



Riding into the sunset



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
Rodeo princess contestants Brittany Plummer (front) of Winona and Kortney Bredemeier (back) of Thomas County warmed up before the horsemanship competition at the Thomas County Fairgrounds on Saturday.

Seventh-inning home run gives Colby a big victory

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Cade Carter picked a perfect time to break out of his self-described slump Saturday. He slammed a walk-off solo home run over the center field fence in the bottom of the seventh inning to give the Colby American Legion baseball team a 4-3 victory over Dodge City on Saturday at the Colby Recreation Complex. The team went on to sweep Dodge, winning the second half of the doubleheader 11-3 in a game that ended in the bottom of the sixth due to the eight-run limit. If a team is winning by eight or more runs after five innings, and the opposing team has already batted, then it's declared the winner. Corey Sager started for Colby in game one. He pitched a solid game, giving up three runs in seven innings. Sager had only one rough patch during the game. In the top of second, he managed to get the first two batters out before Dodge City ticked off three runs with a combination of singles, doubles and walks. Luckily for Colby, he was able to put the rocky inning behind him and pitched well for the duration of the game. "I was working my inside fastball, along with some curveballs," said Sager. "My defense helped me out a lot." The team's offense was quiet for the majority of the game, and Dodge City led 3-0 for 4 1/2 innings. But the boys were finally able to pick up some runs in the

bottom the fifth. Colby's first run came when Sager walked with the bases loaded allowing Stephen Dinkel to trot home from third. Kevin Lang hit a ground ball with the bases loaded that Dodge City's shortstop fielded deep in the hole, leaving him without enough time to throw anyone out. That cut the lead to 3-2. Then Brent Arnberger followed Lang, drawing a walk that drove in a run and tied the game at 3. Dodge City took an early 1-0 lead in game two after scoring a run in the top of the first. They tacked on two more runs in the top of the third to increase their lead to 3-0. Colby had a huge inning in the bottom of the third to take command, scoring five runs and taking a two-point lead. Carter got thing rolling for Colby in the inning. He drew a walk and than went on to steal second and third. Sager drove in Carter with a line-drive single between shortstop and third to make it 3-1. Lang followed with a fly ball that sailed over the center fielder's head, putting runners on second and third with no outs. Graduate Brent Arnberger ripped a single between the third baseman and shortstop, scoring Sager and cutting Dodge City's lead to 3-2. Preston Krzycki poked a line drive over the right fielder's head, scoring Lang and tying the game at 3. Later in the inning, with Colby now leading 4-3, Brandon Rasmussen drove in Krzycki with a line-drive single down the left-field line to make it 5-3. Moments

later, Chaz Winger hit a ground ball to Dodge City's shortstop, who made an bad throw that got past the third baseman, allowing two Colby runners to score and increased the team's lead to 7-3. Colby's offense got revved up again in the bottom of the fifth. Winger slapped a single between short and third. Later, Sager slammed a ground-rule double to left, driving in Winger and extending Colby's lead to 8-3. The team went on to score two more runs before the inning came to an end. As the starting pitcher Krzycki looked sharp, pitching three scoreless innings after giving up the 3 runs earlier in the contest. The game came to an end in the bottom of the seventh when Krzycki drew a walk with the bases loaded, allowing Carter to score from third to give Colby an 11-3 win. With the victories, the team increased its winning streak to four straight games. "We are trying to get some momentum going heading into state," said junior Brandon Rasmussen. "Everyone is getting out of their slumps and seeing the ball well." After the team went 1-5 in a tournament at Hays about a week ago, Coach Jeff Krzycki said he wanted his boys to win their last eight league games so they can have some momentum going into the zone tournament next Monday in Ellis. They're now halfway to that goal. The team will play in a doubleheader at 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Wednesday at McCook.

Barton County will be star pitcher's new home

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Colby High School graduate Levi Schlick, a star of this year's Eagles' baseball team, has decided to play for Barton County Community College in Great Bend next year. Schlick said he liked the the coach and the players he had met while visiting the school, which plays in the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference. "I'm excited about starting the season," said Schlick. "I'm trying to maintain my game."

