



Baseball team's season ends in tough loss



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
Brandon Rasmussen took a swing at a pitch during Saturday's game between the Colby American Legion baseball squad and Russell at the Ellis Fairgrounds Baseball Field.

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The Colby American Legion team's season came to an end on Saturday after losing 11-10 to Russell in the regional semi-finals at Ellis Fair Grounds Baseball Field.

It was a tough way for the boy's season too end and a tough loss to endure under any circumstances. Russell erased an eight point deficit, to take an 11-9 lead in the bottom of the fourth.

"We never stepped it up to the next level this year," said Coach Jeff Kryzycki. "We haven't been able to put a whole game together."

The boys jumped all over Ellis' pitcher in the top of the first, peppering the outfield with line drives.

Shortstop Cade Carter led off the inning with a line drive double to right field. Catcher Corey Sager drove in Carter by ripping a line drive double to left to give Colby a 1-0 lead. Starting pitcher Kevin Lang poked a soft line drive single to shallow center field allowing Sager to score make it 2-0 Colby.

First-baseman Brent Arnberger drove in Lang by smashing a line drive double to the left-center field fence to make it 3-0 Colby. Moments later Arnberger would

score on a ground ball single up the first baseline by left fielder Eric Blanton.

Lang started the game at pitcher for Colby. He looked solid early going giving up only one run in three innings.

The boy's tacked on another run in the second and headed into the top of the fourth with a 5-1 lead.

Carter slapped a single between the shortstop and third base allowing third baseman Brandon Rasmussen to score from third. Lang hit a ground ball to the second baseman with the bases loaded that led to a force out at second, but allowed Winger to score from third to make it 7-1 Colby. Arnberger slammed another double to left center-field allowing Carter and Lang to extend his team's lead to 9-1.

Russell began to show signs of life in the bottom of the fourth. They managed to load the bases with no outs. A long fly ball to Winger in right field allowed the Russell runner on third to score to make it 9-2 Colby. Later in the inning Carter made a diving stop on a ground ball that seemed destined for the outfield. Unfortunately, he didn't have enough time to throw out the batter or the runner on third who was able to score to decrease Colby's lead to 9-3. Russell scored one more run before the inning came to an end cutting

Colby's lead to 9-4.

Russell had an even bigger inning in the bottom of the fifth. Their first run in the inning came when Sager tried to throw out Russell's runner on third base, but his throw was way off the mark allowing the runner to score and decreasing Colby's lead to 9-5. A pair of line drives by Russell's batters drove in two more runs to make it 9-7 Colby.

Rasmussen replaced Lang at pitcher. The first batter he faced slapped a ground ball single between shortstop and third base allowing two runs to score and tying the game at 9. Russell's next batter hit a line drive to right field allowing two runs to score and giving Russell a 11-9 lead.

Rasmussen was replaced by Carter at pitcher. He was able to get through the inning without giving up another run.

Neither team was able to score in the sixth. Blanton gave Colby reason to hope in the top of the seventh when he led off the inning by belting a hard line drive over the center field fence to cut Russell's lead to 11-10. But the boys were unable to get anything else going in the inning and Russell walked away with the victory.

With the loss, the team finished their season with a record of 25-15.

Broncos new football coach gets mixed reaction from fans

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) — The Denver Broncos' offseason of change and chagrin is about to give way to the team's first training camp without Mike Shanahan in 15 years.

New quarterback Kyle Orton and wide receiver Brandon Marshall are due at Dove Valley with the rookies and rehabbers on Monday, three days before the rest of the squad reports for new coach Josh McDaniels' first training camp.

Shanahan's firing on Dec. 30 set off a stormy off-season that has divided the Broncos' faithful into two camps:

- Those who welcome Shanahan's two rookie replacements, McDaniels and general manager Brian Xanders, as they try to restore the lost luster to a franchise that has just one playoff win in the last decade.
- And those who view McDaniels and Xanders as smug thirtysomethings who are in over their heads

and hold out little hope for a quick fix.

McDaniels has never been a head coach at any level. He got off to a rocky start in Denver when he alienated Pro Bowl quarterback Jay Cutler and eventually traded him to Chicago for Orton and a bevy of draft picks.

The draft, however, brought more fodder for his critics who wondered why he didn't address his front seven on defense more than he did. McDaniels said the talent simply wasn't there, so he used six of his 10 selections on offense, including Georgia running back Knowshon Moreno with his top pick.

Fans were stumped when McDaniels traded Denver's first-round pick in 2010 to Seattle to move up and grab defensive back Alphonso Smith — who signed Sunday — in the second round, a move McDaniels insisted wasn't ordered by a cost-conscious ownership.

Rockies defeat San Francisco; pitcher wins seventh straight

DENVER (AP) — When traffic filled the bases, Aaron Cook's sinker was superb as the pitch dipped and dropped to bail him out of trouble.

Cook relied heavily on his trademark pitch to win his seventh straight decision Sunday, leading the Colorado Rockies to a 4-2 victory over the San Francisco Giants.

Cook gave up nine hits in seven innings, yet always seemed to wiggle off the hook as he allowed just two runs.

"It's not the end of the world if somebody's on," Cook said with a shrug. "I really don't worry about guys on base. Once they're on,

what am I going to do?"

Let his defense go to work.

The Giants rolled into 16 groundouts, including a double play in the fourth that thwarted a potential rally.

Cook (10-3) has now forced 17 double play this season, which ranks among the NL leaders.

"He's got one of the best (sinkers) in the game and good command of it," Giants manager Bruce Bochy said. "When you're facing a guy like Cook, you know you have your work cut out."

For a series in July, this almost had a playoff vibe to it. And by taking two of three, the Rockies increased their NL wild-card lead to two games over the Giants.

Sure, there's still a lot of games left. But Rockies manager Jim Tracy said this was vital for momentum as the team heads out on a 10-game road trip.

"We leave here feeling very good about ourselves," Tracy said.

The Giants, meanwhile, return home with a sinking feeling.

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