



Baseball team sweeps Quinter

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The Colby K-18 baseball team swept a doubleheader with Quinter on Thursday at the Colby Recreation Complex, winning the first game 9-4 and the second 16-6.

The second game ended in the bottom of the fourth due to the run limit.

Brock James started for Colby in game one. He pitched four innings before being replaced by Braden Sager in the top of the fifth.

Colby picked up a run in the bottom of the first to take an early 1-0 lead. Quinter responded by scoring two runs in the top of the second.

In the second, Colby's Trek Keck hit a groundball to the Quinter shortstop deep in the hole. He fielded it cleanly, but he didn't have the time to throw out Keck or the runner trying to score from third, giving Colby a 3-2 lead. Then Quinter tied the game at 3 in the top of the third when one of its runners stole home.

As the fifth inning arrived, the teams were tied at 4.

Sager pitched a scoreless half inning in the top, and Colby picked up two runs in the bottom of the fifth. Todd Kane scored on a passed ball and Caleb Carter hit a ground ball between first and second that went under the legs of a Quinter player, giving Colby a 6-4 lead.

Jake Thompson hit a ground ball through the legs of Quinter's shortstop allowing him to advance to second in what should have been an out. Sager hammered a ground ball that was fielded cleanly by Quinter's third baseman. Unfortunately for Quinter, he threw a bouncer that hit the dirt and got past the first baseman, allowing Thompson to score. That extended Colby's lead to 7-4.

Sager was able to get all the way to third on the play. Colby picked up two more runs to take a 9-4 lead before the inning came to a close.

Sager pitched a scoreless seventh and Colby picked up the win.

Thompson started the second game for Colby. Quinter scored two runs in the top of the first to take a 2-0 lead.

Thompson helped himself out in the bottom of the first by hitting a line drive to center field that he was able to stretch into a double. Luke Cox singled between short and third, driving in Thompson and cutting Quinter's lead to 2-1. Colby scored on two passed balls and took a 3-2 lead before the inning came to an end.

Thompson got into trouble in the top of the second when a Quinter batter ripped a line drive up the middle with the bases loaded to drive in two runs. That gave Quinter a 4-3 lead. Another line-drive single up the middle drove in two more runs to increase Quinter's lead to 6-3. Jordan Rasmussen went in to relieve Thompson, and he got through the inning without giving up another run.

Cox hit a pop fly to Quinter's right fielder, who failed to catch the ball, allowing a run to score in the bottom of the second. Then Sager doubled to center, driving in two runs to tie the game at 6.

Zack Stones hit a ground ball that glanced off the leg of Quinter's second baseman, allowing a runner to score and making the tally 7-6 Colby.

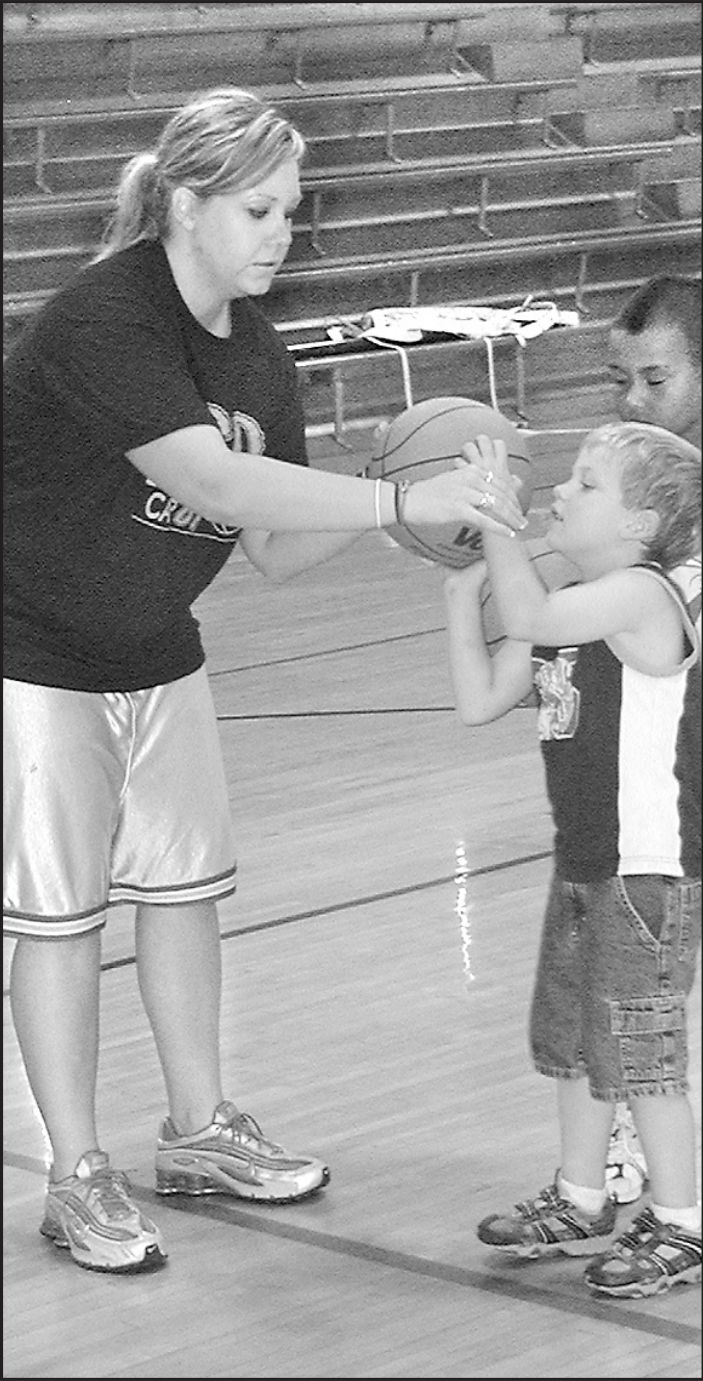
Carter for Colby drove in a run with a groundball single between third and short to increase Colby's lead to 8-6.

