

Colby crowns youth champs

By R.B. Headley
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It's all over but the post-season ice cream for Colby's Recreation youth baseball and softball teams this summer.

Drama filled the diamonds last week as four league tournaments were played. A trio of No. 1 seeds showed why they earned their elite status by winning championships.

Yet there was one surprise in Rookie Boys tourney play where No. 5-seed Orange advanced to the title game against No. 3 Royal. Royal prevailed and earned its gold medals from Recreation Director Stacy Jasper. Assistant Mary McLaughlin also presented gold and silver medals to the top two teams from each tournament.

"We had a great summer season. I am so thankful for all the great coaches and parents who dedicate their time to our programs," Jasper commented. "I'm also very appreciative of all my staff and umpires that make the season run so smoothly."

Kelly Simmonds coached the Rookie Boys champion Royal team, while Shawn Curry directed that Orange squad on its amazing run to that final showdown.

Rookie Girls tournament champion Purple was a team coaching effort as Marybeth Flanagan, Lori Stanley and Amber Barton worked with this super squad all summer.

Purple took the title game from No. 4-seed Lime Green, another Cinderella that danced past higher-seed foes into this finale. Ray Nolan and Matt Carmichael coached the Lime Green team.

Bambino Boys delivered the only No. 1 vs. No. 2 showdown of championship week. Coaches Kristy McCarty and Brad Wildeman saw their No. 1 Purple team subdue No. 2 Sapphire.



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press
Baserunners kept the Colby diamonds busy with four youth leagues going full speed many nights this summer. Tourneys capped the season last week.

Alex Rosales directed that Sapphire silver medal-winning squad.

Finally, no tourney delivered a brighter finale than the Bambino Girls where No. 1 Orange played No. 3 Pink.

Orange became the third top seed to take home gold medals. Chris Koerperich and Paul Bange directed champion Orange, while James Carney and Joe Leija coached the talented Pink finalists.

No triathlon

Jasper also announced the Colby Recreation Department Iron Athlete Triathlon set for Saturday has been called off due to lack of participation and some staffing issues.

"If we end up rescheduling it for later in the summer, I will let everyone know as soon as possible," Jasper stated in an E-mail on Tuesday.

No goal is too high for Colby hoops camp



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Colby Recreation Director Stacy Jasper (above left) has been instructing youth basketball camps in the Colby Community Center this week. First and second graders hit the floor first each day, learning all sorts of basketball fundamentals. Above, boys practice their shooting techniques as Jasper demonstrates a correct follow-through motion. Girls (right) perfect the jump stop which puts them in triple-threat position to shoot, pass or dribble past a defender. Colby High School alumni Karly Kriss and McKenna Ortnor are assisting with the camp.



Coed teams ready for tourney

The Colby Recreation Coed softball tournament will begin on Sunday, July 28, with 11 teams set to compete.

McCarty Farms, Beckman of Hoxie and Colby Bowl have earned the top three seeds.

The final regular-season standings: 1. McCarty Farms, 2. Beckman, 3. Colby Bowl, 4. B-Hive, 5. Taco John's, 6. Basgall, 7. This N That, 8. Wagoner and Sons, 9. Bottle Gallery, 10. Colby Fertilizer and 11. Rohr.

Run will go 10 miles

The 42nd Lake Atwood 10 Mile will be at 7 a.m. Sunday around Lake Atwood in Atwood.

Besides the featured race on a certified course, there will also be 4K and 8K races on certified courses along with a 2K race for youth age 10 or younger.

Among those already entered is Marvin Metzler of McCook, Neb., who will celebrate his 85th birthday on race day. Metzler has been running this race since 1999.

Entry forms are available at www.lakeatwoodtenmile.com.



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

A B-Hive runner reached first base safely during Colby coed softball action this summer. Seedings are set for the tournament.

Writer sees all-stars around Colby area

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Nothing quite compares to that one night in the Houston Astrodome many moons ago, where I first met jalapeno nachos while watching boyhood hero Pete Rose drop a fly ball.

I can still see the image among those green smoky fumes emanating from my outfield seat. My mouth was on fire just like all those Nolan Ryan fastballs popping the catcher's glove.

What a great night for any baseball fan even though Ryan struck out Rose at least twice. What great fun to also see George Brett, Buster Posey, Carlton Fisk, Albert Pujols, Prince Fielder, Chipper Jones and many other stars at various ballparks through the years.

Even booing steroid stars Barry Bonds, Mark McGwire, Sammy Sosa and Manny Ramirez was fun — though I cheered for most of them at the time (just not Bonds). Maybe that's why the All-Star

Game was a little disappointing again last night. Unless you're a Mariano Rivera/Yankees fan, there was really nothing to cheer. Nothing to really write about.

So why not name some really deserving Colby all-stars through two months of living here.

1. Colby Bowl.

A mere \$10 for three games and shoes on Sunday afternoon? That's awesome, plus no laughter could be heard as I missed my fifth consecutive spare.

2. Colby recreation.

I loved how director Stacy Jasper got that fund raiser going for Colby College alum Hannah Thornton had her house burned-down.

Plus the youth ballgames seem well-organized with everyone having fun.

3. Colby police.

Only a warning on my first and hopefully last illegal turn. This is probably testing my good fortune.

4. Colby baseball.

The three legion teams have a combined 59 wins.

Yankee gets top honor

NEW YORK (AP) — Mariano Rivera was all set up to save his final All-Star Game — or so it seemed.

Jim Leyland just wasn't about to take that chance.

Summoned in the eighth inning to make certain he would pitch, Rivera soaked up a 90-second standing ovation and got three straight outs while helping the American League to a 3-0 victory over the National League on Tuesday night at Citi Field.

"I think the plan was perfect," said All-Star MVP Rivera.

Rivera reported early for work, and the New York Yankees' indomitable closer combined with nine other pitchers on a three-hitter as the AL snapped a three-game skid in the classic.

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