

Nathan Linin competed in the 100 yard individual medley race Saturday at Colby. Linin placed fourth in the race and also received two third place finishes, in the 50 yard butterfly and the 50 yard breaststroke.  
Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Daily News

# Swim team takes seventh

By Lester Bolen

The Goodland Daily News

In the last swimming meet before the Northwest Kansas League Championship in Oakley, Goodland swimmers finished in seventh place with 75 points at the meet held in Colby on Saturday. Colby was the winner of the meet with 267 points followed by Wray with 251, Burlington with 250, Holyoke with 152, and Oberlin with 146. St. Francis finished in sixth place with 100 points.

Daniel Blake led the team with two first place finishes, one in the 400-yard freestyle and one in the 100-yard freestyle, and a second place in the 100-yard breaststroke.

The team was also strong in the 15-18-year-old-boys category. Daron Roeder tied for first in the 100-yard freestyle and finished second in both the 100-yard butterfly and the 200-yard individual medley.

Jordan Bedore earned a first place in

the 400-yard freestyle. Bedore also finished second in the 100-yard freestyle and tied for third in the 50-yard freestyle.

Goodland's next, and last, meet is the league championship in Oakley on Friday and Saturday.

## TEAM RESULTS

Colby 267, Wray 251, Burlington 250, Holyoke 152, Oberlin 146, St. Francis 100, Goodland 75, Limon 69, Flagler 14, Oakley 10

## INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

**8 and under boys**  
Riley Oharah: 50-yard freestyle, second, 56.72; 25-yard freestyle, third, 22.32; 25-yard backstroke, sixth, 41.12.

## 9-10 boys

Erik Roeder: 25-yard backstroke, sixth, 24.61; 25-yard breaststroke, fourth.

## 11-12 boys

Nathan Linin: 50-yard butterfly, third, 54.78; 50-yard breaststroke, third, 51.40; 100-yard individual medley, fourth, 1:53.25.

## 13-14 boys

Blake: 400-yard freestyle, first, 5:42.99; 100-yard freestyle, first, 1:04.26; 100-yard breaststroke, second, 1:23.06.

## 15-18 boys

Daron Roeder: 100-yard freestyle, first (tie), 1:11.14; 100-yard butterfly, second, 1:19.08; 200-yard individual medley, second, 2:52.32.

Jordan Bedore: 400-yard freestyle, first, 5:26.92; 100-yard freestyle, second 1:02.65; 50-yard freestyle, third (tie), 27.15.

## 9-10 mixed

100-yard freestyle relay, Erik Roder, Chelsey Horney, Hannah Blake, Tanner Oharah, fourth, 1:32.16.

Also participating was Jan Bonsall, Darrick Ihrig, Julica Bonsall, Halli Stone, Jessica Lu, and Kelsey Ihrig.

# Rockies searching for answers

DENVER (AP) — An offseason spending spree figured to help the Colorado Rockies compete with baseball's best. Instead, they have become one of baseball's biggest busts.

Plagued by familiar problems of the seasons past, the Rockies arrived at the All-Star break looking up at the rest of the NL West. Their 39-48 record ranks last in the division and solutions are as elusive as victories.

"It's like we are a horse in the middle of a fire. We don't seem to know which way to go to get out of this," third baseman Jeff Cirillo said. "The fans keep supporting us, but I for one feel a sense of guilt that we're not giving them their money's worth."

The Rockies spent plenty of cash last winter, committing \$172 million to left-handers Mike Hampton (\$121 million) and Denny Neagle (\$51 million) and rewarding first baseman Todd Helton with a nine-year, \$141.5 million contract extension.

For the most part, the three have produced. Hampton and Neagle have gone 15-7 at the top of the starting rotation, and Helton joined Hampton and outfielder Larry Walker at the All-Star game in Seattle on Tuesday.

"I am as surprised as anyone that we are in this position," Neagle said. "Coming out of spring training, I thought we would be around eight games over .500. But the bottom line is that we just haven't gotten the job done."

As in past seasons, Colorado's offense disappears on the road. The Rockies lead the NL with a .293 average overall but are hitting just .250 away from Coors Field.