The boys picked up five more runs in the bottom of the third to take a 13-6 lead. Quinter's pitcher walked in two of the runs and another run on a passed ball. Kane singled up the middle to drive in Colby's last two runs.

Sager continued to pitch well, striking out two and giving up no runs in the top of the fourth. Thompson drove in two runs with a line-drive single to left to increase Colby's lead to 15-6 in the bottom of the fourth. Later in the inning, Quinter's pitcher walked Stones with the bases loaded to give Colby a 16-6 victory.

Colby will begin play in the regional tournament Saturday, July 25, at Goodland.

It's all in the wrist



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
Stacy Lee, director of the Colby Recreation Department, helped Nathan Stramel work on his shooting form during the Colby Recreation Youth Camp for kids 4 and 5 on Thursday morning at the Colby Grade School gym.

Rockies win over Padres 10-1

SAN DIEGO (AP) — When Aaron Cook pitches against the San Diego Padres, it usually ends up a win for the Colorado Rockies.

Cook pitched his usual solid game against the Padres and received home runs from Clint Barmes and Seth Smith in the team's 10-1 victory Thursday night.

Cook ran his career mark to 13-4 against the Padres, his most wins against any opponent. Cook, who got his sixth straight decision, improved to 6-1 with a 1.60 ERA in his last nine starts in San Diego. Cook has a career ERA of 2.66 against the Padres in 23 appearances, including 21 starts.

Although Cook was not as sharp as he has been in the past against San Diego, the right-hander made pitches in the right spots to escaped numerous jams, including two with the bases loaded.

"It was really weird today," Cook said. "I pitched with a lot of guys on base, I gave up a lot of hits. The defense came up big behind me and I was able to get some strikeouts when I need to."

Cook pitched six innings and tied his career high with eight strikeouts. In bases-loaded situations in the first and third innings, he allowed one run.

"He did a great job of wiggling out of a couple of messes early in the game," Colorado manager Jim Tracy said.

Cook allowed a first-inning run, then pitched out of trouble in every inning except the second when

he had his only 1-2-3 showing. He allowed eight hits and walked four.

The Rockies were leading 4-1 in the sixth when Barmes hit a three-run homer, his 11th, off Mike Ekstrom.

"It's always nice to get a swing on the ball and hit it like that," Barmes said. "Especially coming off the break, and my first three at-bats were not exactly the way I was planning on them going. I got a little jumpy."

It was nice to slow it down and get a good pitch to hit."

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Royals to take on Rays

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — The Kansas City Royals send right-hander Brian Bannister to the mound Friday night against Tampa Bay in hopes of having a

better second half to this season. The Royals have been beset by injury to their closer, center fielder, third baseman and shortstop.

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