



Baseball squad goes 1-5 in Hays

The Colby American Legion Baseball team went 1 and 5 last weekend in tough competition at the Hays Senior Tournament, where only wood bats were allowed.

“It was pretty disappointing,” said Coach Jeff Krzycki, adding that Colby was the only Class 2A team in the tournament, as the rest were AAA teams from larger towns.

The team started off on a positive note Friday, defeating a team from Excelsior, Minn., 8-2.

Graduate Stephen Dinkel pitched a solid game, giving up only four hits and two earned runs in seven innings. He threw 70 strikes and 49 balls.

Brent Arnberger, another Colby grad, went three of four at the plate and graduate Erik Blanton went two for two and had two runs batted in.

The boys lost to Hays 10-5 on Saturday.

Colby took an early lead, picking up a run in the first, but Hays answered by ticking off five runs in the second.

Hays tacked on three more runs in the third to give them a 8-1 lead. Colby mounted a minor comeback in the fourth, scoring four runs and cutting Hay’s lead to 8-5. But Hays would score two more runs in the sixth on their way to a win.

Arnberger went two for four and had two runs batted in. Senior Brandon Rasmussen suffered the loss. He gave up eight runs, seven of them earned, on eight hits before being replaced by graduate Cade Carter in the fourth.

The team lost to Greeley, Colo., 4-0 on Saturday evening.

Graduate Kevin Lang started the game for Colby. He gave up four runs in six innings of action. Only three of the runs were earned.

Blanton went two for three.

The boys lost to Wichita 10-6

on Sunday morning.

Senior Garrett Rogers took the loss. He gave up four earned runs in a third of an inning before being replaced by graduate Corey Sager.

Sager went on to give up 6 earned runs in 6 1/3 innings. He struck out eight batters while giving up eight hits.

Carter and Dinkel both went two for three.

Colby lost a close game to Excelsior (a suburb, west of Minneapolis) 4-2 in extra innings in the last round of the tournament.

Senior Preston Krzycki pitched the first six innings for Colby. When he left the game, Colby trailed Excelsior 2-1. The boys were able to pick up a run in the seventh to tie the game at two.

Lang pitched the seventh and eighth. Minnesota managed to score two in the eighth to give them a 4-2 win.

Carter doubled and singled in the game.

Coach Krzycki said he is hoping his team can win its last eight league games so they will have some momentum going into the Class AA zone tournament.

“The capability is there,” he said. “Our initiative to do well has to change. We are playing not to lose instead of playing to win. We look complacent and bored.”

Krzycki said he was happy with the way the boys had swung the bat during the tourney and he said he was also happy with the three double plays the team turned last weekend.

The coach said his team was doing some good things on the field, but they just weren’t making the big plays when they needed to.

The team will face Scott City at in a doubleheader at 6 and 8 p.m. today at the Colby Recreation Complex.

Riding for ribbons



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
Alexi Regier of Thomas County rode her horse during a competition at the Northwest Kansas 4H District Horse Show on Tuesday at the Dick Farmer Arena in Oakley. She won a purple ribbon in barrel racing in the 14-to-18-year-old bracket.

New drivers win at Speedway

By Eric Gaede
Thomas County Speedway

The weather was looming but the races were completed in plenty of time on Sunday, with new winners gracing the victory lane again this week.

Dwayne Dechant, Dustin Daniels, Travis Glassman and Joe Austin took the wins in their respective divisions.

Dechant made it to the checkered flag first in the modified division, holding off Ronnie Hill, who was close behind the whole race. There must have been a full moon hiding behind the clouds, as the modifieds needed three starts to get their main event underway. Nick Tubbs and Adam Morris saw an early end to their nights after receiving damage from the first-lap incidents.

John Fabrizious came up fast from the back of the pack with just enough time to get to third place. Jason Schoenberger made it to fourth place with a last-lap pass on Brady Coen, who ended up finishing fifth. Darrin Deloach finished sixth. Matt Morris and John Fose rounded out the top eight. There were nineteen modifieds on hand.

Dustin Daniels has moved back into the Stock class after running a couple of years in the Modifieds. He seems to have his new car working well, as he picked up the win in his second night with it here in Colby.

Jason Rogers was not losing any ground to Daniels, placing

second, but he could not challenge for the win. Ryan Wark held off Travis Towns for third place and Bruce Plumisto came in fifth. Wheat Lippelmann was sixth and B.J. Wagoner came in seventh.

Travis Glassman got his first win of the year by holding off his brother Brett as the Glassmans made it a one-two sweep in the hobby stock class.

