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 at Colby. His indoor track and field team finished 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 lowerlimb 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 certfied by the International

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, ministration from East Central University in Ada, 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 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

Paralympic Committee. It did meet the requirements USA Track and Field Level I coaching certification in 2008.

He recently earned a master's degree in sports ad-Okla.

Equestrian riders compete in semifinals

James Ortiz

sophomore equestrian team memat 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 horseman-

The semifinals featured top rid-Shanda Mattix.

"At the conclusion of the event," she added, "Brittany was Kick-Off Horse Show at 8:30 a.m.

Colby Community College awarded seventh place in horse- Saturday, April 27, at the college manship and Heather was awardbers Heather Darling and Brittany ed honorable mention in reining. one mile north of U.S. 24. Cost Normand rode March 23 and 24 It is quite an accomplishment for is \$5 per class or \$40 for all day. our riders to make it to a show of High-point prizes will be awarded this caliber.'

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

The next competition for the English equitation, hunter under team was the Hunt Seat Zone 8 Championships at the Colorado rels, pole bending and flag, ex-Horse Park in Parker on Saturday change and pair sack races. and Sunday.

Competing for Colby were Nor- contact Mattix at 460-5464 or ers from 10 regions, said coach mand; Amanda Barnum, Colby; and Chelsea Brady, Parker.

The team will hold its annual cag.com.

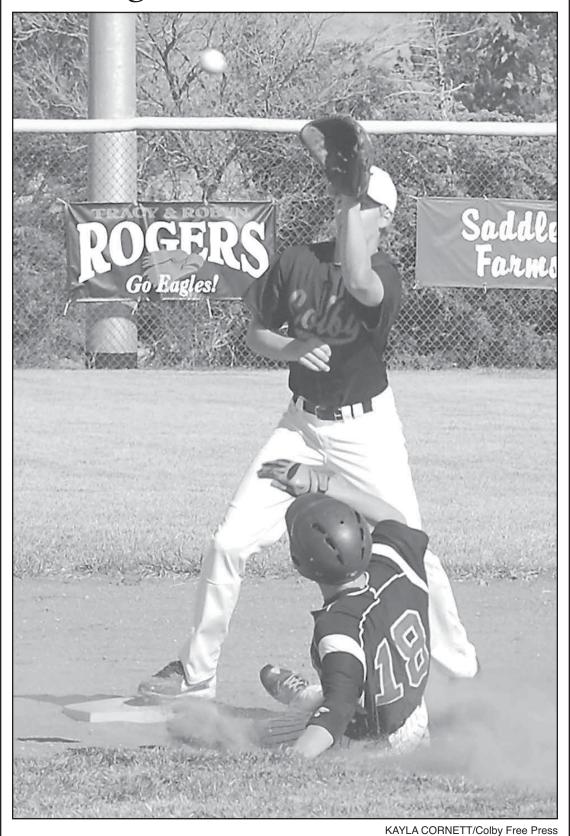
farm three miles east of Colby and for each age group and concessions will be available.

The bill includes showmanship, western pleasure, horsemanship, saddle, reining, ride a buck, bar-

For information or to register, shanda.mattix@colbycc.edu. Details are available at www.colbyc-

Catching the ball

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

Tuesday over concussion litigation filed want their health monitored

heavyweights.

About 4,200 former players have sued downward spirals. the league. Some suffer from dementia, PHILADELPHIA – With perhaps depression, Alzheimer's disease and other of promoting violence in the game and responsibility: it negligently heightened belong in arbitration under terms of the billions of dollars at stake, a hearing neurological problems. Others simply concealing known cognitive risks from players' exposure to repeated head trauma collective bargaining agreement. The

The players' lawyers accuse the NFL

Junior Seau, committed suicide after long process to access NFL files - and see January. what the league knew when.

"The NFL failed to live up to its revenues, argues that the complaints concussions and other blows to the head, and fraudulently concealed the chronic league insists it has always followed the promises to be a brawl between legal Easterling and 12-time Pro Bowler court so they can use the discovery lawyers wrote in their latest brief, filed in safety a top priority.

The NFL, with \$9.2 billion in annual

against the National Football League And a small number, including Ray They hope to keep the litigation in federal brain injuries that resulted," the players' best available science and made player

Hairitage .. Health Cottage.....

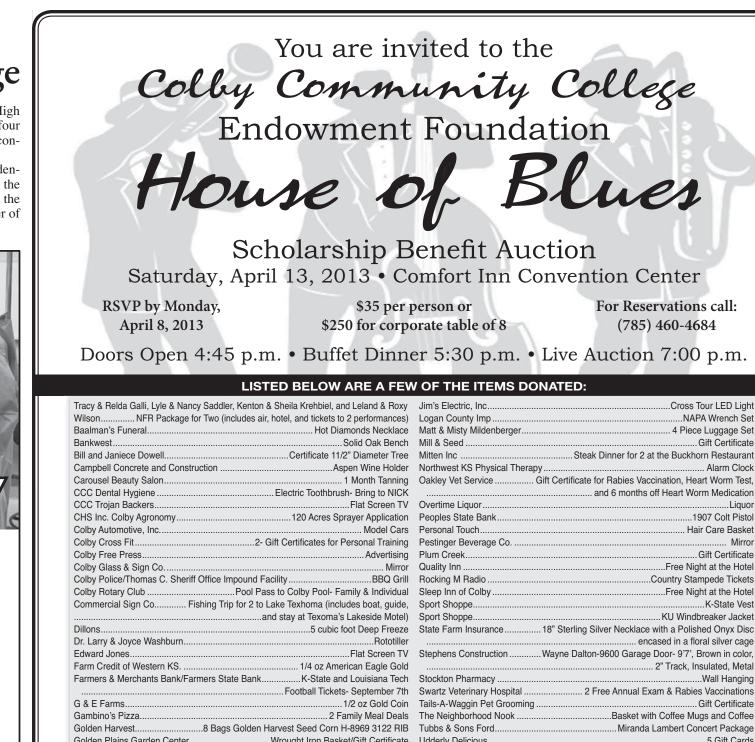
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Phillipsburg senior signs with Colby college

The Associated Press

Ryan Hoover, a senior at Phil- a member of the Phillipsburg High lipsburg High School, has signed School golf team for the past four a letter of intent to play golf at years. We look forward to his con-Colby Community College next tribution to our team."

player who will be an asset to our college, the coach said. He is the men's golf program," said Coach son of Mike and Lynne Hoover of Miles Ladenburger. "He has been Phillipsburg.

Hoover plans to study pre-den-"Ryan is a strong, consistent tistry or alternative energy at the



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