

College track coach sets American record

Coach James Ortiz, men's cross country and track coach at Colby Community College, ran March 28 and 29 at the Alex Francis Classic held by Fort Hays State University.

It was the first time Ortiz had run the 1,500 meters since losing his lower right leg in a bicycle accident over six years ago.

The coach ran the event in 4:37.86 to set a "T44" record for disabled athletes. T44 is a classification for athletes who are single below-the-knee amputees or have lower-limb deficiencies.

Ortiz's time was faster than the listed T44 1,500-meter World Record of 4:39.69 by Andrew Lester set in 2001. However, the time by Ortiz is not official because the meet was not certified by the International Paralympic Committee. It did meet the requirements to earn Ortiz the American record, however.

"I am hoping to set an official world record attempt at the Kansas Relays April 17 to 20 in Lawrence, which is an IPC certified event," the coach said.

Ortiz specialized in the 1,500 meters at Texas State University and holds the school record of 3:48.35 there.

Coach Ortiz is in his fourth season as head coach at Colby. His indoor track and field team finished 10th at the 2013 National Junior College Athletic Association Championships, with five All-American performances. The finish was the best in the Division I history of the school.

The 2012 cross country team finished fourth at the junior college championships in November. Ortiz was named as the Region VI Coach of the Year.

The coach graduated from Texas State-San Marcos with a Bachelor of Science in interdisciplinary studies in 2007. He earned USA Track and Field Level I coaching certification in 2008.

He recently earned a master's degree in sports administration from East Central University in Ada, Okla.



James Ortiz

Equestrian riders compete in semifinals

Colby Community College sophomore equestrian team members Heather Darling and Brittany Normand rode March 23 and 24 at the Intercollegiate Horse Show Association Western Semifinals at the New York State Fairgrounds in Syracuse.

To qualify, Darling and Normand had to win their events in the regional show, Darling, Abilene, in reining and Normand, Fort Scott, in novice horsemanship.

The semifinals featured top riders from 10 regions, said coach Shanda Mattix.

"At the conclusion of the event," she added, "Brittany was

awarded seventh place in horsemanship and Heather was awarded honorable mention in reining. It is quite an accomplishment for our riders to make it to a show of this caliber."

Colby was one of only two community colleges at the show along with 34 four-year universities.

The next competition for the team was the Hunt Seat Zone 8 Championships at the Colorado Horse Park in Parker on Saturday and Sunday.

Competing for Colby were Normand; Amanda Barnum, Colby; and Chelsea Brady, Parker.

The team will hold its annual Kick-Off Horse Show at 8:30 a.m.

Saturday, April 27, at the college farm three miles east of Colby and one mile north of U.S. 24. Cost is \$5 per class or \$40 for all day. High-point prizes will be awarded for each age group and concessions will be available.

The bill includes showmanship, western pleasure, horsemanship, English equitation, hunter under saddle, reining, ride a buck, barrels, pole bending and flag, exchange and pair sack races.

For information or to register, contact Mattix at 460-5464 or shanda.mattix@colbycc.edu. Details are available at www.colbyccag.com.

Catching the ball



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press

Brady Holzmeister prepared to catch the ball at second base Thursday during the Colby High varsity baseball game at the city ball fields.

Ex-football players prep for battle over concussions with league

By Maryclaire Dale

The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — With perhaps billions of dollars at stake, a hearing Tuesday over concussion litigation filed against the National Football League promises to be a brawl between legal

heavyweights.

About 4,200 former players have sued the league. Some suffer from dementia, depression, Alzheimer's disease and other neurological problems. Others simply want their health monitored.

And a small number, including Ray Easterling and 12-time Pro Bowler

Junior Seau, committed suicide after long downward spirals.

The players' lawyers accuse the NFL of promoting violence in the game and concealing known cognitive risks from concussions and other blows to the head. They hope to keep the litigation in federal court so they can use the discovery

process to access NFL files — and see what the league knew when.

"The NFL failed to live up to its responsibility: it negligently heightened players' exposure to repeated head trauma and fraudulently concealed the chronic brain injuries that resulted," the players' lawyers wrote in their latest brief, filed in

January.

