

Banquet held for college team

The Colby Community College Equestrian Team held its annual awards banquet April 20 in the College Student Union.

The college hunt seat team and the western team were recognized as the regional high point teams for the 2012-13 year. The team is coached by Shanda Mattix.

National Academic Award First Team (for a 3.75-4.0 grade average) members are Amanda Reed, Ariel Severson, Elizabeth Leiker, Lori Beth James, Molly Jensen,

Rachel Keefe and Sara Schurz. Second team National Academic Award (for 3.5-3.75 average) recipients are Amanda Barnum and Heather Darling.

Team graduates include Chelsea Brady, Darling, Reed, Barnum, William Wright, Leiker, Brittany Normand and Tarrah Stuart.

Western regional qualifiers include Reed, Leiker, Darling, Normand, Brady, Wright and Jade Kruse.

Hunt seat regional qualifiers are

Brady, Reed and Barnum, Western semi-finals qualifiers are Darling and Normand; Hunt seat zone qualifiers are Brady and Barnum. Normand is the team high point rider western, and Reed is the team high point rider hunt seat.

Wright is the regional reserve high point rider western. Normand and Brady got the Hunt Seat Excellence in Equitation Award, sponsored and recognized by the United States Hunters and Jumpers Association.

Event at college farm on Saturday gives kids practice for horse shows

By Sam Dieter

Colby Free Press
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Colby Community College held a kickoff horse show for area youths Saturday at the college farm east of town.

The show was organized for kids 19 and under as a way to start the horse show season, which runs through the summer, equestrian coach Shanda Mattix said.

"The idea is to get rid of the jitters," she said.

Ten sophomore students in the college's horse program, many of whom are on the equestrian team and participate in some of the same events themselves, organized the show as part of their

sophomore project. They did everything from hiring judges to setting up the obstacles in the arena and running the concession stand, Mattix said.

About a dozen kids came for the show, with their parents and horse trailers parked nearby. This was the first show for some of them, including Amanda Jaeger, 6, who took second place in pole bending on her paint Arizona.

"I was like feeling nervous, like I wasn't going to win or something," she said, "but, then I felt like I was kind of going to win."

Amanda, the daughter of Ben and Christina Jaeger of Colby, said she worked hard practicing for her first show.

There were eight events: show-

manship, English pleasure, English equitation, western pleasure, western horsemanship, reining, pole bending, barrels and flags. At the end of the show, the kids had a sack race, exchange race and ride-a-buck.

In each event, the competition was divided by age. Anna Miller, 15, Scott City, was the division winner for ages 14 to 19, and Heather Thompson, 18, Solomon was the reserve.

Liz Bunch, 12, Colby was the 10-13 winner, and Jordan Ostmeyer was reserve. Madison Kline, Colby, was the 7-9 winner and Isabella Ostmeyer, Grinnell, was reserve. Kenzie Carter, Colby, took the 6-and-under category, and Ryler Carter took reserve.



Liz Bunch, of Colby, tried to guide her horse around the poles (left) Saturday at the college farm. A couple of knocked-over poles disqualified her, but she placed in the top of her age category. Jordan Ostmeyer, (below) waited in the lunch line on his horse.

SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press



Six boys and four girls from Golden Plains High place high at annual powerlifting meet in Claftin

By Judy Rogers

Golden Plains High School

Golden Plains High School kids attended the Kansas Eight Man Football Association's annual State Powerlifting meet in Claftin on April 18. This two-day event concluded on Saturday, but Golden Plains had to attend on Thursday because their prom was Saturday. Because of this, they were only allowed to take ten lifters: six boys and four girls.

The boys team finish in eighth place out of 35 schools. The four girls finished ninth out of 24 teams as all four girls placed in at least one event.

"Our students did very well this year," Activities Director and Coach Travis Smith said. "Mrs. Rush has done a good job with her weight classes. Students work hard each day to become bigger, faster, stronger athletes."

The girls included juniors Macayla Easton, Kylie Jones, Paulita Ramirez and freshman Tayler Petersen. Competing against others in their weight class, Easton placed second in clean with 110 pounds and fourth in squat with 165 pounds. Her bench lift was disqualified, keeping her out of the overall totals.

