Colby High graduate to lasso rodeo interest during college

By John Van Nostrand

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Some Colby High athletes swung the bat. Others spiked the ball. Reagan Coulter saddled up.

Coulter, 18, who just graduated from Colby High, will continue his interest in rodeo at Colby Community College on its rodeo team this fall. Since he was 6, Coulter has

been trying to lasso his rope around a steer's head in team

roping. "When started high school rodeo, I knew I wanted to do this in college," he said. Since his



freshman year of high school, Coulter has participated in the National High School Rodeo. The National High School Rodeo Association helps youth get involved in rodeo. It has over 10,000 members and 1,250 sanctioned rodeos in 39 states, five Canadian provinces and

In team roping, Coulter and another person race against the clock to lasso a steer around the head and back legs.

He watched his father, Kirk, team rope during his childhood and was hooked by the challenge of riding a horse and throwing a lasso at the steer all at the same time. He uses his father's horses.

"When he was 2 or 3 years old he carried his rope everywhere he went. I thought he might do this,"

Reagan said he started competitive team roping when he was 10. He challenged experienced adults

"I never went up against somebody my age until high school," he

Colby High does not have a rodeo team. Coulter only represented Colby. The high school rodeo season typically has 32 rodeos during the school year on weekends. Two rodeos are held each weekend.

"This is all individual," Coulter said. "The school does not help but we do have to turn in our grades."

Coulter pays for his own transportation to rodeos, which can be as far as Mound City, south of Kansas City. He also has to pay his entry fees, usually \$50. He can win at least that amount back in prize money during rodeos.

State High School Activities Association, participants are allowed to

In April, Coulter was named to the Wrangler High School All-Star Rodeo Team by the National High School Rodeo Association. Reagan was selected based on his leadership qualities, academics and athletic achievements.

Coulter had multiple team rope seconds.



spot for his partner to lasso the steer's legs. Coulter, who had particated in the National High School Rodeo Association will take his skills to Colby Community College's rodeo team this fall.

Colby's Reagan Coulter, right,

tried to get the steer in the right

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Two riders, two ropes, one steer

people, one called a header and barrier. the other a heeler.

The header, ropes the head of the cattle. The other cowboy, heels or legs.

Coulter prefers to be the header cult but has done the heeler. He likes trying to rope the head as quickly

The barrier is a breakaway rope pulled across the roping chutes. It is designed to give the steer or calf known as the heeler, ropes the a head start out into the arena making the competition more diffi-

Once the catch is made the header the challenge of being the dallies and turns the steer left. This header. The header is the first out opens up the way for the heeler to rope the legs. The clock is stopped

Team roping involves two as possible without breaking the when there is no slack in both ropes and the horses face each other. If the barrier is broken a 10 second penalty is added to the time. Also, if the heeler manages to catch only one leg, then a fivesecond penalty is added.

In addition to these penalties there are only three legal catches that the header can make. These head; the neck.

partners during high school. His Hatcher of Syracuse. His freshman he said. year he worked with Clay Phillips A good steer is one that runs a of Rexford. His sophomore and junlittle slow with its head up. ior years he worked with Tyrell

Reynolds of Tribune. He met his Coulter won at the state finals rolast year in Springfield, Ill., with

Reynolds. Their time was :35.7. Reynolds has been in rodeo at Colby College the past year.

partners at other rodeos.

"Recruiting for college rodeo is

Since high school rodeo is not a to recruit as rodeos are popular dents could not tell he was in rodeo sanctioned sport by the Kansas events. During the colder months, wearing a T-shirt, jeans and tennis rodeos are held at indoor arenas.

Russell looks for specific things in team ropers.

"Of course the times are important. If your steer runs harder you deo at Colby High. Lindsey Wilson, will have a slower time. Then you have to consider how you work with your partner, the horses and the steer," Russell said.

Coulter's best time has been 4.8

"You only get one chance," he senior year, he worked with Cory said. "I hate wasting a good steer,"

Although rodeo skills are important, Russell said he also looks for what's inside the person too.

"I look for good kids and good deo and finished 11th at nationals students," he said. "Reagan had roped a lot with assistant coach Chris Sherman. I knew quite a bit about him before his senior year. Reagan is an awesome kid."

Coulter said he was not treated like any other sport. It is very com- any differently at school because of petitive," said Colby Community his rodeo interest while surrounded College rodeo coach Allen Russell. by the football, basketball and other Summer is the best time of year sports players. He said other stushoes.

> "Nobody wears their cowboy hat until they rope," he said.

Reagan is not the only one in roa junior, competes in barrel racing, poles and breakaway. Quinnlyn Woofter, another junior, competes in cutting, barrels and poles.

The college's rodeo season begins Sept. 14 and lasts through June 2008. Rodeos are not held every week. Colby will compete against other two-year schools and major universities like Fort Hays State and Oklahoma State. Russell said two former Colby college rodeo participants eventually competed at the National Finals Rodeo in Las Ve-

The competition is going to be tougher at college, but he's up to it,"

After his college education, Reagan said he still wants to rodeo.

"I want to see where this takes me," he said.

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Colby II K-18 team starts with wins

The Colby II K-18 baseball team defeated Oakley in a doubleheader Thursday. Colby won game one 16-6. Colby

quickly got a lead in the first inning by scoring nine runs off of two hits and seven walks. Oakley managed to score three runs in the second inning, but Colby

maintained its lead in the third inning by scoring four runs.

The game was called in the fifth inning because of the 10-run rule after Colby led 16-6.

for Colby giving up five hits and striking out five.

Colby scored four runs in the fourth inning to win game two 7-6. The second game of the doubleheader was five innings.

Andrew Ketchum Rasmussen each had a double. Snyder had two singles for Colby. Aaron Luckert and Quagliano each had a hit. Quagliano had three RBIs

Jordan Rasmussen and Nathan in each game. Rasmussen earned Quagliano each had a single for the victory for Colby pitching three Colby. Dalton Snyder got the win innings. He struck out six and gave up four hits over three innings. Braden Sager pitched the last two innings for the save.

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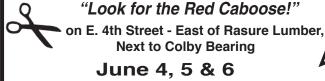
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