Eagle baseball team shows their youth in losses to Liberal

Fields.

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With just one senior on the roster, Eagle head coach Kevin Cox knew there would be growing pains this season.

That doesn't mean it's not frustrated to watch.

Cox flung his hat to the ground on multiple occasions as he witnessed his young team self-destruct in their 4-0 and 7-6 losses to Liberal Tuesday at the City

"I think you gotta learn how to win first," said Cox. "We have such a young mix out there. They get a little nervous when they have to make a play.

Colby's inability to make fundamental plays wasn't just limited to its underclassmen.

Even Colby's lone senior, Kevin Lang, saw his share of struggles.

Two fifth inning errors by the Eagle third baseman proved costly in game one. Lang also threw a wild pitch in the ninth inning of game two that allowed the winning run to score.

Lang's ninth-inning wild pitch was merely the end to a rocky day that saw the Eagles fail to execute situational hitting and pitching, baserunning and especially on defense where they committed seven

"I think you can live with errors, but when you make crucial errors in a situation that scores runs of course that's going to hurt you," said Cox.

"We have a sophomore third baseman. Not that that's an excuse, but he needs to be in that situation. We told them out there on the field tonight if that situation comes up again, that's what you need to prepare for. We're kind of getting beat up here a little bit, but I think we're getting better and

Better wasn't quite good enough to beat a 5A Liberal team that improved to 12-6. Nevertheless, Cox appreciates his team being able to play in these types of games.

"They're a little better defen-



Eagle head baseball coach Kevin Cox, right, looked on in dismay during Colby's doubleheader sweep at the hands of Liberal Tuesday at the City Fields. Liberal won the first game 4-0 and won a wild, second game 7-6 in nine innings.

sively, and we need to get better been. We've played teams in the two more runs. Kyle Potts led at that," said Cox. "We hit enough ground balls it seems we should get better at it. We competed with them and like I said earlier, we'd rather play teams like this than team's that aren't going to do us any good beating them 25-0."

Colby fell to 9-7 overall and 2-6 at home. They've got two more 0 regular season games left beginning 4 p.m. Thursday against Thomas More-Prep Marian (Hays) at the city fields before started regional action Monday.

TMP should be another good test. They swept Garden City earlier this year, who split with Lib-

"They're a traditionally strong program," said Eagle assistant coach Rick Williams. "Our schedule is way tougher than it's ever

past down the stretch that we just annihilate then we didn't play well at regionals. We competed tonight, so hopefully this will get us ready for Thursday.'

Game recaps from Tuesday are listed below:

Game 1: Liberal 4 Colby

Colby starter Levi Schlick and Liberal's Ryan Brown matched zero's through the first three innings, but in the fourth the Redskins broke through.

With one out, Rigo Arias got things started with a one-out double down the right field line. Brown followed with an RBI single to give Liberal a 1-0 lead.

Colby's defense came apart in the fifth inning allowing Liberal

off the inning with a double, and a Lang error helped the Redskins load the bases with one out.

Armando Gomez followed with a routine grounder that should have led to a force out at home. Instead, Lang made a wild throw to the plate that got by catcher Cory Sager, allowing Liberal's second run to score. 'The ground ball pulled him

to the left, and he just rushed the throw," said Williams.

Two batters later, Schlick balked in a run to make it 3-0.

Liberal tacked on another run in the sixth. That proved to be more than offense for Brown, who didn't allow an Eagle to reach second base after the fourth inning.

Brown picked up the completegame victory, scattering just four

hits in seven innings. He struck to tie the game at 6. out four and walked two.

Schlick (2-2) took the loss despite allowing just two earned runs and eight hits in seven innings. He struck out three and walked one.

Schlick had one of Colby's four hits and finished 1-3. Brent Arnberger, Brandon Rasmussen and Cade Carter also had hits.

In the second and fourth inning, the Eagles had a runner in scoring position with two outs, but couldn't come through with a clutch hit.

Game 2: Liberal 7 Colby 6 (9 innings)

A back-and-forth, marathon affair was decided on Lang's wild pitch in the ninth inning.

Ahead in the count 0-2 with two outs and facing a freshman making his first at-bat of the day, Lang bounced one in the dirt that got by Sager allowing the go-ahead run to score from third.

Lang, who came on in relief of Dinkel in the seventh, took the loss to fall to 5-3.

"He had the guy in hole. You can't bounce it there," said Wil-

"I don't think he meant to bounce it. Obviously, if he gets the guy to chase, it's a great pitch and we get back to the dugout."

Tyson Deaton didn't chase the pitch, and Brandon Granger set the Eagles down in order in the ninth to close out the near threehour game.

"It's pretty crazy," said Liberal head coach Eric Olmsted. "I told the kids it's probably the most fulfilling win since I've been the coach at Liberal. It could have gone either way. Colby has an outstanding team, and they'll do well in the playoffs. It was just a game of momentum and emotion."

Only an inning before the Eagles appeared to have all the momentum.

Liberal scored three runs in the top of the eighth to pull ahead 6-3. With the Eagles down to their last out, junior Stephen Dinkel hammered a dramatic, three-run homer over the rightcenter field fence

"It's hard and disappointing not to win," said Williams. "We competed for the first time all year. It would be nice to say we competed for the first time and look we won. We can't do that obviously."

