

# Gentlemen...start your engines!

## New race season begins at the Thomas County Speedway

By SHERRY BARRETT

Free Press Contributor

The first race of the 2004 season at Thomas County Speedway was Sunday, May 9. This was the first chance for racers, as well as fans, to see the facelift that the track received shortly after the close of the 2003 season.

With the expertise of the Thomas County Road Department, the renovation project took scarcely a week or so to complete. Aside from resolving some infield drainage issues, no major reconfigurations were involved. The process included filling in the cupped areas, in the banking mid-track on both of the turns. This phenomenon was becoming more of a problem every year. Racers would have limited options for a racing line around these turns. The ultra fast 33-degree banking is still in place.

The banking is now more of a smooth straight-angled-line from top to bottom. As expected, Sunday these changes provided multiple grooves for the race cars to negotiate the corners. Thanks to all county people on a job well done! Thanks also to the Commissioners for your help as well.

Always the case with any dirt track, and dirt road, as well as every living thing in the area, we could sure use some good substantial sub-

soil moisture! Soon please!

Speaking of moisture, some very dark clouds were visible about ten miles to the south of the track. The races were run in "Hurry up mode" most of the night because of the rain threat. However, just a few dusty dirty sprinkles fell almost simultaneously, with the drop of the checkered flag, in the final race.

In the Cruiser division, the #00 team of Jake Haines and Dwight Allenbaugh won both the only heat and the Cash Dash. It appeared #00 would pull off a sweep of the class, as they lead most of the feature. However, a late race mistake by #00 allowed the #61 team of Darin Honeyman and Jim Dirks of Oakley, the break they needed to charge to the lead and win the feature.

The Bomber Division heat race winners were, #17 Shannon Maughlin, #69 Matt Giesenhausen, and #25 Jeremy Blackwill. The Cash Dash was won by #4S David Schemm. Probably the most competitive race of the night was the Bomber division feature. Lots of door to door, and nose to tail racing concluded with the Blackwell brothers from Quinter placing first and second. The #25x of Jordan Blackwill placed first with brother #25 Jeremy second. Seventeen cars made the show for this division.

Thirteen Super Stocks produced two heats with #41 Ronnie Hill and #86 Justin Beakley winning respectively. Hill came back in both the Cash Dash and the Feature, to out power the competition, for a Sweep of the Division.

The two heat race winners in the Modified division were #23x Jeff Hartwell and #3 Brady Coen. Coen also won the Cash Dash. The feature races in all divisions are normally started with regard to points averages. This being the first race of the season, with no averages yet established, a second draw was held to determine starting position, for each division Feature. From the fifteen modifieds that made the show, #21 Darren DeLoach drew the outside pole position. He took the lead early in the race, and never looked back. Darren won the race nearly half a lap ahead of the nearest competitor #37 Jeff Tubbs who finished second. #3 Brady Coen and #34H Doug Holzmeister finished third and fourth respectively to round out the top four.

Thomas County Speedways next races will be May 21 with hot laps beginning at 6:15 and races at 7 p.m. Future race dates will also include:

June 6  
June 20 (Late Models added to show),  
July 11



SHERRY BARRETT/Colby Free Press

Super stocks run side by side during a heat race on the reworked track surface at the Thomas County Speedway on Sunday, May 9. Top of the photo is car #14U, Johnny Orhman, Colby, driving for the Jay Nichols team as Jay could not make this race. Bottom car is #89, Justin Beakley of Lamar, Colo.

July 25

Fair race dates: Aug. 6 (Modified Shootout Qualifying, ASCS 360 Sprint Cars, and Cruisers) Aug. 7 (Modified Shootout \$6500.00 to win), Super Stocks and Bombers.

Sept. 5 ASCS 360 Sprint Cars added to show.

This will be my last race report as I am stepping down from my voluntary post as track reporter. It has

been fun to help provide reports to the e-mail contacts of the many national, state, and local newspapers both racing and non-racing, the websites, radio stations etc.