He said he will be working hard in the weight room this summer and fall so he can be ready for the season. Schlick is primarily a pitcher, and also plays third base. He is the son of Larry and Mary Schlick of Colby. Schlick was named the Class 4A Player of the Year this season, as he played a large role in helping the Colby High team go 24-2 and finish second in the state tournament. Colby coach Kevin Cox said he didn't think Schlick would have much trouble making the transition from high school to college ball. "He already has natural baseball ability," said Cox. "Good athletes make the transition quickly." Cox said Schlick's biggest

strength was his ability to listen to instructions and quickly apply those lessons on the field. "He has a keen awareness of the game," said Cox. Schlick said he would love to play in the minor leagues or for a strong Division 1 college team someday. Cox said getting stronger and increasing his velocity are two things Schlick should work on while preparing for playing at the college level, "He should stay within his discipline, listen to his coaches and be willing to put in the work," he added. Barton County went 28-22 last season.

Colby native named to all-star team

Colby native Matt Augustine has been selected as an All-Star in the Hawaii Collegiate Baseball League. Augustine has pitched in six games this summer for the Oahu Paddlers, starting three of them. He has

a 2-2 record with a 3.09 earned run average and 17 strikeouts in 23.1 innings of work. He will be playing his senior season for the Fort Hays Tigers next spring.

Late double leads to Rockies victory

DENVER (AP) — Brad Hawpe prepared for his first All-Star game by sending the Colorado Rockies into the break on a positive note. Hawpe hit a game-ending RBI double to give the Rockies an 8-7 victory over the Atlanta Braves on Sunday and a split of the four-game series. Seth Smith set up Hawpe's clutch hit with a one-out single off Luis Valdez, who was making his major league debut. After Garrett Atkins flied out, Hawpe lined an 86-mph changeup into the gap in right-center to score Smith from first. Hawpe, Smith and Troy Tulowitzki homered for Colorado, and Huston Street (3-1) worked a perfect ninth for the win. Brooks Conrad hit a two-run homer and finished with three hits for Atlanta, which led 7-3 after six innings. "Nice to be able to have a game like I did, but bitter losing the game," Conrad said. "These are the hardest ones to take." Colorado pushed across three runs in the seventh and tied it in the eighth. Dexter Fowler scored on left

fielder Garret Anderson's error before Smith's two-run homer cut it to 7-6. Pinch-hitter Ryan Spilborghs doubled in the tying run. "What really hurt us was walking Fowler with one out in the seventh with a four-run lead," Braves manager Bobby Cox said. "That led to everything. We had played a great game until then, and it got away from us." Jason Hammel gave up five runs and nine hits over three innings for Colorado. It was his shortest outing since he went three innings against San Diego on April 27. Chipper Jones hit a sacrifice fly and Conrad had an RBI triple in Atlanta's three-run first. Martin Prado gave the Braves a 4-0 lead with a run-scoring single in the second. The Rockies chipped away at Atlanta's lead. Hawpe hit his 14th homer in the second, Atkins singled in a run in the third and Tulowitzki's leadoff homer in the fourth cut it to 5-3. "To come back and win a ballgame like that, it was a fun game for us," Hawpe said.

Royals offense goes stagnant in loss

BOSTON (AP) — Josh Beckett kept firing strikes. Kansas City hitters kept missing them. "Not a lot we could do with him," Royals manager Trey Hillman said. Welcome to the club. The Red Sox ace pitched his

second shutout in five starts, picked up his 100th career victory and held Kansas City to three hits as Boston went into the All-Star break with a 6-0 win Sunday. Beckett needed just 94 pitches to do it. "It's pretty memorable" Beck-

ett said of his 100th win, "and the way I did it is cool." Beckett (11-3) retired the first nine batters, five on strikeouts. It was his second shutout and complete game of the season following his 3-0 win over Atlanta on June 20.

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