one night earlier.

"I threw a lot of sinkers," Meche said. "We just wanted to stay away from these guys. We didn't want to get their home run rally going." Meche pitched 6 2-3 innings, allowing one run and six hits, with seven strikeouts and two walks. He lowered his ERA from 3.06 to 2.86. "Meche is an outstanding guy and the Mariners aren't the worst hitting team," said losing pitcher Jeremy Affeldt (3-2).




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