I plan to continue to take photos of the cars on the track. This service is to provide the racers with photos for their sponsors and to keep a record of what their cars looked like from year to year. I will place the

photos at the check-in (for the racers) in exchange for a free will donation to cover expenses of film, batteries, and developing. This has worked well in the past couple of years. I would like to say thanks to all of the great folks who have supported me in this challenge, with their kind words of encouragement. It's amazing what a simple 'thank you' occasionally can do!

## SportsLine

### Softball notice

The Colby Recreation Department is in need of more men's softball teams or individuals interested in playing men's softball this season. Please contact Ryan Sturdy, recreation director, at 462-4440.

### Camp reminder

Basketball camp for grades 3-8 will be held at Colby High School from June 1-4 from 9-11:30 a.m. The cost is \$45. Contact Derek Bissitt at the high school at 460-5300/ext. 3200, or 462-8083 for more information. The deadline is May 20.

### Colby Schools

• **Today** — NWKL boys golf tourney at Colby Country Club, 3 p.m.; Colby varsity invitational tennis tourney, matches at Fike Park and Colby College courts, 3 p.m.; NWKL track meet at Oakley, 3 p.m., running prelims at 4:30, running finals at 5:30.

• **Monday** — Regional boys golf at Hugoton, 8:15 a.m.; regional boys tennis at Pratt, 8:45 a.m.; regional baseball, to be announced; regional softball, to be announced.

### Colby College

• **Today-Saturday** — Baseball vs. Neosho County, there, regional playoffs.

### Golf tourney

The 14th annual Citizens Foun-

## 4A baseball and softball regionals set

#### Boys Baseball Regional

Monday, May 17:  
• Colby, bye  
• 2 p.m., Larned (14-6) vs. Anthony-Harper-Chaparral (4-16)  
• 4:30 p.m., Hugoton (12-6) vs. Pratt (5-13)

• 7 p.m., Scott City (7-9) vs. Ulysses (8-11).

#### Girls Softball Regional

Monday, May 17  
• Hugoton, bye  
• #4 Colby (10-8) hosts #5 Larned (7-13) at 4 p.m. at the Colby Rec Complex.  
• #2 Ulysses (12-6) hosts #7 Scott City (3-13) at 4 p.m.  
• #3 Pratt (10-6) hosts #6 Goodland (4-14) at 3 p.m.

ation Benefit Golf Tourney is scheduled for June 18 at the Colby Country Club. Tee off at 9 a.m. Questions to Tama Unger at 460-1214.

### MAYB updates

Today is the registration deadline for 4th through 12th grade boys and girls basketball tournaments on June 4-6 in the following locations: Hays, Garden City, Arkansas City, Riley County and Leavenworth. Five-game guarantee.

Call (316) 284-0354 or (785) 628-0338 for additional information. You can also e-mail mayb@mayb.com.

May 28 is registration deadline for 4th through 12th boys and girls basketball tournaments on June 18-20 at Goodland, Chanute and Topeka. Five games guaranteed. And  
And June 4 is the deadline for register for tournaments on June 25-27 at Olathe. (Information or registration same numbers as above.)

*SportsLine contact is td@nwkanas.com to get your item placed in this column. Deadline is 10 am.*

#### CRUISERS

##### HEAT 1

#00 Jake Haines/Dwight Allenbaugh

#61 Darin Honeyman/Jim Dirks

#9 Mike Giesenhausen/Casey Shaw

#8 Kurt Stones/Justin Tatum

#16 Brett Glassman/Travis Glassman (DNF)  
#29A Dustin Vrbas/Ron Vrbas (DNS)

##### CASH DASH

#00 Haines/Allenbaugh

##### FEATURE

#61 Honeyman/Dirks

#00 Haines/Allenbaugh

#9 Giesenhausen/Shaw

#16 Glassmen/Glassman

#29A Vrbas/Vrbas

#8 Stones/Tatum

##### BOMBERS

##### HEAT 1

#17 Shannon Maughlin

#25x Jordan Blackwill

#45 Billy Turner

#11x Ron Haremza (DNF)

#3m Brent Moss (DNF)

#34 Brett Dible (DNF)