When the bats go quiet, the pitching has not been strong enough to compensate.

Pedro Astacio, the team's ace before Hampton and Neagle arrived, has pitched his way onto the trading block by going 6-9 with a 5.18 ERA, and the bottom of the rotation has been spotty because of injuries to Brian Bohanon (4-4) and the hasty promotion of rookie Shawn Chacon (4-5).

Chacon gave up 11 runs in five innings Sunday as the Rockies continued their precipitous three-week fall that left them 12 games behind the first-place Arizona Diamondbacks. Since peaking on June 17, Colorado has lost 16 of 19.

In Colorado, disappointment often

leads to reassignment. General manager Dan O'Dowd made three trades in a 10-day span, including a deal last week that sent outfielder Ron Gant to Oakland for minor-leaguer Robin Jennings.

Gant, who signed a one-year, \$1.75 million contract in December hit just .257 with eight homers and 22 RBIs in 59 games.

The Rockies hoped Gant would produce as part of a left-field platoon with left-handed hitting Todd Hollandsworth, but he played shaky defense and failed to hit with runners in scoring position, while Hollandsworth has missed 53 games with nerve damage in his right leg.

The bullpen also has underachieved. Left-hander Gabe White, one of the team's best pitchers last year, has gone 1-6 with a 7.98 ERA, and the Rockies have collectively blown 15 of 28 save

opportunities.

That helps explain the abandoned clubhouse after each mounting loss.

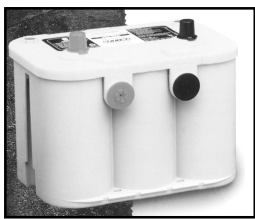
"You'll see three or four guys that you might be able to talk to because everybody else is hiding because we're so embarrassed about the way things are going," Walker said.

Walker, considered a key to Colorado's success, has stayed healthy and is enjoying his best season since 1997 when he was the National League MVP. His solution for the second half involves amnesia and some time away from the daily monotony of a 162-game schedule.

Manager Buddy Bell said forgetting the past could lead to repeated future mistakes, but he has not given up hope of a second-half surge. Assuming it will take 90 victories to reach the playoffs, the Rockies would have to go 51-24 the rest of the way.

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# 'Ichiro-mania' sweeps Seattle for big game

SEATTLE (AP) — All day long, all eyes were on Ichiro Suzuki.

And the Seattle sensation played the All-Star role perfectly.

At batting practice, Ivan Rodriguez walked up to the cage to hug Suzuki, and coach Don Zimmer came over to embrace him.

Suzuki's rock-star sunglasses perched on his backward cap, he dug in with his special steel spikes — emblazoned in Mariners colors with "All-Star Game 51" on the heel — and promptly hit the first pitch into the right-field stands.

"This guy is one of the top five players in the world," New York Mets catcher Mike Piazza said.

Earlier, a crush of cameramen, most of them Japanese, surrounded him at a hotel press conference. Beefy security personnel constantly kept ordering everyone to move back.

"It is Ichiro-mania here," Kansas City first baseman Mike Sweeney said. "People walk in and we all just point over there."

The crowd at Safeco Field that cheered his every swing confirmed what every player knew: It's the Year of Ichiro!

Because in an All-Star game full of intriguing subplots, Suzuki was the main reason fans in more than 200 countries are likely to watch Tuesday night.

Not to see what else Roger Clemens can throw in Piazza's direction. Not to hear A-Rod get booed at his old ballpark. Not to enjoy the tributes to Cal Ripken and Tony Gwynn, either.

"My philosophy is, I see the pitch I can handle and I hit it hard," Suzuki said through an interpreter.

His Zen-like approach leads him to observe: "Each hit has its own character."

A seven-time batting champion in Japan, the 27-year-old outfielder leads the majors in hits and is tied for the top in steals.

Suzuki is hitting .347 for the best team in baseball and leads the AL in runs scored with 76.

The rookie was the majors' top votegetter in fan balloting for starting spots in the All-Star game.

Now, he's drawing a crowd wherever he goes.

