County driver wins new series race

By Eric Gaede

Thomas County Speedway

Will Brack dominated both nights of racing in the Modified class, getting the wins both Friday and Saturday night at the Thomas County Fairgrounds.

Winners in the other divisions were Jason Martin in the URSS 305 Sprint Car Series Race, Nick Tubbs in the Stocks, Travis Glassman in the Hobbys and Jason Gray in the Econos.

The Sprint race was new to the speedway this year. Jason Martin picked up the win, holding off hard-charging Taylor Velasquez. Velasquez made it to second place on a green/white/checkered finish, but did not have enough time to get past Martin. Ty Williams finished third and Jon Johnson fourth. Jeff Radcliffe finished fifth and Goodland's Chuck Lutters was sixth. There were 19 Sprint cars.

There was a two race format for this year's Summer Shootout

Will Brack took home the hardware in the Modified class, outrunning perennial front runner David Murray Jr and Scott Drake, with Dave Hardesty finishing fourth and Alan Sharpensteen fifth on Friday.

The second race of the shootout was more of the same, with Brack dominating the race. He led every lap and pulled away with each restart to win by a comfortable margin. Hardesty held off Drake, who had to settle for third both nights. Darrin Deloach

was fourth and Ronnie Wallace came in fifth. There were 36 modifieds on hand.

Tubbs had to start in the fifth row, but was able to use the high line to get the victory in the Stock Car class. Dustin Daniels took the lead from Jason Rogers in the early going and held on for several laps. After a restart, Tubbs was able to close the gap and get past Daniels using the high groove. Third-place finisher Corey Struckhoff almost got past Daniels, but he was able to hold him off at the finish. Rogers had to settle for fourth and Rod Bencken finished fifth. There were 23 Stocks on hand.

Travis Glassman took home the trophy in the Hobby Stock class, holding off Chad Fields and B.J. Dauer at the finish. It was later discovered that Fields had an illegal carburetor, and he was disqualified. This allowed Dauer to move to second and Matthew Crowell to finish third. Brett Glassman was fourth and G.W. Fuller finished out the top five. There were 17 cars in the class.

Jason Gray got his first win in the biggest race of the year. Gray held off Tyrel Smith and Chad Normandin for the Econo class trophy. John Luckert was fourth and Adrienne West finished fifth. Emanuel Young was sixth and Krista Pummer came in seventh. Fourteen cars started the main.

The last race of the season starts at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 6 at the Thomas County Fairgrounds. See you at the races.

Eagles State qualifiers return for junior years

Colby Free Press aheintz@nwkansas.com

Colby High School cross coun-

try coach Bob Mannebach's cross country teams have enjoyed success for over a decade. His girls have won the North-

west Kansas League Meet in 13 of the last 14 years and the boys has won it seven out of the last nine. The girls placed first in last nebach said. year's league meet and the boy's team finished second. This year's teams have the potential to be just as good, he says.

On the girls side, the Kaus sisters, Katherine and Katrina, will be returning for their junior year.

23rd and 35th out of 104 runners to the all-league team last year.

Mannebach said he thought the freshman," said Mannebach. sisters could do even better this

"They are more experienced,"

He attributed the girls running ability to their athleticism and a

great work ethic. "They want to succeed," Man-

Juniors Amy Schroeder and Sara Martin will also be returning to the team. Both made the allleague team last year. Senior Rhett Martin joins what Mannabach said people call his the fab five.

Both qualified for the state tourna- Schroeder will be returning for his Sugar Hills Golf Course. ment last season and were named Inal season and sopnomore Jared to the Northwest Kansas League Nally will enter his second year

All-League team. They finished with the team. Both were named

Seniors Nathan Reed and Kalen Rasmussen will also be returning to the team.

"We have a good nucleus of kids coming back," said Mannebach.

The teams will have their first practice at 7 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 17, at Dennen Field.

Invitational at 5 p.m. (Central On the boy's team, senior Bob Time) on Thursday, Sept. 3 at the

Denver Broncos wide receiver returns after breakout season

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) during red zone drills Wednesday, Denver Broncos wide receiver Eddie Royal bolted past one defender and used a nifty move to he was in the clear in the end zone where quarterback Kyle Orton hit him with a 10-yard dart for the touchdown.

That type of scene has become a familiar one during the Broncos training camp, where the secondyear wideout is being groomed as an offensive centerpiece after a breakout rookie campaign a year

"He sticks out every day," said coach Josh McDaniels. "Eddie is a very talented player, a lot of ability, very smart, versatile. We move him all over the field. He's very unselfish; wants to do what's best for the team. He's accepted his role and he's doing a great job with it so far.'

The 5-foot-10, 180-pound Royal provided a vivid demonstration of his capabilities last season. He set team rookie records for receptions (91), yards receiving (980) and touchdown receptions (five) while becoming the first player since the 1970 NFL merger to post his team's longest run (71 yards), reception (93 yards), kickoff return (95 yards), and punt return (36 yards) in the same season. Royal finished with four games in which he had nine or more receptions, including a club rookie record 11 catches in a season-ending loss to at that every day. Coach is putting the San Diego Chargers.

