

I got it!



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press

Trek Keck caught a fly ball while Todd Kane backed him up Friday during the Colby High varsity baseball game at the city ball fields.

Kansas Barnstormers will be here Sunday

Tickets for the Kansas Barnstormers basketball game are only available until Friday, so get your tickets this week to see the team, featuring big-name seniors from the University of Kansas basketball team.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Thomas County is sponsoring the game at 5 p.m. Sunday at the Colby Community Building.

The Barnstormers will feature KU seniors Jeff Withey, Travis Releford, Kevin Young and Elijah Johnson playing against northwest Kansas Boys High School Senior All-Stars.

Tickets, \$10 per person, can be purchased at participating sponsors: Palace Drug Store, Farmers and Merchants Bank at Dillons, the Sports Shoppe, J&B Meat Market, People's State Bank in Colby and Farmers State Bank in Atwood.

Tickets will be sold until they are gone, and there is no guarantee they will be available at the door.

"On call" tickets can be purchased by mailing a check with your reserve "on call" name for each ticket, made out to Big Brothers Big Sisters, Box 52,

Colby, Kan., 67701. These tickets can then be picked up at the "on call" desk at the Community Building the day of the game. Checks must be received no later than Friday.

Doors will open about 4 p.m. and ticket holders can get autographs and purchase Kansas Barnstormers T-shirts from 4 to 4:45 p.m. downstairs in the Little Theater. Neither the team nor Big Brothers Big Sisters can guarantee an autograph, however.

Posed pictures with the players are not allowed during the autographed session, and the team asks that players not be approached for pictures or autographs after the game.

Big Brothers Big Sisters will be selling concession items. No food, drinks or alcohol may be brought into the building.

Sponsors for the event include KR DQ-KXXX Radio, the Colby Free Press, Leroy's Printing, J&R Marketing, the Colby Public Schools, the City of Colby and KTCC-FM and KGCR radio stations.

For information or questions, call Big Brothers Big Sisters at 460-9125 or Doug Finley at 462-3308.

Colby forensics team second at Hays meet

By Christina Beringer

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With 12 entries in the finals round, the Colby High School forensics team brought home second place and beat six other area schools in the Hays Invitational meet on April 6.

Ten of Colby's 14 students received enough points to qualify them for the final round and five placed first or second in their events, which entitles them to move on to the state Class 4A State Speech and Drama Championships on Saturday, May 4, at Washburn Rural High School near Topeka.

Colby dominated the Impromptu Speaking event, taking first- through fourth-place awards out of the top six given. A total of 16 students entered this event, where students draw a topic and are given five minutes to prepare a speech lasting no more than five minutes.

Sophomore Sterling Miller and junior Cameron McLaughlin will both move on to state after taking first and second place. Sophomore Aaron Faber got third and senior Gabby Browne was fourth. Although he did not place, sophomore Cheyne Weise received a "2" ranking in the first round.

Miller brought home a another first-place award in Extemporaneous Speaking. He beat out five other students, including sophomore Eric Schutte, who placed third in the event, which covers topics on foreign and domestic affairs.

The only Colby student entered in three events on Saturday, Miller

also performed in Original Oratorion with a speech called "Perception."

Though they had not worked together in Improvised Duet Acting, freshman twins Rachel and Andrea Browne were two of the five who qualified for state. Fifteen teams throughout the day were reduced to just six for the final round, and the Browne girls came out second.

After drawing a location, a situation and two characters, they were given 30 minutes to prepare a performance between four and seven minutes long. The final draw for the Browne girls was "a mugger and a publisher making a record in a barn."

Junior Ashley Coleman and teammate Desi Schippers, a freshman, joined the twins in the final round for Improvised Duet Acting, taking fifth place.

Schippers also presented a Serious Acting (or Dramatic) Solo on Saturday, called "Trapped by a Stroke" by Deborah Karz-waski. She competed against 15 other students that day, including McLaughlin, who qualified for the final round and came home with third place.

McLaughlin performed "2.5 Minute Ride" by Lisa Kronm about a relationship between a man whose parents were killed in a concentration camp in Auschwitz, and his daughter who is helping him settle his final affairs, including returning to Auschwitz where his parents died. In the third round, one of her judges commented, "The test of success is when you can't remember if the person is acting or if you are really that person. You pulled that

off beautifully."