Things such as the sumo-style squats he does before hitting. Or the rice balls, made by his wife, Yumiko, that he eats prior to games make him unique.

Rarely has anyone seen so much buildup for someone in the All-Star game.

Pedro Martinez got it in 1999 and responded by striking out former MVPs Barry Larkin, Larry Walker, Sammy Sosa and Jeff Bagwell — and Mark McGwire — in two innings at Fenway Park.

Hideo Nomo backed up the Nomo-mania hype by pitching two scoreless innings in 1995. Bo Jackson lived up to the "Bo Knows" ads by becoming the MVP in 1989, and Dwight Gooden, the youngest All-Star ever at age 19, struck out the side when he relieved in 1984.

Suzuki can impress in several ways, be it his Gold Glove-caliber fielding, rocket arm or daring baserunning.

And, of course, his hitting.

A line-drive guy, he was considered for Monday night's home run derby, won by Arizona's Luis Gonzalez, even though Suzuki has hit only five homers this season. At a mere 5-foot-9 and 160 pounds, he has the slightest build on the AL team.

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## ATTENTION SOUTHWESTERN BELL TELEPHONE COMPANY CUSTOMERS

### Proposed Monthly Basic Telephone Rate Increase

Southwestern Bell Telephone Company and the United Telephone Companies of Kansas d/b/a Sprint, along with the Staff of the Kansas Corporation Commission, AT&T Communications of the Southwest, Inc., and Sprint Communications Company, L.P., have filed a Stipulation and Agreement with the Kansas Corporation Commission. If the Stipulation and Agreement is approved, rates for toll calls within Kansas would be reduced. Sprint Long Distance projects, that over the term of the agreement, its intrastate long distance prices would decrease between 15 and 22 percent over January 1, 2001, levels. AT&T estimates that it will reduce rates on leading consumer offers by nearly 30 percent. Southwestern Bell customers would see their monthly basic telephone bills increase beginning October 1, 2001. For residential service the increase would range from \$1.65 to \$2.00 per month. Business customers would see an increase ranging from \$0.85 to \$2.50 per month. Commission staff calculates that a Southwestern Bell customer would need to make 89 minutes of toll calls per month to break even.

### Stipulation proposals

Currently, for SWBT customers, monthly basic rates and charges for "touchtone" are separated on the customer's monthly bill. Under the Stipulation and Agreement, touchtone charges are to be rolled into the basic monthly rate. Most customers currently have touchtone service and charges are \$1.15 per month. Residential rates, without touchtone, range from \$12.30 to \$14.55 per month. With the proposed increase and touchtone included in the basic rate, the proposed rates for residential monthly basic service would increase to a range of \$15.45 to \$17.35 per month. For Basehor customers with optional EAS, rates would increase to \$22.35 per month from the current rate of \$19.40 per month.

Basic business monthly rates, without touchtone, range from \$16.75 to \$29.95 per month. With the proposed increase and touchtone included in the basic rate, the proposed rates for basic business monthly service could increase to a range of \$22.25 to \$33.80 per month. For Basehor business customers with optional EAS, rates would increase to \$41.25 per month from the current rate of \$36.25 per month.

The Commission will accept written comments from Southwestern Bell customers through Friday, August 24, 2001. Comments regarding the case should reference Docket No. 01-GIMT-082-GIT and be sent to the KCC Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection, 1500 SW Arrowhead Road, Topeka, Kansas, 66604. Comments may also be submitted by email at [public.affairs@kcc.state.ks.us](mailto:public.affairs@kcc.state.ks.us) or submitted through the Commission's web site at [www.kcc.state.ks.us](http://www.kcc.state.ks.us).

### Technical hearing

The Commission will hold a technical hearing concerning the Stipulation and Agreement starting on August 8, 2001. At this hearing, Commission staff, company representatives, and interveners will present their case to the Commission.

### Additional information available

For more information about the requested rate increase or the technical hearing, contact the KCC Office of Public Affairs and Consumer Protection at 1-800-662-0027, or in Topeka call 271-3140, or call Southwestern Bell Telephone Company at 1-888-852-2878.

Southwestern Bell

