



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Matt Augustine hauled in a fly-ball with Josh Houtz backing up during Monday's regional game against Ulysses.

Eagles win nail-biter against Ulysses

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

The Colby Eagle baseball team will play in the regional semi-final game at the Colby Recreation Complex Wednesday against Hugoton, after battling for nine innings with a tough Ulysses team. Ryan Arnsdorf singled in Clayton Kaiser in the bottom of the

ninth to give the Eagles an 8-7 victory. "Ulysses is a very tough team," coach Kevin Cox said. "They were much tougher than a 2-18 team."

Number 1 seed Nickerson will face Pratt at 2:30 p.m. at the Rec Complex. Pratt bested Scott City 13-10 Monday in Scott City.

Colby's opponent Wednesday,

Hugoton, beat Larned 4-1 in Hugoton Monday.

The Colby-Hugoton game will get underway at 4:30 p.m. The winners of the semi-final games will play for the regional championship at 7 p.m. at the Rec Complex. The regional champion will advance to the state tournament in Mulvane on May 24 and 25.

Lady Eagles lose to Goodland, 4-3

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

The Colby Eagle softball team ended its season with a tough 4-3 loss against Goodland Monday in the first round of regional play at Larned.

Whitney Adams took the loss, allowing 9 hits, 7 strikeouts, one walk, and one earned run.

The offense was led by Savannah Rupp, who was 2-4 with a triple, Adams was 1-3 with a triple; Dominique Palser returned from a severe bone bruise injury to go 1-3 in her last high

school game; Samantha Wolf went 1-4, Stephanie Wieland went 1-3, and Alicia Leavitt was 1-2.

The Lady Eagles were ahead 3-0 at one point, but couldn't hold on.

"The defense played the best it had played all season," said coach Jack Elliott.

"But some mental mistakes made the difference."

"The season ended 10-11," Elliott said, "but the team made marked improvement.

"A special thanks goes out to all the

parents and fans who followed the team through thick and thin; their support made playing fun.

"Also, a special thanks to Roni Dietz and Liz Gottsch, my assistant coaches for all they did during the season.

"We will miss the three seniors (along with Palser, twins Melissa and Megan Augustine played their last high school game Monday) next year as well as Gottsch, who will be joining her husband in Iowa.

"Again, thanks to everyone involved and supportive of Lady Eagle softball."

Agassi withdraws, Sampras out of German Open

HAMBURG, Germany (AP) — Andre Agassi withdrew, and Pete Sampras was defeated as the German Open lost two of its biggest stars within

hours.

In a letter to organizers, Agassi said his victory at the Italian Open made him reconsider playing in Germany.

His late pullout will cost him \$40,000.

Sampras' drought stretched to 27 tournaments without a title, dating to Wimbledon in 2000.

Colorado forces Game 7

By ANNE M. PETERSON

AP Sports Writer

SAN JOSE, Calif. (AP) — Just like his players, Colorado Avalanche coach Bob Hartley didn't feel the real earthquake that shook San Jose.

"I felt the earthquake when we scored," Hartley said after the Avalanche beat the San Jose Sharks 2-1 in overtime Monday night.

Peter Forsberg's goal 2:47 into the extra period evened the series and sent this Western Conference semifinal back to Denver for a deciding Game 7 on Wednesday night.

With nine minutes left in the third period, an earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.2 rattled the Compaq Center. The quake was centered south of San Jose in Gilroy.

The sellout crowd of 17,496 was unruffled, apparently more interested in the tight game on the ice, and play continued uninterrupted.

"I didn't feel anything," Colorado forward Milan Hejduk said. "This building is pretty loud and it is shaking anyway."

The defending Stanley Cup champion Avalanche were on the verge of elimination by the Sharks, who have never been to the Western Conference finals.

Forsberg took a pass from Joe Sakic and beat Sharks goalie Evgeni Nabokov from in front of the crease. It was Forsberg's sixth goal of the playoffs.

In Monday night's other game, Carolina routed Montreal 8-2 to advance to the Eastern Conference finals. The Hurricanes will play the winner of the Toronto-Ottawa series, which is

tied 3-3 with Game 7 on Tuesday night in Toronto.

Patrick Roy, who has struggled during the series, stopped 21 San Jose shots. He has allowed a surprising 18 goals overall by the Sharks.

Since 1996, Roy has rebounded well after allowing five or more goals in a playoff game. He's 9-0 with three shutouts, and the Avalanche have outscored opponents 45-8.

"Patrick was absolutely dominant in net tonight," Hartley said. "Patrick is our energy. Every time he steps in front of our net, we feel we have a chance to win."

Nabokov stopped 27 shots.

Colorado dropped Game 5 in Denver on Saturday, when the Sharks scored three times in the final 20 minutes for a 5-3 victory and a chance to eliminate the Avalanche on home ice.

But the Avalanche have been through this before. In the Stanley Cup finals against the New Jersey Devils last year, Colorado lost Game 5 at home to trail 3-2 in the series. The Avalanche rebounded with a shutout of the Devils before winning the Stanley Cup at home.

After some of the wild, high-scoring playoff games between the Avalanche and the Sharks, Game 6 stood out because of defense.

The Sharks did their best to target Sakic, who had three goals in the last two games and 10 points against San Jose overall. Nabokov deftly deflected Sakic's hard shot from the right circle with just under four minutes left in the first.

With less than six minutes to go in the second, San Jose defenseman Marcus Ragnarsson looked surprised when his hard shot from the left circle got past Roy. It was Ragnarsson's first goal in 40 playoff appearances.

But 24 seconds later, Steven Reinprecht took the puck, circled the net and beat Nabokov to make it 1-1.

The earthquake, which shook the rafters of the arena, was also felt at the game between the Giants and the Atlanta Braves in San Francisco. There were no injuries or significant damage reported.

"I just saw it on the TV. I didn't feel it at all," San Jose forward Adam Graves said. "I heard some people up high felt it."

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Hope to see you in Atwood on May 17, 18, & 19.