

Team change
noted in this
weekend's
tourney here

A team change has been made in the Colby Girls Fast Pitch Association Invitational Tournament here over the weekend. Three Colby Sweet Thunder teams will be among participants.

Larned has been removed from the list of teams participating and Holdrege, Neb. has been included in the updated list received late Wednesday afternoon.

Action starts on Saturday at 9 a.m. and concludes with the championships at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday. All games will be played on the Colby Rec Department fields.

Teams will be playing in the following divisions: 10/under, 12/under, 14/under and 16/under.

The local association encourages fan support. Weather is expected to be favorable.

College World Series
title big step for Rice

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—The Rice Owls are putting their previous College World Series failures behind them in an attempt to make school history.

Rice lost six of its seven games in its first three appearances in Omaha. Now, the Owls will play for the school's first national championship — in any sport.

"One of the favorite sayings about us was, 'Two and barbecue in Omaha,'" said coach Wayne Graham, whose only win in the CWS before this year was against Oklahoma State in 1999.

Justin Ruchti's RBI single in the bottom of the ninth inning gave Rice a 5-4 victory over defending national champion Texas on Wednesday night, and sent the Owls to the College World Series championship round.

"We came here with a monkey on

our back," Graham said. "We lost by one run to LSU, we lost by one to Texas, and we were in a close game with Miami right to the end."

"This year, we said we'd play good enough that bad breaks wouldn't matter."

Instead of losing close games at the double-elimination CWS, as they have in each of their previous visits, the Owls (56-11) won them this year — starting with a 4-2 victory over Southwest Missouri State.

After beating Texas (50-20) twice in three days, Rice awaits the winner of today's Cal State Fullerton-Stanford game.

Stanford staved off elimination with a 5-4 victory earlier Wednesday.

The Owls will play either the Titans or Cardinal in the best-of-three championship series that starts Saturday.

Briefs

QUEMADO, N.M. (AP) — A Colorado man was killed when his bicycle crossed into the path of an oncoming semi rig and was struck during the Race Across America.

Brett Malin, of Vail, Colo., was struck on U.S. 60 late Tuesday night, according to a statement from the Catron County sheriff's department.

Malin had been relieved by another rider of Team Vail when the accident occurred. He coasted out of the eastbound lane and into the westbound lane toward a support vehicle when he was struck, authorities said.

They said Malin was pronounced dead at the scene.

Race director Jim Pitre said this was the first fatality in the 20 years the 3,000-mile race has been held.

NEW YORK (AP) — Hall of Famer Larry Doby, the first black player in the American League, died after a long illness. He was believed to be 79.

Doby died at his home in Montclair, N.J., said his son, Larry Doby Jr.

Doby was a seven-time All-Star in a 13-year career, almost all of it spent in the outfield for the Cleveland Indians. He helped lead the Indians to their last World Series title in 1948.

On July 5, 1947, just 11 weeks after Jackie Robinson broke baseball's color barrier, Doby joined the Indians.

There are discrepancies over Doby's age. Total Baseball listed his birth date as Dec. 13, 1923, while the Baseball Encyclopedia had it as Dec. 13, 1924. Even Doby's friends weren't sure of the exact date.

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Atlantic Coast Conference presidents have asked Virginia Tech to consider joining three other Big East schools in jumping to the ACC as part of its expansion plan, two sources told The Associated Press.

Game out of first place
Royals in unfamiliar territory

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Kansas City Royals are in unfamiliar territory: a game out of first place in the AL Central.

"It's about time," designated hitter Ken Harvey said. "A lot of us have been swinging the bat well and our pitchers have been getting the job done, too. It's good to see. We're just collectively doing it."

Kansas City beat Minnesota 8-6 on Wednesday night — the Royals' seventh win in nine games against the defending AL Central champs this season.

Carlos Beltran and Joe Randa had three hits apiece, and Beltran and Michael Tucker each had two RBIs as the Royals won for the eighth time in 11 games.

Beltran has seven multihit games in his last nine starts while going 18-for-33 with three doubles, one homer and 12 RBIs.

