



Trojans can't close the deal

For the Colby Trojan baseball team, Sunday turned into doomsday. Leading 1-0 in their best-of-three opening round playoff series against #4 seed Kansas City, Kan., Community College, the Trojans lost game two 11-4 and the deciding game three 11-7 in Leavenworth. Colby won game one Saturday, 9-4. This was the second year in a row the Trojans lost their first round series after going up 1-0. They lost to Fort Scott last year at Trojan Field. "It's pretty disappointing," said Trojan head coach Ryan Carter. "We feel we had more talent than them. There's not much to say. It's just a disappointing way to end the year. We fully expected to be in Wichita." The Trojans finished the season 25-28, their worst record since 2004, and failed to advance to the

Region VI Tournament for the second consecutive year. They ended the season by losing eight of their last nine games. Colby did have to endure the entire season without its three top starting pitchers, Garrett Morgan, Ryan Beecroft and Steve Blankenship. "I'm always optimistic and expected to us to overcome those losses," said Carter. "There's no doubt injuries played a huge role in the way we finished." Kansas City, Kan. (31-17) advanced to take on Seward County 1 p.m. Saturday in Wichita. No statistics were available from this weekend, but Carter said the team's defense is what let them down. Carter estimated 18 of the 22 runs they surrendered to KCK Sunday were unearned. "That's the story of our year," said Carter. "We pitched well enough and hit well enough. We just didn't play defense. No excuses. We just didn't do it."

Sean Lydon started game one for the Trojans and picked the victory to finish the season 4-4. Mark Phillips started game two and pitched into eighth inning, but was credited with the loss. Zach Hays went the first four innings of game three. This was the last action for 10 Trojan sophomores, including centerfielder Brennan Peterson, #1 pitcher Lydon, first baseman Steve Kletke and leftfielder Aaron Dunsmore. Dunsmore added a home run over the weekend to finish the season as the team-leader with 13. The Trojans return their three injured starters and abundance of position players to what is expected to be a much-improved ballclub in 2009. "We should have a breakthrough year," said Carter. "We're still working on a good recruiting class. Next year, could be pretty big."

Walk-off home run ends Colby's national softball tourney hopes

The drought continues for the Colby Lady Trojan softball team, who failed to reach the national tournament for the 24th straight season. After opening the Region VI Tournament with a 4-3 nine inning win over Barton County Friday, the Lady Trojans lost to Butler County 12-0 later that day and were upset by #6 seed Neosho 10-7 Saturday morning. Jennifer Joyal's three-run homer in the bottom of the seventh lifted Neosho to victory and sent Colby packing.

Butler County (48-6) beat Barton 18-3 in the championship game Saturday to advance to the national tournament May 15-17 in Plant City, Fla. Colby finished the season 30-32, which was an eight game improvement over last year's 21-31 record. Like last season, they failed to finish in the top four at the region tournament despite winning their first round game. "I was a little disappointed in how we hit the ball," said Lady Trojan head coach Ryan Sturdy. "Our pitchers didn't throw as well as they had the previous two weeks, but we missed some opportunities offensively." The Neosho game was the last in a Trojan uniform for sophomores Ninostka Amaro, Lynette Ebert, Courtney Duell, Jill Schmidt, Chloe Jackson, Brittani Kage, Kari Panno, Kaylie Gomez and Mary McLaughlin.

