



Football season is here



Colby High School freshman football player Justin Burleigh tinkered with his brand new helmet during equipment check-out Monday in the high school weight room.

Colby girls softball squad rebounds from slow start

By Andy Heintz
Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansas.com

The Colby Sweet Thunder, a girls 14-and-under fast-pitch softball team, finished its season with a 12-7 record.

The team had 12 players, Jenessa Williams, Kenzie Curry, Megan Bear, Karly Kriss, Bailey Terrell, Madison Rogers, Katie Elias, Macey Giesenhagen, Kaitlyn Flanigan, twin sisters Haley and Morgan Mengel and Mallory Kern. The girls were coached by Shawn Curry and Scott Williams, and Donnie Williams was the team representative.

The girls started their season by going 1-4 at the Hays Invitational Tournament. Curry said most of the teams they played against had placed at state the previous season.

"We were not ready for that level of play yet," he added.

The team rebounded from its

early losses by winning four straight on the way to taking the Darrel E. Powers Invitational in Hill City.

The girls followed their first-place finish by going 2-2 in the annual Father's Day tournament in Russell.

"We played an up and down tournament on rain-soaked fields," said Curry.

The team's last event was a state qualifying tournament in Hill City.

The girls were able to tick off five straight victories before falling to their rivals, the Goodland Slammers in the championship game.

"We played well on defense, but we couldn't string enough hits together to win," said Curry.

Curry said he was happy with the improvements his girls made throughout the season, especially in hitting.

"We worked hard on hitting faster pitchers, and we got pretty

good at it by the end of the year," he said. "At seasons end, we could play with anyone."

Curry said the team got great pitching from Curry, Haley Mengel and Terrell. He said the Sweet Thunder's defensive stars were Williams, Bear, Rogers, Kriss, Elias and Kenzie Curry and the team's best hitters were Kenzie Curry, Kriss, Flanagin, Terrell and Williams.

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Star college receiver will speak at camp

By Andy Heintz
Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansas.com

Curtis Fagan, a former star wide receiver for the Oklahoma Sooners, will be speaking at the Docs on Call football camp at 9 a.m. Thursday at the middle school practice field behind the old hospital.

The camp, from 9 a.m. to noon through Saturday, is run by Dr. Gary Slavens of Docs on Call, father of eighth grader Dylan Slavens.

Fagan is a three-time All-Big 12 honorable mention. He redshirted in 1998 and played for the Sooners from 1999 to 2003. He started four games his freshman year and went on to be a regular starter for his last three seasons.

He finished his career seventh all time in receiving yards at Oklahoma. Fagan was on and off the Tampa Bay Buccaneers football roster in 2005. He played in the Arena Football League for the

New York Dragons and the Arizona Rattlers.

Fagan said Slavens had asked him to help with the camp. He said he knew Slavens through work.

Fagan said he would stress work ethic to the young athletes.

"You have to work every day," he said. "I will encourage the kids to push themselves. If you want something bad enough, you will find a way to get it."

He talked about how everything is based on cause and effect. He said this can pertain to things like how you eat and who you choose to hang out with.

Asked about work ethic, Fagan said his dad would work with him on drills when he was younger. He said he was always playing football or basketball or skateboarding on the streets with other children, not sitting at home and playing PlayStation.

Asked how he juggled his education and athletic responsibilities during high school and college he credited the university of Okla-

homa and Coach Bob Stoops with helping him realize that you have to get things done no matter what obstacles are in your way.

Fagan said it's important for college football players who hope to play for the pro teams get a degree so they will have something to fall back on if their professional careers do not work out.

"The majority of guys who play professional football are not set for the rest of their lives," said Fagan. "The average football career only lasts for 2 1/2 years."

He said inner confidence is important when playing football, but he said it must be earned by learning your abilities and what you are capable of doing on the football field.

Fagan said he is working for a pharmaceutical company, adding that he always wanted to be involved in the medical field.

The free camp is being sponsored by Docs on Call. Athletes should show up in T-shirts and shorts.

Rockies play sloppy game, lose 7-3 to Pittsburgh Pirates

DENVER (AP) — The Colorado Rockies hoped to build on their successful series against the Chicago Cubs. Instead, the NL Wild Card leaders came out flat against the struggling Pittsburgh Pirates.

Ross Ohlendorf pitched solidly into the seventh inning. Andrew McCutchen stole three bases and scored three runs and the Pirates beat Colorado 7-3 on Tuesday night to end an eight-game losing streak.

The Rockies took three of four games from the Cubs, including consecutive 11-5 victories to end the series, but they couldn't build on that momentum against the Pirates. They walked nine batters and committed three errors in one of their sloppiest games of the season.

"For whatever reason there was no energy out there today, and if we're going to make the playoffs we better wake up and start playing again," second baseman Clint Barnes said.

Troy Tulowitzki, who had five hits, seven RBIs and hit for the cycle Monday night, gave the team a jolt when he homered in his first at-bat Tuesday, and Carlos Gonzalez also homered for the Rockies.

Todd Helton tripled and singled to extend his hitting streak to 16 games.

Other than that, Ohlendorf (10-8) kept them at bay. The big right-hander gave up three runs on six hits, walked two and struck out three in six-plus innings.

"This was the best my fastball has been all year," he said. "I had good velocity and was still able to locate it well."

Jhoulys Chacin, making the first major league

start, struggled with his command. Chacin (0-1) gave up one hit but allowed five runs and walked six in 2 2-3 innings.

"He was hyped up a little too much, he wanted to impress," Rockies manager Jim Tracy said. "That's completely understandable."

Chacin's control issues and sloppy fielding by Colorado allowed the Pirates to take the early lead. In the second inning, Ryan Doumit doubled, moved to third on a groundout and scored on a wild pitch that rolled only a few feet from home plate.

After Tulowitzki's 22nd homer tied it 1-all in the bottom of the second, the Pirates pulled away in the third. McCutchen and Garrett Jones walked, and McCutchen scored on catcher Chris Iannetta's throwing error on a double steal. After Steve Pearce walked to put runners on the corners, Josh Fogg relieved Chacin and gave up a two-run triple to Delwyn Young.

"We took advantage of some things with our aggressiveness," Pirates manager John Russell said. "We've battled really hard only to lose some games late."

Young scored on Ronny Cedeno's single to center to make it 5-1.

In the sixth, McCutchen led off with a walk, stole second and scored on Lastings Milledge's double to right to make it 6-1.

McCutchen's three steals were a career high, and the Pirates stole a season-high five bases.

"I had more opportunities to run tonight," he said. "You have that chance when you are on base a lot. I was on base and got good jumps."

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