The Eagles held off defeat in eighth, but were in control in the

Colby entered the seventh inning with a 3-2 lead. Dinkel walked the leadoff man, Victor Rivera. A sacrifice bunt and an infield hit by Chris Chaney advanced Rivera to third with one out. He later scored on a passed ball to tie the game at

In the bottom of the inning, Dinkel led off with a single and got to second on an error by pitcher Tyler Stebens. Schlick advanced Dinkel to third with a ground out, causing Olmsted to walk the bases loaded with one out.

The move paid off.

With the infield in, Rasmussen hit a soft liner to second, Granger made a diving catch and fired to first for the double play.

"It was a 4-5-6 hole situation, and I thought well I'll put 'em on and see if we can get a double play or a force out," said Olmsted. "We were pretty fortunate. Granger made an outstanding play."

The Eagles took a 3-2 lead in the sixth on a deep sacrifice fly by Thomas Wieland. Colby went ahead 2-0 in the first inning. Sager drove in one of the two runs with an RBI single. Behind Dinkel, Colby held their

2-0 lead until the fifth. An error by Chaz Winger allowed Liberal to score their first run. Austen Pitts' RBI single tied the game at 2. Dinkel lasted seven plus innings

and didn't get a decision. He allowed one earned run and five hits. Liberal had 10 hits in the game. Chris Flowers, Gomez, Stebens

and Granger limited to Colby's offense to nine hits in the game.

Dinkel's three-run homer was Colby's lone extra-base hit.

"I think in the future they will win," said Cox. "Winning's coming. It's just not here yet.'

Eagles senior decides to stay at home

Free Press Reporter him why we jfalkoff@nwkansas.com hadn't been

As it turns out, the days of Ethan him and if Stover raining three-pointers at the Community Building aren't over.

They're just getting started. The 6-3, 200 pound Colby High senior, who had originally narrowed his college choices down to Sterling and Northwestern Oklahoma State, has decided to stay home and continue his basketball career at Colby Community Col-

"Sterling was my choice until I talked to coach (John) Woods," said Stover. "I wanted to play junior college ball and had that chance. I felt like they just really wanted me to play for them."

The talk with coach Woods that swayed his decision occurred a couple of weeks before Stover signed with Colby May 2.

Prior to that meeting, Woods had stopped recruiting Stover because of the uncertainty regarding him and his coaching staff's future, along with the returning players.

"Given the circumstances, I didn't figure he would be interested," said Woods. "He's too good of a kid to be put in that situation. I didn't want to put a solid offer

out until the situation got better." Once Woods determined who was returning and targeted a new assistant coach, he proceeded to let Stover know how much interest there still was.

recruiting he was still interested we'd love to have him," said Woods. "That started

Stover

being him

interested

again. He wanted to go where someone really wanted him." There's no doubt Woods did,

given how highly he thinks of Stover as a player.

"I'm proud to have not only best shooter in the area, but probably the best player in northwest Kansas," said Woods. "He's smart, versatile, and unselfish. I look for him to contribute right away. Ethan represents what I want Colby Trojan basketball to be."

"That means a lot," said Stover. Last season, Stover meant quite a bit to the Eagle basketball team. He averaged 15.7 points and 4.4 rebounds, leading Colby to the state tournament for the first time

Stover was deadly from the outside, connecting on a team-high 55 three-pointers. He also broke the Orange and Black tournament three-point record this year by hitting 16 in three games.

While getting his shot off came easily in high school, Stover says he will need to work on his quickness and agility to have similar-

Ethan represents what I want Colby Troian basketball to be."

> John Woods, Trojan basketball coach

type success at the next level.

"The ability to get his shot off will be a challenge," said Woods. "He's strong enough and possesses enough other skills to be multidimensional. There's more to him than just shooting.'

Woods believes Stover's game all-around game will show through even more if he puts in the time

"If he gets stronger and increases his foot speed, that will take him to a higher level," said Stover. "I see him as a solid NCAA DII player."

That would be a step up over Stover's older brothers, Landon and Shane, who were all-conference performers at NAIA Sterling. Landon graduated in 2007, while Shane completed his career

Ethan's decision to stay home ends the run of Stover's at Sterling at least for the next two years. "It's a lot easier for my parents,

because they don't have to drive three hours to watch," said Ethan. Ethan becomes the second local player to join the Trojans this spring, giving them a total of

Brewster senior Corey Siruta igned with Colby April 19. Rising sophomore Anthony Rohr also attended Colby High and played with Stover for two years on var-

Woods said he doesn't anticipate any more local signings, but is pleased about getting both Stover and Siruta.

"It's always nice to get a player from Colby and northwest Kansas," said Woods. "It's nice for people to be able to see these guys play for two more years. They'll be in the same building, just a different uniform."

Trojans add Baltimore native Evans

Colby added to its recruiting class over the weekend by landing 6-3 205 pound guard Mark Evans from Baltimore, Md.