Jones finished in fourth place overall in her weight class with 27 girls competing. She placed second in clean lifting at 145 pounds, sixth in bench at 115, and squatted 165. Ramirez placed in all three of her lifts, giving her third place overall. She lifted 115 in bench for



TAYLER PETERSEN/Golden Plains High School

Josh Barnhart squatted at the State Powerlifting meet in Claftin on April 18. Josh, a junior at Golden Plains High School, placed second in squat with 255 pounds. He also placed second in bench, fifth in clean and second overall in his weight class lifting a total of 570 pounds.

third, 120 in clean for fifth, and 195 in squat for third.

"It was a good first time experience," said Ramirez. "I was nervous when we got there, but once the events started I enjoyed competing and thought I did pretty well."

Petersen placed fifth in clean with 115 pounds She benched 100 pounds and 200 in squat giving her a sixth place overall finish."

The six boys competing were juniors Josh Barnhart, Shane Ryburn; seniors Jose Bermudez and Jesus Garcia; and sophomores Domonic Luna and Benny Mar-

tinez.

The boys event was very competitive with lots of lifters in each weight class. Even so, Barnhart finished second place overall with a 570 pound total lift, good for second place overall with a 165-pound bench for second, a 150-pound clean lift for fifth, and 255 pounds in squat for second.

Bermudez lifted a total of 615 pounds for a third place finish in his weight class with lifts in bench of 175 pounds for second, 185 pounds in clean for sixth, and 255 pounds in squat for third.

"I think I could have done better

because I did not reach my max in any event," said Bermudez.

Luna lifted a total of 550 pounds with lifts in of bench of 155 pounds, in clean of 145 pounds, and squat of 250 pounds. Garcia lifted a total of 600 pounds in of 200 in bench, 195 in clean, and 205 in squat. Ryburn and Martinez competed in the same weight class with Ryburn, lifting a total of 705 pounds, including 200 in bench, 220 in clean, and 285 in squat. Martinez lifted 185 in bench and 170 in clean but was scratched in squat.

Thunder and Rockets neck and neck in series

By Jeff Latzke

AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY – Without All-Star Russell Westbrook running the point, Kevin Durant and the Oklahoma City Thunder are struggling to close out the Houston Rockets.

So much for a sweep. This is suddenly a series.

James Harden scored 31 points and sank seven 3-pointers while fighting flu-like symptoms, and the Rockets beat Oklahoma City 107-100 Wednesday night to pull within 3-2 in their first-round playoff series.

Harden made the first seven 3s he tried and Houston led by as many as 16 to win its second straight, getting halfway to becoming the first team in NBA history to overcome a 3-0 series deficit.

"We just came out here and played pressure free. Go out there and just hoop, that was our mindset going into the game," Harden said. "The same thing back at home: just go out there and hoop. We're an eighth seed. Nobody's expecting us to win. So just give it what we've got. Simple."

The Rockets have made it look much easier since Westbrook was lost for the rest of the playoffs to knee surgery before Game 3. With back-to-back wins, Houston had Durant blaming himself for just

about anything that went wrong for the Thunder even though he scored 36 points and almost single-handedly kept his team in the game.

When asked about how first-time starter Reggie Jackson has done filling in for the injured Westbrook, Durant faulted himself for demanding the ball too often from the young point guard. When questioned about Kevin Martin's awful three-point performance on 1-for-10 shooting, Durant offered that he needed to be more encouraging to the sixth man.

Try as he might, Durant can't do it all.

"They don't really care about anybody else on the team," the three-time NBA scoring champion said. "So, when I have the ball, there's like four guys guarding me sometimes and I've just got to make the pass. Tonight, we didn't make some shots, but I trust that we're going to make those wide-open ones. I've got faith that we're going to make those shots."

Harden could hardly miss. Had he stopped after his first seven attempts, he would have tied Robert Horry's NBA record for most 3-pointers without a miss in the playoffs.

"I just tried to go out there and give it all I had," said Harden, who left Houston's morning shoot-around because of a lack of energy and then slept all day."

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