The NFL, with \$9.2 billion in annual revenues, argues that the complaints belong in arbitration under terms of the collective bargaining agreement. The league insists it has always followed the best available science and made player safety a top priority.

Phillipsburg senior signs with Colby college

Ryan Hoover, a senior at Phillipsburg High School, has signed a letter of intent to play golf at Colby Community College next fall.

"Ryan is a strong, consistent player who will be an asset to our men's golf program," said Coach Miles Ladenburger. "He has been

a member of the Phillipsburg High School golf team for the past four years. We look forward to his contribution to our team."

Hoover plans to study pre-dentistry or alternative energy at the college, the coach said. He is the son of Mike and Lynne Hoover of Phillipsburg.



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LISTED BELOW ARE A FEW OF THE ITEMS DONATED:

Tracy & Relda Galli, Lyle & Nancy Saddler, Kenton & Sheila Krehbiel, and Leland & Roxy Wilson.....	NFR Package for Two (includes air, hotel, and tickets to 2 performances)	Jim's Electric, Inc.....	Cross Tour LED Light
Baalman's Funeral.....	Hot Diamonds Necklace	Logan County Imp.....	NAPA Wrench Set
Bankwest.....	Solid Oak Bench	Matt & Misty Mildenerberger.....	4 Piece Luggage Set
Bill and Janiece Dowell.....	Certificate 11/2" Diameter Tree	Mill & Seed.....	Gift Certificate
Campbell Concrete and Construction.....	Aspen Wine Holder	Mitten Inc.....	Steak Dinner for 2 at the Buckhorn Restaurant
Carousel Beauty Salon.....	1 Month Tanning	Northwest KS Physical Therapy.....	Alarm Clock
CCC Dental Hygiene.....	Electric Toothbrush- Bring to NICK	Oakley Vet Service.....	Gift Certificate for Rabies Vaccination, Heart Worm Test, and 6 months off Heart Worm Medication
CCC Trojan Backers.....	Flat Screen TV	Overtime Liquor.....	Liquor
CHS Inc. Colby Agronomy.....	120 Acres Sprayer Application	Peoples State Bank.....	1907 Colt Pistol
Colby Automotive, Inc.....	Model Cars	Personal Touch.....	Hair Care Basket
Colby Cross Fit.....	2 Gift Certificates for Personal Training	Pestinger Beverage Co.....	Mirror
Colby Free Press.....	Advertising	Plum Creek.....	Gift Certificate
Colby Glass & Sign Co.....	Mirror	Quality Inn.....	Free Night at the Hotel
Colby Police/Thomas C. Sheriff Office Impound Facility.....	BBQ Grill	Rocking M Radio.....	Country Stampede Tickets
Colby Rotary Club.....	Pool Pass to Colby Pool- Family & Individual	Sleep Inn of Colby.....	Free Night at the Hotel
Commercial Sign Co.....	Fishing Trip for 2 to Lake Texhoma (includes boat, guide, and stay at Texoma's Lakeside Motel)	Sport Shoppe.....	K-State Vest
Dillons.....	5 cubic foot Deep Freeze	Sport Shoppe.....	KU Windbreaker Jacket
Dr. Larry & Joyce Washburn.....	Rototiller	State Farm Insurance.....	18" Sterling Silver Necklace with a Polished Onyx Disc encased in a floral silver cage
Edward Jones.....	Flat Screen TV	Stephens Construction.....	Wayne Dalton-9600 Garage Door- 9'7", Brown in color, 2" Track, Insulated, Metal
Farm Credit of Western KS.....	1/4 oz American Eagle Gold	Stockton Pharmacy.....	Wall Hanging
Farmers & Merchants Bank/Farmers State Bank.....	K-State and Louisiana Tech	Swartz Veterinary Hospital.....	2 Free Annual Exam & Rabies Vaccinations
G & E Farms.....	1/2 oz Gold Coin	Tails-A-Waggin Pet Grooming.....	Gift Certificate
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Golden Harvest.....	8 Bags Golden Harvest Seed Corn H-8969 3122 RIB	Tubbs & Sons Ford.....	Miranda Lambert Concert Package
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