



Colby ends drought, defeats North Platte

By Andy Heintz
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The Colby American Legion baseball team defeated the North Platte Nationals for the first time in several years with a convincing 13-3 victory in four innings to split a doubleheader Sunday at the Colby Recreation Complex.

The team was unable to carry the momentum from the first game into the second, falling to North Platte 10-4 in game two.

“We’re really happy with the split,” said Coach Jeff Krzycki. “The second game leaves a sour taste in my mouth, because we probably could have swept them.”

Junior Brandon Rasmussen pitched the first game for Colby, posting three scoreless innings before giving up three runs in the fourth.

“Brandon threw the ball very well,” said Krzycki.

Colby jumped on North Platte early scoring four runs in the bottom of the first. Senior Brent Arnburger drove in Colby’s first run when he ripped a line drive past the third baseman, allowing senior Cade Carter to score from third.

Moments later, junior Preston Krzycki slapped a single up the middle, scoring Arnberger and increasing the team’s lead to 2-0. Later in the inning, senior Stephen Dinkel hit a long fly ball off the center-field fence, scoring Krzycki and senior Eric Blanton to make it 4-0 Colby.

Colby’s offense struck again in the top of third when Krzycki

scored from third on a wild pitch to make it 5-0. Later in the inning, with Colby now leading 6-0, Carter walked with the bases loaded, allowing Dinkel to trot home from third to extend Colby’s lead to 7-0. Moments later, Rasmussen walked, scoring another run and increasing the lead to 8-0. At this point, North Platte changed pitchers with senior Corey Sager coming up to bat.

Sager hit a sacrifice fly ball to left field, scoring sophomore Nathan Quagliano from third to give Colby a 9-0 lead.

North Platte got a little momentum going in the top of the fourth. Two consecutive hits left runners on first and third. Dinkel dropped a long line drive to deep center, scoring a run to make the score 9-1.

Junior Garrett Rogers was able to get his body in front of a hard-hit ground ball, but he was unable to pick up the ball in time to get the runner trying to score or the runner headed to first. That cut Colby’s lead to seven. A line-drive single up the middle drove in another run, leaving the score 9-3.

Colby answered North Platte’s mini-rally in the bottom of the fourth. Krzycki led off with a walk. He was followed by Blanton who blasted a towering fly ball over the left field fence increasing Colby’s lead to 11-3. Later in the inning, Carter slapped a double to left-field fence, scoring Rogers to increase Colby’s lead to 12-3. Rasmussen hit a scorching line drive between the shortstop and third baseman, scoring Carter

from third and ending the game due to the 10-run limit.

Things started off well for Colby in game two. Carter led off the bottom of the first by stroking a single to left field. He went on to steal second and third before scoring on a wild pitch. Carter was a menace on the base paths all day, stealing four bases in game one and three in game two.

“He sets the table for us all the time,” said Krzycki. “He reads pitchers really well.”

North Platte got on the scoreboard in the top of the second, posting four runs thanks in part to some errors by Colby’s outfield. Quagliano missed a pop fly to right that allowed two runs to score near the end of the inning.

Rogers got in trouble again in the top of the third, loading the bases before being replaced by Dinkel. The first batter Dinkel faced laid down a nice bunt, allowing a run to score from third and increasing North Platte’s lead to 5-1. Dinkel had some control problems in the inning, walking two runs home to make it 7-1 North Platte.

Dinkel eventually settled down and pitched two scoreless innings before giving up two more runs in the top of the sixth that extended North Platte’s lead to 9-2. Colby picked up one run in the fourth, sixth and seventh, but North Platte came away with the victory.

The team’s record now stands at 8-6. The boys will play Ellis in a doubleheader at 6 and 8 p.m. on Wednesday at Young Memorial Field at the recreation complex.

Basketball camp begins today

Shelley Hoyt began her “Be Your Best” Basketball Camp today at Golden Plains High School for kids between third and eighth grade.

The camp will run through

Wednesday between 2 and 4 p.m. Hoyt’s daughter, J.C. Hoyt, a member of the Wichita State University women’s basketball team, will be assisting at the camp.

Late signups will be accepted

and a discount will be offered to those who miss the first day. To contact Hoyt, call (785) 675-1938.

Veteran ball player has big night; Rockies pick up win over Pittsburgh

DENVER (AP) — As the Colorado Rockies keep piling up the victories, a different star seems to emerge each day.

On Sunday, it was Clint Barmes’ turn.

Barmes homered, drove in two runs and scored two more and the Colorado Rockies completed a sweep of the Pittsburgh Pirates and ran their latest winning streak to five games with a 5-4 victory.

Less than 24 hours after Todd Helton hit a game-winning homer in the ninth, the Rockies have won for the 16th time in 17 games — including an 11-game winning streak — and improved to 18-5 under manager Jim Tracy.

Barmes doubled to drive in Colorado’s second run of the in the second inning and homered in the fourth to score what proved to be the game-winning run.

“Clint Barmes is thriving where he’s hitting in our lineup right now,” Tracy said. The veteran second baseman and No. 2 hitter has eight home runs and is batting .290.

“I do what I can,” Barmes said. “And I’ll take every hit I can get and make a contribution when the situation presented me.”

Colorado finished its homestand 8-1.

“Great game to win, an incredible home stand,” said Tracy, who took over for Clint Hurdle on May 29.

Jorge De La Rosa (3-7) overcame a shaky start to win at Coors Field for the first time this season. He went 5 2-3 innings and allowed three walks, four runs and seven hits. He also struck out six.

“In a game like today where both pitchers were battling the strike zone, he stuck it out and we were at least able to give him a little run support,” Barmes said of De La Rosa. “This is the way we have been playing during this stretch.”

Huston Street worked a perfect ninth for his 16th save in 17 chances. Street has now recorded either a save or a win in 10 of his last 11 appearances.

Freddy Sanchez homered and drove in three runs for the Pirates, who have lost four straight.

Pittsburgh starter Paul Maholm (4-4) allowed five runs on eight hits and struck out seven in five innings.

Rookie Andrew McCutchen

tripled to open the game and one pitch later scored on a single to center by Sanchez. De La Rosa worked out of a bases-loaded jam to avoid more damage.

The Pirates added two runs in the second. McCutchen singled with two outs and Sanchez followed with a home run that barely cleared the wall in left field.

Colorado tied it at 3 in the second inning on an RBI single by Dexter Fowler and RBI doubles by Barmes and Ryan Spilborghs.

Barmes caught a break on his double when Sanchez lost his high popup in the sun behind second base. Although the cloudless sky warranted sunglasses, Sanchez wasn’t wearing any.

“I don’t wear sunglasses. I flat out don’t wear them because they affect me on ground balls,” Sanchez said. “I should have made the play anyway.”

Pittsburgh manager John Russell agreed and bemoaned the play’s consequences.

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Swing batter, batter



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
Matt Dickson, assistant coach of the Colby Community College baseball team and member of the Honeymoon’s Over softball team, got ready for a pitch during a Colby Recreation league co-ed softball game at the Colby Recreation Complex on Sunday.



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