Though she failed to go deep in any of the three games over the weekend, Amaro finished her career as the school's all-time and single-season home run leader, plus the school's single-season leader in slugging percentage. Amaro ended her career with 40 home runs, besting the previous mark of 34 set by Lynette Bohannon with 34 in 2000. Her 27 home runs this year shattered Bohannon's season-high of 17 in 2000. Amaro's 1.063 slugging percentage put her ahead of Cara Liuzzi who slugged 1.029 in 2001. Her 67 runs scored fell two short of Bohannon's record of 69 in 2000. Her 72 RBIs were also eight shy of Bohannon's record of 80 that same year. This season, Amaro finished as the team-leader in runs, hits (69), doubles (18), home runs, RBIs, total bases (45), batting average (.437) and slugging percentage. Colby's only returnees, Erin Myers, Goodland native Amber Cowan, Kat Nickel and Tina Fabrizio, have the tough task of trying to make up for Amaro's presence in the lineup next season. Sturdy says Cowan is undecided about whether she will play next year after getting accepted into the school's nursing program. Even if Cowan decides not to retrain, depth shouldn't be a concern. Sturdy says he has signed 13 players for next year and is hoping to bring in five or six more. Among the newcomers are Colby High senior pitcher/infielder Logan Wark and Goodland native

Whitney Archer, who played basketball at the college this year, but has decided to play softball next spring. "You always want to try and build from year to year and get better," said Sturdy. Game recaps from the Region VI Tournament are listed below: **Game 1: Colby 4 Barton County 3** Things looked bleak for the Trojans early as Barton jumped out 2-0 lead in the second and increased their lead to 3-0 in the fourth. The Lady Trojans responded with two runs in the fifth and added a run in the seventh to tie the game at 3, sending it to extra innings. Neither team scored in the eighth, and Panno was able to post her fifth straight scoreless inning in the ninth. In the bottom of the ninth, the offense came through for Panno as the Trojans pushed home a run to beat Barton for the fourth time in five games. In one of her best starts of the year, Panno picked up the win after working all nine innings and allowing just one earned run on seven hits. She struck out a season-high 10 and walked six. Panno finished the year with the most wins of any Colby pitcher, posting a 14-16 mark with a team-low 2.67 ERA. Colby had just seven hits as well off Barton starter Jennifer Jackson, but seven Jackson walks and three Cougar errors proved fatal. The Cougars also left nine runners on base compared to just three for Colby. Amaro led the way, finishing 2-4 with a double and a walk. Chloe Jackson went 1-4 with a double and a run scored. Duell, Nickel, McLaughlin and Ebert also had hits. Duell finished with two of Colby's three RBIs. McLaughlin had the other.

Game 2: Butler 12 Colby 0 Any confidence the Lady Trojans may have gained from their win over #7 ranked Butler April 23 didn't carry over as they managed just two hits in the game, which was shortened to five innings. Butler scored two in the first and five in each of the next two innings. Amaro started, but was pulled after two innings in which she allowed seven earned runs and seven hits. She walked four and struck out one. Kage pitched the final two innings, surrendering one earned run and two hits. Jessica Matlock and Briana Nelson each finished with three RBIs for the Lady Grizzlies. On the hill, Lauren Supak and Catherine Gunther combined on the two-hitter. Supak allowed both hits in her four innings of work, but still easily picked up the win. Colby's two hits were both singles from Duell and Amaro. "We weren't aggressive with pitches we could hit, and were getting behind and swinging at pitches that weren't strikes," said Sturdy. "That makes the game easy for