"It's been so enjoyable to come out to the ballpark and have the fans behind you and really into the games, and have the games mean something," Randa said. "We haven't had that in a long time."

The Twins have been outscored 52-31 during a five-game losing

skid, and lost the first three games of the four-game series with Kansas City. "Now that we've won the first three of this series, it almost puts more emphasis on winning all four," Harvey said. "Why let them up for air?"

Rick Reed (3-7), who came off the 15-day disabled list to make his first start since May 31, was roughed up for nine hits and seven runs in 3 2-3 innings.

"He had good arm strength, his body was fine," said Minnesota manager Ron Gardenhire. "But he had no location. Everything was up."

In this last time through the five-man rotation, the Twins starters have had an ERA of 12.54.

"We're hitting the ball plenty hard enough to win games, but right now we're not able to stop these guys," Gardenhire said.

"They're swinging really good. But we're making them exciting, and that's all I ask."

The Royals' Mike Sweeney was removed in the third inning with stiffness in the upper back.

"It's something I've been battling through for three or four days and

it's gotten worse and worse," said Sweeney, who spent the rest of the game getting alternating heat and ice on the back. "Hopefully, the treatment I got tonight will make me ready to go tomorrow."

Chris George (8-4) went five innings and gave up five runs on 10 hits, walking one and striking out one. He left with the Royals up 7-4 after giving up a leadoff triple to A.J. Pierzynski in the sixth.

Mike MacDougal pitched the ninth for his 15th save in 19 opportunities.

Harvey, who had four hits and five RBIs the night before, singled and doubled his first two trips to the plate, giving him five hits and five RBIs in five at-bats.

After third baseman Corey Koskie's fielding error allowed Raul Ibanez to score from third in the second inning, Kansas City scored four in the third on Beltran's RBI single, Harvey's RBI double and a two-run single by Michael Tucker.

Reed, who'd been out with a sore back, got his glove on a hard line

drive off Harvey's bad in the second.

"My fastball, I didn't have a clue," he said. "My back's fine but now my thumb hurts. It's a little bruised."

Randa extended his team record to 74 consecutive errorless games at third base and made a diving stop of Doug Mientkiewicz's hard grounder in the fifth, throwing from his knees to second for a force.

Notes:

... Twins RHP Mike Fetters saw Dr. Lewis Yocum in California on Wednesday about his sore elbow. Yocum withheld an opinion until Fetters can fly back to Minnesota to have another MRI with the same machine that was used for his first one.

... Royals SS Angel Berroa was hit by a pitch in the fifth for the 11th time this year, tying Toronto's Josh Phelps for the AL lead.

... Twins manager Ron Gardenhire was chosen as a coach for the American League in the All-Star game.

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Touchy situation for college

AMES, Iowa (AP) — Iowa State is grappling with a touchy question of whether to play a football game on Friday night.

The university has said it would never play a home game on Friday night so as not to interfere with high school games. But discussions are under way to move Iowa State's game at Northern Illinois to Friday, Sept. 26, so it could be televised by ESPN.

The game currently is scheduled for Sept. 27. Van De Velde said he can understand why Northern Illinois would be eager about playing on Friday night because it does not get many TV games. He also said it would mean additional money for Iowa State, about \$350,000 to \$400,000. Van De Velde already has talked to Bernie Saggau, executive director of the Iowa High School

Athletic Association.

The IHSAA's Board of Control opposes Friday night college games and Saggau said the board's chairman, Robert Tesar of Cedar Rapids, has told him its position hasn't changed.

Saggau said he also wants to talk to the football coaches and athletic directors associations before getting back to Van De Velde.

Van De Velde said Iowa State joined other Big 12 schools in saying they would not play on Friday night. Van De Velde said he suggested playing the game on Thursday night, but neither ESPN or ESPN2 had an opening then.

Iowa State did agree to a change in its Nov. 1 game at Missouri. That game now will be played Nov. 29, the Saturday after Thanksgiving, and will be televised by ABC.

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