

2-4 record doesn't tell whole story

We just returned from our spring break trip to Prescott, Ariz. and I feel that we may have improved as a team despite our 2 and 4 record on the trip. We faced some very talented teams down there.

Thursday we opened the tournament with host Yavapai College of Prescott. We battled the entire game but came away with a 9-6 loss. Yavapai is the best offensive team we have faced all season. It is extremely difficult to keep them off the scoreboard.

We then moved on to face Skagit Valley Community College of Washington state. Well, we gave up five runs in the first and that proved to be the difference. We lost 10-5. That is a team that I feel we would beat most of the time.

Friday morning we faced New Mexico Military Institute of Roswell, N.M. They turned out to be better than we expected, and we had to come back the entire game to scratch out a 5-4 victory. Down 4-3 in the bottom of the seventh, freshman Josh Hunter extended the inning with a pinch hit single, then our sophomore first baseman Brian Hassing came through with the biggest hit of the tournament scoring Ryan Arensdorf with a two-strike single to tie the game. Then with the bases loaded their pitcher threw a wild pitch that let the winning run score.

Clutch hits are what we have been missing from our attack, and I feel that is where we broke through this past week. We faced some of the best pitching we have seen all season, and responded by hitting better than we have all season.

Friday afternoon we lost to Chandler-Gilbert of Arizona, 6-1. They are currently ranked 20th in the



Ray Nolan

- From the Dugout

country. We started the scoring early plating a runner in the first, again by way of a Brian Hassing base hit, but that is all we could get. We had several chances, but they always managed to escape. Chandler got a rally going in the middle of the game, and that is all the scoring they did. Saturday morning we took care of Embry Riddle of Prescott fairly easily, 14-1. Several of our guys played extremely well, including red-shirt freshmen Derek Kyte and Clay Kaiser. Freshman Ryan Arensdorf had three hits in that victory.

That afternoon we got our wish of the tournament, which was to get a rematch with Yavapai. We felt that we could get a win despite their impressive offense. We scored one in the fourth to take the lead 1-0, but in the bottom of the fourth they broke out for six runs, which is all they needed.

It should be noted that this was a wooden bat tournament, which I feel made the tournament even more fun. Wood bats show the good hitters and even though we had not played with them all season, I think we did fairly well. I really like playing with wood, and if the our league voted to use wood, coach Carter told me that he probably would vote for it.

Yavapai, Chandler-Gilbert and Skagit Valley, who all compete in leagues that use only wood bats, all proved that wood does not stop your offense from scoring runs. Wood simply disallows some of the cheap hits that players get with aluminum bats. You don't have too worry as much about a player hitting a ball over the fence that he did not make good contact with. It might still happen, but it takes a lot of strength.

As we head back to conference play Wednesday against Pratt at 1 p.m. in Colby, I hope that our improved hitting from Arizona has come home with us. We currently have a conference ERA of 1.5, which is amazing, and our defense has been good all season. All we have been missing is the big hit.

We are currently 4-4 in conference, and sitting in third place behind Hutch, who we split with at their place, and Seward, who we don't face until May.

Before we play Pratt Wednesday, we face Western Nebraska Tuesday at 1 p.m. in Colby. Western always has a tough team, so it should be a tight doubleheader. After Pratt we play Garden City in Garden on Saturday, and on Sunday Barton County comes to town at 1 p.m.

I hope everyone has a good week.

Ray Nolan is the assistant baseball coach at Colby Community College.

Colby's presence is felt at Kids' Wrestling Tournament

Colby Kids Wrestling made a good showing at the weekend state tournament at the ExpoCenter in Topeka. Reports are that 1,450 kids were involved in the Saturday-Sunday mat-a-thon.

In addition to Colby's good showing on the mats, two Colby wrestling standouts — Eric Luedke and Matt Murray — carried the flags into the center at the outset of the tourney. Luedke was crowned national champion at the National Junior College Athletic Association Tournament in Rochester, Minn., and Murray was national runner-up in the NCAA Division 1 Wrestling Championships at St. Louis. Additionally, at Topeka, Luedke was also involved in an exhibition of Greco freestyle wrestling.

Here are the results of Colby's delegation to the state tourney:

• **8 & Under** — Brady Holzmeister, 49 lbs., DNP (did not place); Dustin Reed, 49 lbs., 4th; Andrew Taylor, 76 lbs., DNP; Trek Keck, 76 lbs., 2nd; Zell Bieberle, 95

lbs., 4th place.
• **10 & Under** — Konnor Kriss, 61 lbs., 3rd; Taylor Moeder, 67 lbs., 1st.

• **12 & Under** — Nathan Reed, 68 lbs., DNP; Torey Taylor, 84 lbs., DNP; Ethan Stickel, 96 lbs., DNP; Jordan Voss, 96 lbs., DNP; Kalen Rasmussen, 100 lbs., 6th; Andrew Flanagan, 100 lbs., DNP; Tanner Kriss, 120 lbs., 3rd; Breck Arnberger, 115 lbs., DNP; Adam Weber, 130 lbs., DNP; Tyson Miller, 140 lbs., DNP.

• **14 & Under** — Brandon Harlow, 75 lbs., 4th; Cody Wark, 80

lbs., DNP; Bryan Brewer, 90 lbs., 3rd; Brent Luedke, 100 lbs., 4th; Trenton Powell, 100 lbs., 6th.; Hunter Olsen, 110 lbs., 4th; Jared Flanagan, 110 lbs., DNP; Garrett Zwegardt, 120 lbs., DNP.

• **16 & Under** — Cole Garcia, 135 lbs., 1st; Taylor Finley, 135 lbs., 4th.

(Should there be any errors due to the large number of names, weights classes, and finishes, please let us know so we can set the record straight for our readers. Thank you.)

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