

Motorcycle races come to Colby Saturday

By Kayla Cornett
*Colby Free Press
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Start times have changed for the Kansas Fair Flat Track Series “Battle of the Plains” motorcycle racing event in Colby on Saturday at the Thomas County Fairgrounds.

“When you start, it’s kind of a moving target,” said Paul Covert of Crooked Creek Promotions, explaining the time changes.

Gates will open at 2 p.m., he said, practice laps will begin at 3, races will start at 5 and the main event will begin at 7 p.m.

Admission for everyone 11 and older is \$10, children 6 to 10 are \$5 and children 5 and under are free.

Flat-track, a type of dirt-bike racing, has a long history in northwest Kansas, Covert said.

Motorcycle racers have been coming out here since the early 1900s.

He said the races in Stockton have been going on since 1909, with breaks during World War II and the Depression.

“We’re keeping alive the reminiscence of what used to be a whole summer-long happening,” Covert said.

The flat-track series will run four races in five days, he said. The first will be Friday in Norton, followed by the Colby races on Saturday. The series will finish Monday and Tuesday in Stockton.

The races will have classes for professional riders and for local riders and youth racers.

Covert said he will be offering reduced entry fees for youth racers 16 and under.

If kids have a trail bike or any kind of bike, he said, they can come out and race in front of the crowd.

The classes for the races are: in the Modern Classes, 50 cc (cubic-centimeter engine); 65 cc; 85 cc; 0-250 cc; 250-450 cc AM

(amateur); Vet 30+ AM (riders 30 and up); Open AM; Mad Dawg Jr; Mad Dawg 18+; Open Quad (four-wheelers); Open Knobby; 450 PRO (professional); Open PRO; and 50+ Open PRO.

In the Vintage Classes, the categories are Vintage 250; Vintage 250-400; Vintage Open AM; Vintage 50+ AM; Vintage 60+ AM; Sportman Single (limit of 500 cc); Sportsman Twin (limit of 750 cc); Vintage 600 PRO; Vintage Open Twins (no limit); Vintage 50+ PRO; and Open Brakeless.

“We have a lot of age classes because there are gonna be racers there ages 4 to 74,” Covert said.

He mentioned that the local riders are usually motocross-type riders, and this type of racing has been put into one class, the Open Knobby, which is a type of motorcycle that is used for motocross or supercross racing.

This year’s event will feature top grand national riders, he said, including John Kocinski, Davey

Durrelle and Shayna Texter. He said Kocinski, Los Angeles, is a three-time world champion, making a rare appearance out here.

“He’s heard how great the Kansas races are,” said Covert, “and he wants to come out and be part of it.”

He said Kocinski has 13 victories in the Grand Prix and 14 in the World Superbike races.

Durrelle, of Colorado, owns Durrelle Racing and sells racing products through the company.

On his website, www.durrellracing.com, he says he started working on bikes while he was still racing.

“Within a few years, I had a lot of work to do and less time to go racing,” he said.

Texter, of Pennsylvania, became the first woman to win a Grand National event in 2011 and won the American Motorcycle Association’s Most Outstanding Performance Award that same year.

She won several main events

last year and in 2010, and has won many awards since she began racing in 2003.

Information about these racers and others expected at the event is in the program that will be given out on Saturday.

Last year, Covert said, 700 or 800 people attended the races here and the racers raved about how fast and fun the track was.

He said the pro racers will be competing for a purse of almost

\$7,000.

Mark Ostmeyer of Ride-n-Slide Racing said all of the money raised at this event goes for putting together another event the following year.

He said it costs about \$15,000 to put the races on.

For entry and race information, go to www.crookedcreekspeedway.com or contact Covert at (501) 804-3656 or at rowdyracer@comcast.net.

Royals whip White Sox 5-2

By Andrew Seligman
AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO – The Kansas City Royals wanted Bruce Chen to show more aggression. He finally did.

Chen outpitched Jake Peavy for his first win in six weeks, Billy Butler hit his career-high 22nd homer and the Royals beat the Chicago White Sox 5-2 on Tuesday night.

The White Sox had won 10 of 13, but saw their lead over Detroit in the AL Central shrink to a half game when the Tigers beat the New York Yankees 6-5 earlier in the night.

Gordon Beckham hit his first career leadoff homer for Chicago, and the White Sox scored again in the sixth after Kansas City tied it in the top half.

But RBI singles by Tony Abreu and Alex Gordon off Peavy (9-8) in the seventh gave Kansas City a 3-2 lead.

Butler added to it in the eighth with a two-run drive off Nate Jones after Mike Moustakas walked, and the Royals hung on from there,

giving Chen (8-9) his first win since June 26.

The left-hander gave up two runs and seven hits in 6 2-3 innings and finally came out on top after going 0-3 in his previous seven starts. It was a big improvement over his previous outing, when he got knocked out in the third against Cleveland after being staked to a six-run lead.

He and manager Ned Yost had a long talk about being aggressive following that game, which the Royals eventually won. The message? Go after the hitters, establish the fastball.

It was different against the White Sox.

Even when Beckham connected an 87 mph pitch in the first, Yost didn’t blink because the home run came on a fastball. Chen was following the plan.

“Obviously, I’m trying to establish my fastball,” he said. “I’m trying to keep the ball down, but also pitching in and cutting the ball in on the righties was a big plus for me.”

The way Peavy was pitching, the Royals needed that. And the bullpen did its job with

Kelvin Herrera pitching 1 1-3 innings and Greg Holland retiring the side in the ninth for his second save in four chances.

Peavy also gave up seven hits in 6 2-3 innings, but was a tough-luck loser after beating Minnesota in his previous two starts. He found his control after walking the game’s first two batters, issuing just one the rest of the way, but he couldn’t protect the lead after the White Sox went up 2-1.

The Royals had runners on first and third with one out in the seventh after Jeff Francoeur reached on a bunt down the third-base line and Eric Hosmer singled. Abreu then tied it with a single to left, and although Hosmer got thrown out at third by Dayan Viciedo, the Royals weren’t finished.

Jarrod Dyson just beat out a single to second after Beckham made a diving stop on his grounder, and Gordon then chased Peavy with a single to center that made it 3-2, putting Kansas City up for good.

Now, the Royals are 4-3 in August after dropping 19 of 26 in July.

Course holds golf night

For ladies’ night July 31 at Meadow Lake Golf Course, the women played a two-lady scramble golf game. No results were available.

The next ladies’ night was set for Tuesday with the game to be determined. Tee off was at 6 p.m. and cost \$2 per person with a \$10 green fee for nonmembers.

Last Wednesday, 49 men played a three-man scramble for men’s night. The results: for the first flight, Adam, Turner and Ladenburger, first; Arensdorf, Arensdorf and Kersenbrock, second; and Krey, Rodriguez and Heskett, third.

The next men’s night will be tonight with three-man scramble, worst drive as the game. Tee off will be at 6 p.m. and cost is \$5 per person with a \$10 green fee for nonmembers.

There were no results available for couple’s night on Friday.

The next couple’s night will be Friday and the game is to be determined. Tee-off is at 6 p.m. and cost is \$5 per person with a \$10 green fee per couple for nonmembers.

For information or to register for any activities, call Meadow Lake at 460-6443.

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