

*Give him a lift*



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Heather Hempler from Hays, a former cheerleader at Colby Community College, helped Sacred Heart preschooler Ashton Vaughn on the pommel horse at the Tumbleweed Tumblers “Peace, Love and Gymnastics” program Saturday at the Community Building. Students between 3 and 15 participated in the show.

# Baseball team loses by 10

The Eagles' baseball team ended its season with a 15-5 loss to Pratt in the regional finals Friday at Scott City.

The Colby High team went toe-to-toe with the Greenbacks for the first three innings, but Pratt pulled away in the fourth.

The Greenbacks scored seven runs to go up 13-5. They scored one run each in the fifth and sixth and picked up a 15-5 victory. The game ended in the sixth because of the 10-run rule. If a team leads by 10 or more runs and the opposing team has already batted, the game is called.

Sophomore starting pitcher Braden Sager took the loss. Coach Rick Williams said the team hurt their cause in the fourth with errors that Pratt took advantage of. The inning started with two Colby errors, he said.

“We couldn’t make the defensive plays we needed and they capitalized on them,” said senior shortstop and pitcher Preston Krzycki.

Senior infielder and pitcher Brandon Rasmussen hit a home run and senior outfielder Chaz Winger had a couple of hits. With the loss, the team ended its season with an 11-11 record.

Krzycki was named to the Class 4A first team and Rasmussen made the second team.

Friday was the last high school game for Krzycki, Rasmussen, first basemen Garrett Rogers and Ethan Stickel. Returning to the Eagles next year will be junior outfielder Sam Kendrick, sophomore second baseman Jordan Rasmussen, Sager, sophomore catcher Caleb Carter and freshman outfielder Todd Kane.

The team should get a boost with players from this season's junior varsity which finished with a 11-3 record – the most wins of any junior varsity baseball team in Colby High history.

Coach Williams said one of the strengths of this year's team was the boys' competitiveness.

"They had a lot of fight in them," he said.

Williams said another strength of this season's squad was the top of the batting order, especially the first five. He said not too many state-qualified teams have a better starting lineup, adding that Winger, Krzycki and Brandon Rasmussen – Colby's one, three and four hitters – all batted over 400 this season.

# Colby girls take second; nine Eagles head for state

The Colby Lady Eagles track and field team took second out of 16 teams with 82 points at the 1,600-meter run with 5 minutes, 23.4 seconds and the 800 meters with 2:21.3.

- Class 4A regional meet in Abilene on Friday.
- Six Colby High girls qualified for the state meet in Wichita: sophomores Emilea Finley, Paige Roopchan and Morgan Bell, freshman Alexa Haas and juniors Kayla Hockersmith and Katrina Kaus.
- The boys team came in 14th out of 16 with 19 points. Three boys won a trip to state: freshman Beau Brown and juniors Andrew Flanagan and Logan Middleton. The top four in an event qualify.
- For the girls:
- Finley took first in the
  - The 4-by-400 relay team, Finley, Hockersmith, Bell and Haas, snared first in 4:08.2.
  - Haas took second in the 200 meters with 27:02 and the 400 with 1:00.5.
  - Bell came in second in the high jump with 5' 2".
- Haas snared third in the 100 with 12:88. Hockersmith took third in the long jump with a leap of 15 feet, 7.5 inches and sophomore Paige Roopchan came in fourth with 14' 11.5".
- Finley placed fourth in the triple jump, leaping 32' 8", and Kaus

finished fourth in the 1,600 with 5:23.4. Kaus came in fifth in the 3,200 with 12:38.3 and Hockersmith finished sixth in the 400 with 1:03.4.

For the boys, Brown took third in the 100 meters with 12.88 and Middleton finished third in the javelin with a throw of 156' 3". Flanagan placed fourth in the 100-meter hurdles with 16.95.

The 4-by-800 relay team of seniors Torey Taylor and Kalen Rasmussen and juniors Christian Wilson and Kale Arnberger took fifth with 8:36.

The state meet will start Friday at Cessna Stadium on the Wichita State University campus.

# Golden Plains High athletes honored for accomplishments

Golden Plains High School athletes were recognized along with other extra-curricular groups for their accomplishments this year at the annual awards banquet.

First to be recognized was the volleyball team. Coach Orba Smith said the girls had improved their level of play from the previous year and ended with a 12-17 record. She said she was proud of how the girls ended the season at regionals, playing as a team and hopes they will start at that point in the fall.

She thanked seniors Jenna Bruggeman and Jessica Luna for their leadership and recognized Bruggeman for her all-league and all-star honors, along with returning junior Melissa Ritter, who was named to the first team in the Western Kansas Liberty League.

Coaches Travis Smith and Travis Betz recapped the football season. This year's team finished 7-3, as the only football team in Golden Plains' history to be undefeated in the league and district and to make back-to-back bidistrict play-off appearances.

The team opened the season with two tough opponents, including the eventual Division I state champion Quinter Bulldogs. Golden Plains played Quinter as close as anyone else throughout the season. The boys didn't do so well at Hill City, the coaches said, but the game gave them focus for the remainder of the season.

Quarterback Rilee Spresser broke his leg during practice, which changed the style of play.

Spreser led a power team. Tate Preston as quarterback had to rely on the all-league offensive line. The coaches recapped the multiple all-league, all-state, all-area and all-star honors received by the outstanding seniors.

With eight years as co-coaches, three consecutive winning seasons, two consecutive play-off appearances and 24 boys ready for next season, they said they look forward to continued strength and success in the football program.

Athletic Director Travis Smith recognized the boys' basketball team for their efforts this past season. With a lot of young men participating, they were able to gain experience by playing in a C-team tournament and several C-team games, along with the junior varsity and varsity contests. He recognized Dylan Moss for his all-league and all-star honors, along with Jordan Spresser, who made first-team all-league.

Parker Christensen discussed the efforts of the girls' basketball team this past season. They finished with nine players and increased their wins by seven from the last two years, winning the first round of both league and regional tournaments. The girls have started on the road to improvement, he said, but will lose four senior girls who have played all four years.

The coach recognized Jacy Moss for her all-league honors and expressed appreciation to managers Morgan Walz and Jordan Christensen. Christensen thanked assistant coach Steve Shaw for his

help, saying, "He doesn't say a lot, but when he does, they listen."

He concluded by mentioning how much it helped when the boys scrimmaged with the girls and how it really helped them to get better.

Sheri Jacobs recognized the cheerleaders for all their efforts throughout the season, including Jenna Bruggeman attaining All-American status at camp the previous summer.

Coach Travis Betz discussed this year's track season. Although 35 athletes attended the information meeting, he said, they were down to 22 for the league meet. He thanked Travis Smith for his hard work and positive influence on the athletes. Betz also thanked Brandy Gilbert and Katrina Griggs for their assistance as managers and all the volunteers that helped with league and regional meets.

The coach said that they've had an up-and-down season, performing well at some meets while at others, they didn't step up to the challenge. He added that the Logan meet was the best performance, with several competitors achieving their personal bests.

He said the regional meet this week will be tough, with several returning state champions, but thought the team will have several competitors with the potential to qualify for this year's 100th state meet, where several former state champions and Olympians will be on hand to present awards.



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