For his part, Royal is less impressed by those numbers than the opportunity to build on them, by improving his play as an individual and contributing to any overall improvement as an offense.

- With just a little room to run trying to get better every day," said Royal, who broke into the league as a second-round pick out of Virginia Tech. "It's not about individual stats at all. It's about slip by another. An instant later, winning. We want to win and we want to get to the playoffs."

> The Broncos haven't done that for three consecutive seasons. The drought fueled a tumultuous offseason that saw the firing of twotime Super Bowl winning coach Mike Shanahan and the trading away of Pro Bowl quarterback Jay Cutler after he clashed with Mc-Daniels, the former New England offensive coordinator brought in to replace Shanahan.

> While the new Broncos coach hasn't been shy about making personnel changes on both sides of the ball, Royal is one holdover that McDaniels has wholeheartedly embraced.

> McDaniels has cited Royal's impact as a return man on top of his eagerness to learn the new offensive system that the coach brought with him from New England and his determination to build chemistry with Orton and backup Chris Simms. Both quarterbacks are in their first season in Denver.

> "Learning the new terminology, learning where to line up, the different motions, it's tough, but at the same time, it's fun and it's challenging," Royal said. "You've got to come out here and challenge yourself, not only physically but mentally. We're working challenges in front of us and we're trying to meet them together."

Royal said his working relationship with Orton and Simms is getting better by the day.

"They're both really good quarterbacks," Royal said. "They're

"Jared had a great year for a

The coach said Schroeder is a little better at pacing himself, while Nally tends to start fast and tire more towards the end of a

They will run in the Goodland

"I'm just coming out here and accurate. They're getting better with their reads and they're getting the ball to us quickly, so I'm excited about it."

Simms had a birds-eye view of Royal's catch during red zone team drills and said the play encapsulated the receiver's ability to get open anywhere on the field.

"His talent — you guys have seen it - speaks for itself," Simms said.

While noting that Royal was one of the smartest receivers he's ever been around and a distinct talent in his own right, McDaniels said he could see a day where Royal could be likened to Wes Welker, whose 111 catches for New England last season were the second most in the league.

Raising the bar



Senior running back Ethan Stickel got ready to do some squats Wednesday evening in the Colby High weight room during the football team's "max out" week. The team invited fans to come down and watch the players work out and try to boost their "max" efforts.

Rockies shut out by Phillies

PHILADELPHIA (AP) -When J.A. Happ's 127th pitch of the night caught Troy Tulowitzki for a called strike three, he did more than make another sellout crowd roar in appreciation of a Phillies shutout.

He made manager Charlie Manuel's decision about what to do with Philadelphia's crowded rotation even tougher.

Happ stated his case to keep his outs in his second shutout of the seven runs in only five innings to opposite-field, three-run shot in ies on wednesday night.

"I don't think one start should affect the situation," Happ said.

No, but 14 of them and Happ's top-10 ranking in the National League in ERA is a strong argument. He four-hit the Rockies and was throwing in the low 90s in the ninth inning.

Manuel never wavered in letting the rookie left-hander go the distance.

"He earned the right to go out there," Manuel said. "That's how

I look at it." But has he earned the right to

keep his spot? His competition was pitching

65 miles away in a rehab start for Double-A Reading — three-time Cy Young Award winner Pedro Martinez. The 37-year-old righthander struck out 11 in six innings against the New York Yankees' Trenton affiliate.

If Phillies officials are convinced Martinez can start in the major leagues, he likely would send Happ (8-2) to the bullpen.

Manuel says it's still too early to talk about what the rotation will look like once Martinez joins the

Phillies.

"Let me answer that later on," he said. "I don't feel like getting

Happ or Martinez. Martinez or Happ. It almost doesn't matter who is pitching for the NL East leaders when they're swinging the bat like they did against Jorge De La Rosa

Jimmy Rollins, Jayson Werth and Pedro Feliz all homered for spot with a career-high 10 strike- Philadelphia. De La Rosa allowed season, leading the Phillies to a end his personal seven-game win-7-0 win over the Colorado Rock- ning streak, tying the longest active streak in the NL. He lost for a 7-for-7 stretch that set the franchise record for most consecutive starts with a win.

De La Rosa also took a one-hopper off his left arm in the fourth inning. He needed a visit with the trainer and a few warmup tosses before he resumed pitching.

By then, the Phillies were already ahead 4-0 and Happ was on his way to a shutout that lowered

his ERA to 2.74.

"I felt like I was capable of doing it," Happ said. "You never know if it's going to happen."

Ryan Howard singled in a run in the first and the Phillies added three more in the second. Feliz hit a solo homer to left, his seventh, and Rollins extended his hitting streak to 11 games with a two-run shot, continuing his torrid stretch since ending an 0-for-28 drought.

Werth, an NL All-Star, hit an the fifth for his 23rd homer.

Happ, who earned his first shutout June 27 at Toronto, got the first time since June 16, ending a standing ovation as he let the mound after the eighth. He heard his loudest cheers of the night when he doubled to deep center in the bottom half.

> "There comes a point in time when it's necessary to tip your hat to the other side," Rockies manager Jim Tracy said.

> "Happ pitched one of the best games we've seen all year."



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