Josh Latka finished third after starting deep in the field and Matthew Crowell placed fourth. B.J. Dauer made it all the way to second and was gunning for the lead, but he spun on the closing laps. He still managed to finish fifth. Chad Fields followed him in sixth and Jake Eicher finished in seventh. There were ten cars in the class.

Joe Austin held off a hard-charging Tyrel Smith for his first win in the Econos. Smith had to restart in the back after a caution and made it all the way to second place before running out of laps.

Another Econo was claimed by the track gods as Dusty Pennington rolled his car on the back stretch at the beginning of the main, ending his night in 11th place. Alex West held off Alex Crossland to finish third, Lonnie Kear came in fifth and Adrienne West finished sixth. Eleven cars started the main.

Who will be the next new winner? We will have to wait and see until the next races on Sunday, July 19, at the Thomas County Speedway. See you at the races.

Hoxie fund raiser to include tourney

The Hoxie Recreation Department plans a softball tournament and fun day to help raise money for buildings at the town ball fields from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 25, at the fields north of Hoxie on K-23, on the east side of the airport.

“Our ball fields have been falling into disrepair the last couple of years,” said Cheryl Schwarz, a member of the Hoxie Summer Recreation board, “and we are using this as a fund raiser to help pay for new clay, dirt work and tin for the buildings.”

The benefit will include a co-ed

softball tournament at 9 a.m. Registration is \$100 per team, due by Monday, July 20. Other activities will include fast-pitch softball and a home-run derby.

Children’s activities will include a baseball throw, home-run sprints and a “pro-look-a-like” contest.

Forms can be picked up at Six Toes Feed and Seed, Peoples State Bank, the Hoxie city office and the city pool, or you can call Garrett Kaiser at (785) 675-8801.

For information, contact Schwarz, Kaiser, Jason Weimer, Meghan Gourley, Darnelle Keith, Janel Beckman or Brian Diercks.

Royals offense stymied in 3-1 defeat by Detroit

DETROIT (AP) — Lucas French didn’t allow himself a chance to focus on who he was pitching against until after the game.

After earning his first career victory, he took a moment to re-

alize what he had done. Making his second career start, the Tigers rookie outdueled All-Star Zack Greinke as Detroit defeated Kansas City 3-1.

French held the Royals to one run and six hits in 6 1-3 innings.

Rockies pitcher wins fourth in row

DENVER (AP) — Waiting out Jorge De La Rosa’s early season struggles has allowed the young Rockies left-hander to play a central role in Colorado’s mid-season surge.

De La Rosa pitched effectively into the seventh inning to earn his career-best fourth straight win, Ryan Spilborghs hit a bases-loaded triple to key a four-run fifth and the Rockies beat the Washington Nationals 10-4 Wednesday to complete a three-game sweep.

Troy Tulowitzki hit a two-run homer among his three hits and Carlos Gonzalez added three more hits for the Rockies, who have beaten the Nationals six straight times since August.

Colorado’s third sweep in its last five home series put the Rockies six games over .500 for the first time this season. They have gone 30-15 since May 21, the best winning percentage in the majors.

De La Rosa has been a key part of the Rockies’ resurgent play, winning six of his last seven starts after going 0-6 with four no decisions in his first 10. Manager Jim Tracy said the Rockies’ determination to keep him in the rotation could prove to be one of the season’s pivotal decisions.

De La Rosa credited improvements in his two-seam fastball and control, along with an unwavering belief in himself.

Forward signs deal to stay in Denver

DENVER (AP) — Chris “Birdman” Andersen has reached a five-year deal to keep his high-flying, shot-blocking act with the Denver Nuggets, the team he revived his career with last season.

Andersen’s attorney, Mark Bryant, confirmed the agreement on Wednesday, saying it could be signed later in the day. The deal was first reported by the Denver Post.

Andersen, who turned 31 on Tuesday, could make up to \$26 million over the lifetime of a back-loaded contract that gives the Nuggets financial flexibility.

The Nuggets didn’t return phone calls.

Andersen will make close to \$3.65 million in 2009-10, up from the \$998,398 he made last season, when he averaged 6.4 points and

2.5 blocks in 20.6 minutes.

“You write the best-case scenario, think you’re dreaming and open your eyes and it’s real,” Bryant said. “He’s very excited. They treated him as a priority.”

With his colorful tattoos and spiky hair, Andersen was an instant hit with Denver fans, who’ve embraced his return to the court.

Andersen came back to the NBA in 2008 following a ban that lasted almost two years after he tested positive for an undisclosed “drug of abuse.”

The energetic forward known for his defensive disruption around the basket provided a spark off the bench as the Nuggets made a run to the Western Conference finals, where they fell to the Los Angeles Lakers in six games.

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