them." **Game 3: Neosho 10 Colby 7** An epic comeback ended in disaster for Colby after Joyal's three-run home run off Amaro in the bottom of the seventh gave Neosho the victory. "I don't think it was necessarily a bad pitch," said Sturdy. "She just kept her hands back and drove it over the right center field fence." It's the third time the Lady Trojans have been victim to a walk-off home run this year. Colby had rallied from a 7-1 deficit in the fourth to tie it with two runs in the top of the inning. It was to no avail, though, as Neosho advanced despite committing nine errors and walking 10 batters. The Lady Trojans failed to capitalize on Nesoho's mistakes, stranding 16 runners on base. Neosho (13-35) lost three out of four to Colby in the regular season, but when it mattered most the Lady Trojans fell just short and their season ended with a fifth place finish at the region tournament. "When you get on the bottom side of the bracket and it's win or go home, the stress level does sink in," said Sturdy. "It was frustrating. We had opportunities, but we shouldn't have been in that situation to begin with." Neosho took the early lead with a run in each of the first two innings. Colby got a run of their own in the third, but Neosho answered with five in the bottom of the inning to make it 7-1. Colby chipped away with three in the fifth, one in the sixth and then two in the seventh to tie it. Amaro, who relieved Kage in the fourth, took the loss and finished the season 10-9. She allowed five runs and five hits in three innings. Amaro failed to record in out in the seventh before surrendering the game-winning blast to Joyal. Kage got the no-decision, allowing two earned runs and eight hits in three innings. She walked three and struck out one. Katie Strom picked up the complete-game victory. She allowed the Lady Trojans just six hits and gave up only two earned runs in seven innings, but did walk 10. Five of those walks were given intentionally to Amaro, who didn't record in at-bat. Cowan and Duell each had two hits and an RBI. Fabrizio and Myers also had a hit an RBI. Myers had Colby's only extra-base hit with a double. "I think we improved from last year," said Sturdy. "We finished one spot worse in the region tournament, but our win totals were higher and we were in more games than we were last year. Anytime you can improve, I think you have to say it was a positive year. We'll look to continue that next year."



FILE PHOTO Eagle junior Jeremy Harter became the first Colby boys tennis player since 2005 to qualify for the 4A state tennis tournament. Harter was lone Eagle to advance after finishing fourth at Saturday's substate tournament in Pratt. The state tournament begins Friday at Harmon Park Tennis Center in Prairie Village.

Eagle tennis team ends their state tournament dryspell

By Joey Falkoff
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Colby High's two-year absence from the boys state tennis tournament has come to an end. Eagle junior singles player Jeremy Harter became the first Colby player since 2005 to qualify for state after finishing fourth at Substate Saturday in Pratt. The #6 seed Harter upset the #3 seed Dixon of Kingman 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 in his first match Friday to earn a birth at the state tournament, which begins Friday at Harmon Park Tennis Center in Prairie Village. "I just want him to go down there, be competitive, have fun and enjoy it," said Eagle head tennis coach Jordan Sharp. "It's a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and it's pretty special to make it out here in western Kansas." In the semifinals, Harter lost to Starkey from Wellington 5-7, 3-6. He was also defeated by Sapp of Wellington 2-6, 3-6 in the third and fourth place match. Harter will be a #4 seed at state and will have to face the #1 seed from a different regional. The state tennis brackets have not yet been released.

"He just needs to have fun, play loose and relaxed," said Sharp. "That's when he plays his best." Harter will be the only Eagle making the trip east. Both of Colby's doubles teams lost in the first round, eliminating them from state contention. Jared Bixenman and Tim Howard lost to Ulysses's Tyler Fagala and Grant Prusa in the first round 4-6, 2-6. Gray Henry and Jordan Hockersmith fell to Tazkargy and Fike from Wellington 2-6, 1-6. Howard was the lone senior for the Eagles this season. With everybody else back next year, Sharp expects the Eagles to be sending more than just one player to state in 2009. "This year we got a little bit more experience and kids are starting to pick up the game," said Sharp. "Tim will be a pretty big loss. He's probably one of the most competitive, hard-working kids I've ever coached. But we've got five of six varsity players returning and good kids on JV. I assume the whole team could go to state next year if we work hard in the off-season." **Regional Tennis (From Thursday)**

The Eagles tied Russell for first place with 10 points at the regional tournament Thursday at Fike Park. Ulysses finished third with eight points, Pratt finished fourth with five and Goodland finished fifth with two. Colby's #1 singles player, Harter, finished second behind Sam Kilian of Russell to advance to substate. The #1 seed Harter had a bye in the first round, beat Rempe of Pratt 6-0, 6-0 in the second round and knocked off Dillon of Ulysses 6-3, 6-4 in the semifinals before losing to Killian in the finals 4-6, 6-3, 4-6. Cody Anderson, Colby's #2 singles player, lost to Killian 1-6, 2-6 in the second round and failed to advance to the substate tournament. The Eagles #1 doubles team of Henry and Hockersmith earned a birth at substate by finishing third. They beat Barker and Renaker of Pratt 6-0, 6-1, lost to Nathan Krause and A.J. Vonlehe of Russell 6-0, 4-6, 4-6 and beat teammates Bixenman and Howard 6-2, 6-3 for third place. Bixenman and Howard finished fourth, but also qualified for substate.

