



Bashed, but not broken



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press  
A driver maneuvered his smashed up vehicle in the mud during the demolition derby on Wednesday at the Thomas County Fairgrounds Arena. Fans were treated to colliding cars and bumper to bumper action throughout the night.

Triathlon champ defends his title

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Ryan Baalman defended his 2008 championship by winning the second annual Iron Athlete Triathlon with a time of 2:38.24. The triathlon, put on by the Colby Recreation Department, is a three-event competition that begins with an 800 meter swim at the city pool, followed by a 26 mile bike ride for men and a 24 mile ride for women and ending with a 4.7 mile run. It began as a race for Thomas County graduates only, but it has transformed into a regional event. Donald Boucher of Osborne finished second in the race with 2:43.42 and Tom Pardee placed third with 2:43.42. Triathlon competitors Breck Arnberger and Tyson Miller both received scholarship money for competing in the race. The money is donated by the Colby Police Department and given to recent Thomas County graduates, said recreation director Stacy Lee. The department donated \$2,000 of scholarship money this year. This is the same amount they donated at last year's event.

Arnberger received \$1,000 and Miller got \$700. The amount of money they received was determined by who finished the race first. The reason only \$1,700 of the \$2,000 was given away was because only two senior graduates participated in this year's race, said Lee. If three graduates had competed in the race, the person who finished last out of the three would receive the remaining \$300 in scholarship money. The other participants in this year's race were Jayci Stone of Goodland, Noah Pardee, Nancy Arendt, Dustin Reed, Dawn Stephens, Reed Stephens and Rocky Baalman. All the participants finished the race and were given t-shirts for their efforts. "The race went so well this year," said Lee. "We had perfect weather, a very competitive group of athletes, and a great group of volunteers. This isn't an easy race. You have to train hard and have a great attitude to not quit." The recreation department's next race will be the Rec. Run 5K at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 13th.

Local to try out for baseball squad

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Eric Blanton recently decided to try out for the Colby Community College baseball team as a walk-on next spring. He batted 358 and drove in 26 runs during his senior year at Colby High School. This summer

he led the Colby American Legion team in home runs with six. He also had 40 runs batted in, 25 singles, nine double and two triples this summer. Blanton said the he would continue to work on his conditioning to make sure he is in good shape come tryout time. He had to work extra hard to get back into shape during his high school season af-

ter breaking his neck last fall in a motorcycle accident. Assistant coach Rick Williams said Blanton has a lot of potential that hasn't been unlocked yet. "If he goes about it with the right state of mind he has a good chance at making the team," he said. "He's a good athlete, he has power and I'm glad he is trying out."

Williams also said that Blanton had worked really hard on his game this summer. Blanton said the Trojan's baseball coaches had told him to walk-on this spring. His former teammates Stephen Dinkel and Cade Carter have both agreed to play for the Trojans next season and Brent Arnberger will also be trying out as a walk-on.

Wildcats will try to recapture magic

IRVING, Texas (AP) — The six-win mark means more than bowl eligibility for Kansas State quarterback Carson Coffman. It means matching the number of victories his father, tight end Paul Coffman, had in three years with the Wildcats in the 1970s. "We'll definitely surpass that total," said Coffman, also the younger brother of former stand-out Missouri tight end Chase Coffman. "In one year, yes." Coffman's declaration during Big 12 media days Wednesday would have qualified as a bold

statement 30 years ago. Bill Snyder has changed the expectations in Manhattan, Kan., which is why the father of Kansas State football has returned from a three-year coaching hiatus to replace his replacement, Ron Prince. The Wildcats have reached six wins just once in the past five years after 11 straight seasons that were at least that good, and usually much better. Now Kansas State will try to recapture the Snyder magic with a quarterback who grew up idolizing the coach.

"I never thought I'd have this opportunity," Coffman said. "When he was named head coach, it was pretty intimidating because of what he's done and his credentials. I'm really excited to learn from him." Since quarterback wasn't the problem during Prince's three years, Coffman watched while Josh Freeman played his way into the first round of this year's NFL draft.

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