



Senior Stephen Dinkel got ready to fire a pitch during Colby High School's first-round game in the regional tournament with Kingman on Monday. Dinkel pitched four scoreless innings to help the Eagles whip Kingman in a 10-0 blowout.

Eagles pitcher throws well in easy win over Kingman

By Andy Heintz
Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansas.com

The Colby High varsity baseball team dominated an outmatched Kingman squad 10-0 in the first round of their Class 4A regional tournament on Monday at Young Memorial Field at Colby Recreation Complex.

Senior starter Stephen Dinkel pitched a solid four innings, giving up no runs.

Senior Levi Schlick slammed a double past the left fielder that scored senior Cade Carter to give the Eagles a 1-0 lead in the top of the first. Later in the inning, senior Eric Blanton drove in senior Brent Arnberger and Schlick with a double to right center. Blanton was tagged out after he overran second base, ending the inning. Schlick and Arnberger had already crossed home when Blanton was tagged out, so both runs counted, increasing Colby's lead to 3-0.

Arnberger misplayed a grounder in the beginning of the second, allowing the batter to reach first base safely. Kingman's next batter hit a soft grounder that advanced the runner to third. Dinkel maintained his calm and got two straight strike outs to end the inning.

Junior Brandon Rasmussen drew a walk to start the bottom of the second. Freshman Dalton Snyder tried to advance Rasmussen with a bunt but hit the ball a

little too hard. It rolled right to Kingman's pitcher, who threw Rasmussen out at second. Snyder went on to steal second and advance to third on a passed ball. He eventually scored on a wild pitch, making it 4-0 Colby.

The Eagles ran away with the game in the the bottom of the third. Senior Corey Sager singled between between third and short to start the inning. He went on to steal second.

Arnberger drove Sager home with a ground-ball double down the third-base line, increasing the Eagles' lead to 5-0. Junior Preston Krzycki hit a high line drive to Kingmans' center fielder, who misplayed the ball, allowing Krzycki to get to second and Arnberger to advance to third.

Senior Eric Blanton hit a ground ball to Kingman's third baseman, who fired a wild throw past the catcher, allowing Arnberger to score. The catcher then threw off-target to third base in an attempt to



get Krzycki. The ball got past the player covering third, allowing Krzycki to score and giving Colby a 7-0 lead.

Dinkel hit a ground-ball single that found a gap between second and first, allowing Blanton to score and increasing the lead to 8-0. The Eagles scored two more runs in the inning to increase their lead to 10-0.

Dinkel pitched another scoreless inning in the top of the fourth. He ended the inning by striking out a Kingman batter with two outs and a runner on third.

Schlick came on in relief in the top of the fifth. He imposed his will on Kingman, striking out all three batters he faced to give Colby an easy victory.

The Eagles face No. 3 seed Hugoton at 4:30 today at Pratt. If they win, they will play the winner of a game between Scott City and Pratt in the regional championship at 7 p.m. tonight.



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Two Colby High golfers qualify for state tourney

By Andy Heintz
Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwkansas.com

Two Colby Eagles will be playing in the state Class 4A golf tournament Tuesday in El Dorado, but the rest of the varsity team will be staying home after a disappointing third-place performance at the regional tournament Monday in Ulysses.

The Eagles failed to finish in the top two, ending their season and preventing them from going to state as a team. They ended up placing third with 344 strokes overall.

"We hit too many balls out of bounds," said Coach Barry Lucas.

Senior Cole Finley and junior Ryley Hass both finished high enough to advance to state, with play beginning at 9 a.m. Tuesday at Prairie Trails Country Club.

Finley finished eighth with an 83 and Haas placed 10th by shooting an 84. Everyone from the top two teams gets to compete at state, and the top five golfers who are not part of those teams also get to go.

Coach Barry Lucas praised Finley's performance.

"Cole played a great round," he said. "His attitude has been good, and he played really smart at regionals."

Haas has had an outstanding season, placing first in six out of eight meets, the coach said, but his last two performances had not been as impressive.

Lucas said Haas has been struggling with his swing, but should be fine after he gets a week to practice before state.

Other scores from regionals include senior Kyle Molstad shooting an 86 and junior Dylan Stithem at 89. Sophomore Rocque

Russell shot a 94 and freshman Paul Schiferl shot 100.

"We had a good year," Lucas said, "but we wanted to make it great by sending the team to state. We will try again next year."

Stithem was crowned league champion after shooting a 79 at the Northwest Kansas League meet on Friday in Oberlin. The team finished first at the meet with 337 strokes overall. Schiferl finished second with an 83 and Russell placed sixth with an 87. Haas finished seventh with an 88.

The Eagles had a solid season in spite of a disappointing performance at regionals. They won seven of their eight meets and won their home invitational by 31 strokes.

Lucas said he wanted to thank everyone for the encouragement they gave the team this season.

Rockies lose to Atlanta Braves, but Helton gets his 2000 hit

ATLANTA (AP) — Jair Jurrjens knew eventually the Atlanta Braves would score some runs in one of his starts.

The only question was when. "It's like going to the ice cream store when you were a little kid," Jurrjens said with a grin. "You relax more and just throw strikes. Try to work on the pitch count, try to work deep in the game."

Jurrjens pitched seven strong innings, and Casey Kotchman had three hits and three RBIs to help the Atlanta Braves beat the Colorado Rockies 8-1 on Tuesday night.

Lowering his ERA 10 points to 1.96, Jurrjens (4-2) scattered three hits and allowed one run in seven innings. The right-hander struck out a season-high eight and walked three.

"Just come out and throw strikes," said Jurrjens, whose previous eight starts resulted in an average of only 2.3 runs of support. "That's the thing that's been working for me, just being aggressive. Before I was trying to be perfect."

In their previous three games, the Braves had scored just four runs, but the win improved them to 7-11 at Turner Field. They began the night with a .353 home winning percentage that was sec-

ond-worst in the majors.

Manager Bobby Cox, hoping to change Atlanta's poor fortunes at Turner Field, tweaked the batting order with Yunel Escobar leading off, Kotchman hitting second and dropping Kelly Johnson to the sixth spot.

Atlanta's 13 hits were its most at Turner Field since the home opener, a 10-inning, 6-5 victory over Washington on April 10.

One of the few highlights for Colorado, which has lost five of seven, was Todd Helton's 2,000 career hit. The Rockies' first base-

man singled in third to become the 255th player to reach the milestone.

"That's a lot of hits," Helton said. "I'm proud of every hit I've got."

Johnson had three hits for the first time in 25 games, improving his average 18 points to .243.

"I think that when you put up eight runs, whatever the lineup is after we haven't scored any runs," Johnson said, "I think we should stick with it."

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