



Eagles go 1-1 at home

By Andy Heintz
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The Colby American Legion baseball team split two games with Hays in their season opener Monday.

The Eagles fell to the Indians 12-3 in game one, but rebounded to crush Hays 10-2 in the second game. Both games lasted six innings due to the eight-run rule. If a team is winning by eight or more runs after five innings, the game is called.

Corey Sager, a former Colby High baseball player and a member of the Barton County Community College team in Great Bend this year, made a triumphant return to Young Memorial Field. His dominating presence on the mound in the second game helped spur Colby to victory.

Preston Krzycki started for Colby in game one. Both teams struggled to score runs early in the first game. Neither was able to score in the first two innings.

The Eagles finally got on the scoreboard in the bottom of the third. Chaz Winger got things going by pounding a single between the shortstop and third baseman. Then Brandon Rasmussen reached first on an error by the Indians' shortstop. Later in the inning, Winger scored from third on a wild pitch, giving Colby a 1-0 lead. Sager blasted a single up the middle, scoring Rasmussen to make it 2-0.

The pendulum shifted to Hays' side in the top of the fourth. Krzycki got into some trouble on the mound and was relieved by Braden Sager, Corey's younger brother, with the bases loaded. Sager walked the first batter he faced, giving Hays a run and cutting the Eagles' lead in half. Then an Indians' batter punched a two-run double between first and second, putting Hays out in front 3-2.

Nathan Quagliano relieved Sager in the top of the fifth. Hays scored four runs off a single, double and sacrifice fly to go up 7-2. Krzycki prevented any further damage in the inning by snagging a sharply-hit line drive to third.

Rasmussen belted a line-drive single to left early in the bottom half of the fifth. He advanced to third and scored after the Indians' pitcher was called for a balk. That



Chaz Winger scored on a wild pitch in the bottom of the third inning during the front half of a doubleheader between the Colby American Legion team and Hays on Monday at Young Memorial Field.

ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

cut Hays' lead to 7-3, but the Indians pulled ahead in the top of the sixth. Hays tacked on five more runs on a wild pitch, a couple of hard-hit singles and a double. Colby failed to score in the bottom of the fifth and Hays claimed a 12-3 victory.

Corey Sager started game two for Colby. He looked at home on the mound from the opening pitch to the final out.

Sager was a picture of confidence in the first inning, recording three strike outs, while giving up no runs.

Lead-off hitter Jordan Rasmussen belted a line drive to center in the bottom of the first. He scored on a wild pitch to put the Eagles out in front 1-0.

Sager caught the first batter he faced looking to start the top of the second. The next batter flied out to Sam Kendrick in center, then Sager got his fifth strikeout to end the inning.

Catcher Jake Thompson scored in the bottom of the second, thanks to a bad throw by Hays' catcher. The catcher tried to throw out Thompson, who was attempting to steal third, but the throw got by the third baseman, allowing Thompson to score.

Sager continued to impose his will on the Indians' batters in the top of third. He concluded his third scoreless inning with another strikeout.

Jordan Rasmussen got beamed by a pitch to start the bottom of the third. Later in the inning, Rasmussen scored from third on a sacrifice fly to center by Krzycki to make it 4-0. Braden Sager scored on a wild pitch, extending the boys' lead to 5-0 before the inning ended.

The Indians scored their first run in the top of the fourth, cutting Colby's lead to four.

Corey Sager blasted a two-run homer over the right-field fence that pushed the Eagles' lead to 7-1 in the bottom of the fifth.

Coach Jeff Krzycki said Sager brings an attitude of success to the team.

"You can feel his energy out there," he said.

The boys got a little sloppy on defense in the top of the sixth. Braden Sager had a fly ball deflect off his glove in right field with two outs. A sudden change in the weather played a role in Sager missing the pop fly. The wind, which was virtually nonexistent for most of the evening, really

started to blow in the late innings, making it hard for outfielders to judge where fly balls were headed. The batter stole second and advanced to third when a pitch got by Thompson. He went on to score when another pitch got by Thompson, cutting Colby's lead to 7-2.

Then miscommunication between Kendrick and Braden Sager allowed a catchable pop fly to find a patch of grass in right center. But Sager was able strike out the next batter on a called third strike, bringing the inning to an end.

Hays' pitcher got wild in the bottom of the sixth. Thompson drew a walk to start the inning. Then Nathan Quagliano and Todd Kane were both hit by pitches, loading the bases. Brandon Rasmussen walked, allowing Thompson to trot home from third and expanding the Eagles' lead to 8-2. Later in the inning, Krzycki ripped a blistering grounder between first and second, scoring two runs and giving Colby a 10-2 victory.

Krzycki said the difference between the two games was that Sager threw strikes in the second game and the Eagles' pitchers weren't throwing enough strikes in the first game.