Eagles win home tourney

The Colby Invitational golf tournament was held Thursday at Meadow Lake golf course and the Eagles brought home first place with a score of 336. Eagle sophomore Ryley Haas also posted the best individual score with a 72. Dylan Stithem finished seventh after shooting an 86. Brewster's Jance McKee finished second. He shot a 79. Hoxie finished second in the team standings with 358 points, Goodland and Norton tied for third with 360. Colby's JV was sixth (397) and Brewster finished ninth (420). Other Eagles competing included Cole Finley and Kyle Molstad, who both shot a 91. Todd Ziegelmeier shot a 94, Taylor Moeder fired a 97, Tyson Miller shot a 105, Cody Wark scored a 108 and Chris Crocker and Caid Wark both shot a 112. For Brewster, Michael Collett fired a 100, Tate Preston shot a 120 and Ryan Allen followed with a 121. The Eagles continue play 3 p.m. Friday at the Northwest Kansas League meet in Atwood. The Bulldogs host the Brewster Invitational 3 p.m. Tuesday at Sugar Hills golf course in Goodland.

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OPEN HOUSE AT ALL 3 LOCATIONS
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PARCEL #1 -- 10.5 ACRES W/RAIL SPUR. Property Address: 19211 Co. Rd. 24, Burlington. Property Description: 6 metal grain bins w/a total capacity of 336,600 bushels • 11 bulk bins w/9810 bu. total capacity • 4 warehouse storage buildings totaling 29,000 sq. ft. (includes approx. 2,400 sq. ft. processing area) • mobile home 14' x 56' • 1,200 sq. ft. office • 60 Ton 70 ft. scale • dump pit, truck & rail docks, conveyors & grain legs. Utilities: well and septic. Excellent access near interstate I-70 and next to UPRR. **SUGGESTED OPENING BID: \$500,000**
PARCEL #2 -- 5.24 acres. Property Address: 2520 Colo. Avenue, Burlington. Located adjacent to UPRR (no spur). Property Description -- 4 metal grain bins with a total capacity of 170,000 bu. • 672 sq. ft. office w/unfin. basement • 60 Ton 70 ft. scale • 2 dump pits, 4 bean ladders, 2 conveyors and grain legs. City water and sewer. **SUGGESTED OPENING BID: \$115,000**
PARCEL #3 -- 1.46 acres deeded & 1 acre leased from Burlington Northern Railroad. Property Address: 275 E. Woodward Ave, Keenesburg. Property Description: 5 concrete & 8 metal bins grain bins w/a total capacity of 172,000 bu. • 3,600 sq. ft. warehouse • 4,100 sq. ft. quonset • 1057 sq. ft. office • 50 Ton 70 ft. scale • truck dump with (2) 600 bu. hoppers & 50 T. scale. City water and sewer. Easy access to I-76. **SUGGESTED OPENING BID: \$150,000**

EQUIPMENT AUCTION • 12:30 p.m.
Clark Forklift, Moline Tractor, Handling Equipment including stoners, cleaners, conveyors, gravity tables, & office equipment will be sold. See itemized list in future issue or visit our website.
REAL ESTATE AUCTION TERMS: All three parcels will be sold from the Burlington location at 19211 Co. Rd. 54. Property will be offered as three separate parcels, and then the two Burlington parcels will be offered together as one unit, with the highest total bid prevailing. A earnest money deposit of 10% of the contract price shall be required for each contract. Properties will be sold to the highest bidder(s) subject to a minimum total bid of \$1,185,000. Closings will be scheduled no later than June 27, 2008. For complete details, please call for information packet or visit our website.

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