##### HEAT 2

#69 Matt Giesenhausen

#3rt Travis Branum

#38 Allen Kurth

#21 Allen Sneathen

#0 Jr. Smith

#13J Jason McIntyre

##### HEAT 3

#25 Jeremy Blackwill

#4s David Schemm

#19 Kieth Stegman

#Y9 Billy Phillips

#13n Greg Nieman

##### CASH DASH

#4s Schemm

##### FEATURE

#25x Blackwill (Jordan)

#25 Blackwill (Jeremy)

#17 Maughlin

#4s Schemm

#3rt Branum

#3m Moss

#y9 Phillips

#69 Giesenhausen

#34 Brett Dible

#21 Sneathen

#19 Steigman

#13J McIntyre

#45 Turner

#0 Jr. Smith (DNF)

#13n Nieman (DNF)

#38 Kurth (DNF)

#11x Haremza (DNS)

##### SUPER STOCKS

##### HEAT 1

#86 Justin Beakley

#9 Randy Tipton

#3 Travis Towns

#14u Johnny Orhman

#15 Brad Wagoner

#55 Wheat Lippelman

#51x Rocky Baalman

##### HEAT 2

#41 Ronnie Hill

#27 Todd Schwarz

#713 Rod Benken

#01 Mike Meyer

#55n Scott Waterman

#77 Jason Stevens (DNF)

##### CASH DASH

#41 Hill

##### FEATURE

#41 Hill

#3 Towns

#27 Schwarz

#86 Beakley

#713 Benken

#14u Orhman

#15 Wagoner

#9 Tipton

#01 Meyer

#55 Lippelman

#55w Waterman

#77 Stevens (DNF)

#51x Baalman (DNF)

##### MODIFIEDS

##### HEAT 1

#23x Jeff Hartwell

#34H Doug Holzmeister

#00 J. D. Gresham

#38 K. B. Murphy

#15 Travis Eggelston

#79 Brian Kleine

#23 Dr. A. J. Warta (DNS)

##### HEAT 2

#3 Brady Coen

#44 Kevin Hoeme

#21 Darren DeLoach

#37 Jeff Tubbs

#2d Dwayne Dechant

#7 Kevin Wark

#9 Monty Nordyke

#### CASH DASH

#3 Coen

#### FEATURE

#21 DeLoach

#37 Tubbs

#3 Coen

#34H Holzmeister

#2d Dechant

#23x Hartwell

#44 Hoeme

#9 Nordyke

#15 Eggelston

#00 Gresham

#7 Wark

#79 Kleine

#38 Murphy (DNF)

#23 Warta (DNS)

**Fax your sports items to:**  
**(785) 462-7749**  
**or call:**  
**462-3963**



We need your help....  
So we can help you!

FACT: Over their careers, college graduates will earn significantly more than non-graduates.

Even so, it can be tough earning a degree while coping with job, family, and other obligations.

This is why three state universities and six community colleges are working together to bring additional degree offerings to Western Kansas. **We need to know what you want, how you need it, and where you want it.** Please take five minutes to fill out a short online survey.

Go to <http://www.emporia.edu/lifelong>, or <http://www.fhsu.edu/virtualcollege>, or <http://www.dce.ksu.edu/accessus>

No access to a computer? Just call 877-332-4249. Tell us you want to take the AccessUs survey. We'll walk you through it.

The survey will be up until May 21st, 2004.

We need your input. Go online or call us today.

## STRIKE ZONE League Bowling Results

#### May 5- Ladies Nite Out League

Team	Won	Lost	Pins
Sunflower Bank	40	24	75120
Strike Outs	39	25	76055
Horlacher Jewelry	38	26	74473
Colby Bowl	36	28	74747
Who-No's	35	29	75062
Straight Line	30	34	73961
Lobo Liquor	29	35	74614
Brooks Inc.	26.5	37.5	73872
Premier Auto	26	38	74163
Clear Choice	20.5	43.5	74196

First high individual game: Linda Liester, 217

First high individual series: Rhonda White, 525

#### May 5 - Powderpuff League

Team	Won	Lost	Pins
Western Sprinklers	36	24	73664
Weiser Insurance	33	27	72926
Camouflage Lawn Care	30	30	73178
Nightmares	30	30	68265
Service Oil	28	32	73165

First high individual game: Monica Miller, 201

First high individual series: Dee Hovda, 552



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Store Manager

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