Larks manager, at (785) 628-6703.

Local pitcher signs with Wildcats

By Andy Heintz
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Colby High graduate Levi Schlick signed to pitch for the Kansas State University baseball team on May 25 after playing a year for Barton County Community College in Great Bend this spring.

Schlick said he thought playing for K-State would give him a chance to pitch a lot. He said two Wildcats' pitchers are graduating and the team's pitching staff will be fairly young next season.

Schlick is playing for the Hays Larks in the Jayhawk League this summer. He said the coaches in the league can recruit players from anywhere in the country. Schlick said the other teams in the league are Derby, El Dorado, Dodge City, Liberal and Haysville.

Schlick said he is looking forward to working with Wildcats' pitching coach Sean McCann, who's known for helping pitchers develop. McCann coached 2009 Consensus All American A.J. Morris, who went 14-1 in 2009 and was named Big 12 Pitcher of the year, a vast improvement from his 2008 season when he went 4-4 with a 6.0 earned run average.

Other reasons Schlick gave for signing with K-State included having three siblings that went to the college, wanting to go to an in-state college and being a Wildcats' fan. Schlick said Nebraska, Kan-

sas and Texas A&M also recruited him.

Schlick had an impressive year with the Barton County, finishing the season with a .378 batting average and a 2.11 earned run average. The Cougars finished the year with a 32-24 record.

Schlick made a smooth transition from high school to college baseball, but he said the difference between the two is night and day. Schlick said the pace of the game is a lot quicker in college. Most games are about 30 minutes shorter than high school games.

Schlick said he had to get used to the extra time and work playing college baseball entailed. He said this includes two-a-day practices and lifting weights three times a week. Schlick said pitchers also had to do long-distance runs.

Schlick said he playing against his best friend and fellow Colby native Stephen Dinkel, a pitcher for the Colby Community College team was different. The two played against each other when Barton County took on the Trojans in a four-game series March 28 and 29 in Colby. The Trojans took three of four from the Cougars.

"I grew up playing with him and I never thought I would be playing against him," Schlick said, adding that he had been best friends with Dinkel "practically since they were in diapers."

The two friends both pitched in the series, but in different games.

Sacred Heart church holds golf tournament

Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Colby will host its 10th annual golf tournament, "Swinging Fore the Lord," on Friday at the Meadow Lake Golf Course.

Registration for mulligans and raffle prizes will be from 8 to 8:45 a.m., and tee time is 9 a.m. sharp.

The tournament will be a four-person scramble with an entry fee of \$300 per team or \$75 per person. Teams can be all men, women or a combination. Children 10 and older are allowed to golf with an adult. If you want to golf but don't have a team, call Jeannie Solko at (785) 462-2179 or (785) 460-2833 to be put on a list.

To ensure your spot, you may mail or turn in your entry form along with your entry fee, payable to Sacred Heart Church, 585 N. French, Colby, Kan., 67701. The fee includes 18 holes of golf, coffee and rolls, two meals and hole prizes. Last year's tournament filled up one month beforehand.

Golfers of all skill levels are welcome, organizers say. Mulligans are available and hole prizes and flight money will be awarded. Make your own golf cart arrange-

ments. For information, call Solko at 462-2179 or 460-2833.

Colby native playing for Hays team this summer

Hays Larks fans and little leaguers from all over the area are invited to "Larks Little League Night and a Pre-Game Tailgate" to watch the Larks take on Denver in a doubleheader starting at 6 p.m. Sunday at Larks' Park at Fourth and Oak in Hays.

Colby native Levi Schlick, a pitcher who recently signed with Kansas State University, is playing for the Larks this summer.

The Larks, a summer baseball team with players from colleges and universities across the U.S., are members of the Jayhawk League. Schlick said coaches can recruit players from anywhere to

play for their teams. He said his squad includes a player from Australia.

Dozens of major league stars including Albert Pujols, Lance Berkman, Roger Clemens, Barry Bonds and Ozzie Smith have played in the Jayhawk league. Schlick said Derby, El Dorado, Dodge City, Liberal and Haysville are the other team's in the league.

Gates and concessions will be open at 3:30 p.m. for the first Larks pre-game tailgate. Watch the team take batting practice and enjoy an opening-game special from the concession stand. Little league players are invited to wear

their uniforms and enjoy hot dog specials, run the bases at the park and go on the field with Larks players for the National Anthem before the second game of the doubleheader. Players should report to the apparel stand by 7:30 p.m. to join players for the pre-game activities.

An autograph session will be held after the second game, featuring players Andy Lewton and Jay Sanders with their baseball cards. This and all other Larks' home games are free, thanks to sponsorships from Hays businesses and organizations.

For information, contact Leo,

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