G. Browne competed in the Original Interpretation of Poetry event with her mother, Joan Browne, watching. She competed against teammates senior Eric Lowe, junior Madison Tubbs and 15 other students in the poetry event.

G. Browne got first place for her piece, which included two poems: "Dive" and "For Eli" by Andrea Gibson.

Tubbs brought home a fifth-place award for her piece, "A Few Words About Breasts" by Nora Ephron. She competed against A. Browne and nine others in the Humorous Solo Acting event.

A. Browne performed "Slumber Party Wars" by Melanie Marks. Her twin was the only Colby student in the Oral Interpretation of Prose event with "Leslie's Journal."

Also competing from Colby were Weis and sophomore Brooke Wark, in the Informative Speech event. Weis was a last-minute entry, filling in for a student who was ill. Wark presented a speech called "The Fantastic Body."

Coming home second only to Quinter, Colby received second place with 255 points for the meet. Other teams included Quinter 303, Norton 250, Hodgeman County 160, Thomas Moore Prep 132, Great Bend 128, Ellis 70, Northern Valley 60 and Otis Bison 23.

Golden Plains forensics team finishes season at league meet

By Brianna Stoll

Golden Plains High School

On April 3, the Golden Plains forensics team traveled to Alma to compete in the Western Kansas Liberty League forensics meet.

The team this year had eight members: senior Cameron Spresser, junior Caitlin Spresser, sophomores Joseph Koerperich, Domico Luna and Rebecca Bange and freshmen Kami Miller and Kade and Koi Wessel.

"Forensics was really fun. I'm definitely going out next year," said Koi Wessel.

The team participated in four forensic meets throughout the season, in Norton, Colby, Oakley and league.

At the league meet, Bange participated in Poetry, Koerperich and Luna and Miller and Kade Wessel in Improvised Duet Acting and Koi Wessel in Extemporaneous Speaking. Koi qualified for the finals, finishing in fifth place. It was the last meet for Golden Plains this season.

Royals get past Blue Jays, avoid sweep

By Dave Skretta

AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The way the Toronto Blue Jays had been playing, manager John Gibbons was perfectly content with leaving Kansas City having won two out of three.

Just imagine how he'd have felt if they could have held on Sunday.

Alex Gordon drove home Chris Getz with a single in the ninth inning, and the Royals rallied from a pair of one-run deficits to beat the Blue Jays 3-2 and avoid a three-game sweep.

"I thought we played great all three games," said Gibbons, whose team limped into town after losing six of their first nine.

That's the bright spot, of course.

Besides losing the series ender, the Blue Jays also lost star shortstop Jose Reyes until the All-Star break after he severely sprained his left ankle while sliding into second Friday night.

Reyes remained with the team through the weekend, and watched the Blue Jays' Brandon Morrow and Royals starter Ervin Santana engage in quite a little pitcher's duel on Sunday.

The Royals finally broke through off Toronto reliever Darren Oliver (0-1) with one out in

the ninth. Gordon swatted the first pitch he saw from Oliver into the outfield, and Getz slid home easily ahead of the tag as Kansas City players spilled out of the home dugout.

Kelvin Herrera (1-0) pitched a perfect ninth inning for the Royals, while Alcides Escobar and Lorenzo Cain drove in the other runs that kept them in the game.

Edwin Encarnacion homered and drove in both runs for the Blue Jays, who had won six straight and eight of 10 against the Royals at Kauffman Stadium. That included a four-game sweep in their only series in Kansas City last season.

The Blue Jays struck in the first inning when Melky Cabrera and Jose Bautista delivered back-to-back base hits. Jarrod Dyson bobbled Bautista's routine single in center, and that sent Cabrera to third base. He scored moments later on Encarnacion's groundout.

Dyson atoned for his bobble with a leadoff triple in the third inning. After Gordon extended his hitting streak to 11 games with a check-swing single that went about 15 feet, Escobar hit a deep sacrifice fly to right field that knotted the game 1-all.

Encarnacion, who'd been 5 for

44 on the season, gave Toronto the lead back in the sixth. He sent the first pitch of the inning skimming over the wall in left field for a homer.

Kansas City matched him in the bottom half, though, when Billy Butler sent a blooper to right field, reached second on a two-out single by Eric Hosmer, and then managed to chug home on Cain's base hit to left field — the big DH looked as if he needed oxygen when he got back to the dugout.

The fact that the game was 2-all at that point was a testament to some nice defense.

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