Evans, who attended traditionrich Owings Mill High School, averaged 11 points, six rebounds, five assists and two steals last year. He was named first-team all division and second-team all-county.

"Mark will step in right away and be a contributor," said Woods. "He has good range, he's a good shooter, he can play any position on the perimeter from point guard to small forward and he's a very good passer. He'll be a good team-

Woods said he became connected with Evans through a friend who coaches at Morgan State.

In order to provide equipment

for rural schools to participate in

Lady Eagle softball loses perfect season

This year at Colby High ing Wark who was 2-4 with a School, perfection will remain limited to the Lady Eagle basketball team.

Following 15 straight victories to open the season, the Colby Lady Eagle softball team suffered a heartbreaking first loss 6-5 Monday at Goodland.

Trailing 5-3 in the bottom of the seventh, Goodland pushed across three runs against Colby starter Logan Wark, who also suffered her first loss of the year. She's now 7-1.

The Lady Eagles were able to put the dissapointment behind them in game two, using an eight run first inning outburst to beat Goodland 10-6.

The split brought Colby's record to 17-1. They've also wrapped up the #1 seed at the regional tournament beginning Monday in Pratt. "We didn't play very solid de-

fense on a day where both teams hit the ball well," said Lady Eagle head coach Jack Elliott. The two teams combined for

22 hits in game one and 31 hits in game two. Wark, who had been nearly unhittable her last three times

out, was tagged for six runs, four earned and 10 hits in game one. She struck out three and walked none.

Four different Lady Eagles had multiple-hit games, includ- archs have moved to 3A.

triple, a double and an KBI Jordan Krzycki was 2-2 with a triple and two RBIs. Lindsey Frahm was 2-3 with two doubles and an RBI.

Tara Powell, Brena Jones, Caitlyn Wark and Chanelle Staats each had a hit. Powell and Jones also walked.

Colby's offense continued the onslaught in game two, pounding out 16 hits. Caitlyn led the way with a 3-4 day that included a home run, a walk and three RBIs. Logan was 3-5 with a double and an RBI.

Staats, Frahm and Krzycki each had two hits. Staats drove in three runs. Frahm doubled and drove in two.

Brena Jones, Powell, Kiri Kendrick and Skyler Mengel all finished 1-3. Kendrick doubled and also walked.

Mengel was the benefactor of the offensive support. She improved to 7-0 despite allowing six earned runs and 15 hits in seven innings. She struck out three and walked two.

Before they begin regionals, the Eagles conclude the regular season 4 p.m. Thursday at 4A defending state-champion Thomas-More Prep Marian (Hays)

Colby and TMP will not meet at regionals, because the Mon-

College hosts national archery program

Colby Community College of Education. hosted National Archery in the Schools Program (NASP) training for 10 school districts and 18 instructors April 23 on the Colby Community College campus.

All training was done inside the college gymnasium with the following schools participating: Almena USD 212, Brewster USD 314, Colby USD 315, Healy USD 468, Hoxie USD 412, Oberlin across the U.S. and internationally USD 294, Otis-Bison USD 403, Phillipsburg 325, Quinter USD and Australia. 293, Smith Center USD 237.

It was initiated in Kansas in 2002, but originated in Kentucky. Objectives include engaging elementary through high school students in the outdoor lifelong sports and learning objectives and standards through the Department of Education. NASP has accelerated in a few

years time to more than 45 states

to locations such as Nova Scotia

This program has a track record NASP is a joint program be- for improving school attendance tween the Departments of Wild- and assisting students in focuslife and Park and the Department ing on school work and improving instruction from the college.

Wednesday's instruction was a joint effort between Kansas Wildlife and Parks and Colby Community College. State NASP coordinator Gary Keehn from the Department of Wildlife and Parks in the Topeka area brought two additional Wildlife & Parks instructors with him. Matt Stucker is a Supervisor with the Conservation Office in

Larned, KS and Tim Urban is a

State Biologist from the Kansas

City, KS area. Colby Community

College Director of Economic De-

velopment Barry Kaaz provided

the program, Kansas Department of Wildlife & Parks has donated an archery kit to Colby Community College. The kit will be provided to participating schools on a rotational basis. The \$2800.00 donation of equipment includes 11 bows and stands, 60 arrows, five targets, and an arrow curtain for backstop. The College and participat-

ing schools wish to express their gratitude to NASP coordinator Gary Keehn and the Department of Wildlife & Parks for their generosity.

Royals drop second straight KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) _ Bannister (3-4) with another

Garret Anderson homered for the second straight game and drove in five runs to lift the Los Angeles Angels to a 5-3 win doubled and walked and scored over the Kansas City Royals on Tuesday night. Anderson, who had a two-

run home run Monday night, slammed Brian Bannister's pitch over the right field wall for a three-run shot that tied the score 3-all in the fourth. In the fifth, Anderson's RBI single made it 4-3. Then he victimized

RBI single in the seventh. He was 3-for-5. Vladimir Guerrero tripled,

two runs for the Angels, who went to a season-best nine games over .500 with their major league-leading 12th road Nick Adenhart went 4 1-3 in-

nings in his second major league start and gave up three runs and six hits. He walked five.

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