

Right down the middle

Colby High School baseball coach Kevin Cox threw a pitch in a 35-and-over wood bat league played in Denver, Colo. Cox will play in the 45 and over Wood Bat World Series this fall in Phoenix, Ariz.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

American Legion heads to state

Colby's American Legion baseball team will go into the state tournament this weekend with a massive amount of momentum it built from the zone tournament last weekend in Scott City.

Colby dominated the tournament winning all three of its games by a combined score of 41-3.

In Colby's first game against Scott City, Colby's four-run first inning propelled them to a 11-1 win in four innings. Colby scored three runs in the third and four runs in the fourth. Colby managed all of that in just eight hits.

Blanton led the way for Colby with 3-3 at the plate, a double and five RBIs. Dinkel was 2-2 and had a double and RBI. Arnberger was 2-3 with a double and RBI.

Rasmussen got the win for Colby. He didn't allow a hit and struck out three.

In game two, Colby blasted Goodland 15-2 in four innings.

Colby quickly jumped out to a 5-1 lead at the end of the second inning. Colby then put up 10 runs

in the third inning. Schlick led the way for Colby with 2-2 at the plate with a triple and three RBIs. Arnberger had two RBIs.

Schlick also got the win on the mound. He gave up one hit and struck out five.

Colby again played Scott City in game three and won 15-0 in four innings. Colby's 14 run third inning was the deciding factor.

Schlick, Arnberger, Dinkle and Blanton each had two hits. Schlick had four RBIs and Dinkle had three. Sager and Blanton each had two. Colby had 13 hits.

Dinkle got the win. He gave up two hits and struck out seven.

Colby begins state tournament play Friday at Somerset Park in Sabetha.

Colby plays 6:30 p.m. against Plainville. The winner of that game plays in the second game Saturday evening.

The loser of Colby-Plainville plays Saturday. The tournament is double elimination.

Team U.S.A. aims for redemption in China

(AP) — Sooner or later, people will stop measuring every U.S. Olympic basketball squad against the Dream Team.

U.S. coach Mike Krzyzewski is hoping it's sooner.

"There's only one Dream Team," said Krzyzewski, an assistant coach on that fabled squad. "That was '92. The mistake that our American people make is calling every team after a 'dream team.' This isn't Rocky I, II, III and IV.

"It's Dream Team I forever — and then the next teams have to get their own identity," he said. "This team will work at developing its identity."

A lot has happened in 16 years. Michael Jordan, Magic Johnson, Larry Bird and friends have moved on. More important, the world has caught up to the United States in the game it invented.

In its last three major international competitions, the U.S. has brought home two bronze medals.

To put that in perspective,

consider that Lithuania won the bronze in 1992. The Americans beat the Lithuanians by 51 points in the semifinals.

The 2004 U.S. Olympic team lost three times on its way to third place. The Americans had lost two games, total, in the previous 14 Olympics.

That's not a dream, it's a nightmare.

The mission for this team as it goes to Beijing? Simple. Restore what Americans believe is their rightful place atop the international hoops podium.

"It is redemption," said guard Dwyane Wade, one of four holdovers from the 2004 Olympic squad. "That's what it is: a road to redemption. 2004 was a hurt year for a lot of us — not for just the players but for the world. A lot of people were hurt by it. So this is a redemption year. This is to let our fans (know) that we're the best in basketball still."

It's one thing to say it. It's another to prove it.

"They're expecting us to just walk on the court and just win the game," said forward Carmelo Anthony, another 2004 Olympian. "We've got to work at it. Nothing's going to come easy for us."

The Americans lead the world in sneaker commercials. But when it comes to international (read: team) basketball, they have slipped into the pack.

And let's define "pack" as Puerto Rico, Greece, Argentina and, yes, Lithuania, all of whom have defeated the U.S. in major tournaments in the last four years.

The U.S. taught the world basketball. Now, in a bit of irony, it is trying to learn from the top international programs, which have long stressed continuity and roster stability.

That's why USA Basketball managing director Jerry Colangelo, the former Phoenix Suns owner, demanded a three-year commitment from players when he took over in 2005. He knew the U.S. approach — drafting an

all-star team, getting fitted for uniforms and then heading into competition — no longer worked.

"I have always been a firm believer that basketball is the ultimate team sport and that the more you play with one another, the better you can become — and that a good team can beat a group of all-stars," Colangelo said.

Greece made that painfully clear in the Americans' most recent major international competition, when it defeated the U.S. 101-95 in the semifinals of the 2006 world championships in Japan.

Before that game, the U.S. players put on a jam session for the fans in Saitama, a Tokyo suburb. As the crowd roared with delight, the Greeks lined up at the other end and shot free throws.

Showmanship vs. fundamentals. Guess which won out?

"I think we showed everybody that maybe we're not very good athletes like them, but we know how to play the game," Greek guard Theodoros Papaloukas said

J&R Marketing Presents

Rich Epp Play by Play

On 91.9 FM

FRIDAY, AUGUST 1st

COLBY AMERICAN LEGION STATE BASEBALL



6:15 P.M. AIRTIME
COLBY VS PLAINVILLE

Sponsored by:
SUNFLOWER BANK-COLBY AG CENTER-CERVOSKY INSURANCE-DONELAN JEWELRY-PEOPLES STATE BANK-GREEN ACRES LAWN CARE-JOHN GATZ ATTORNEY @ LAW-PALACE DRUG STORE-MC-AUTO OUTLET-FOUR SEASONS LANDSCAPE & IRRIGATION-FARM CREDIT OF WESTERN KANSAS-FRONTIER AG

Kids...Looking to get that new cell phone?

We can help!

Make \$\$\$\$\$ working after school for approximately 1 hour a day on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday!

THE COLBY FREE PRESS IS NEEDING CARRIERS!

OPEN ROUTES

3 routes now open

For more information call the Colby Free Press office:

785-462-3963 or stop in at 155 W. 5th Street

