

# Baseball team wins 3 of 4 against Lamar

The Colby Community College baseball team won two games on the road against Lamar Community College on Feb. 26, 14-7 and 5-3, and defeated McCook Community College 16-9 in a home contest last Wednesday at Carl Adams Field.

"We really swung the bats well today, and that helped us overcome seven walks and two hit batters in the first three innings," said Coach Ryan Carter after the home contest. "We had 11 extra base hits that led to a season-high 16 runs scored."

Expectations are high this year following last season's extraordinary finish. The Trojans broke several records, including most wins in the Jayhawk Conference era, and finished one game away from their first trip to the Junior College World Series.

Carter, who enters his 14th season here, was the 2011 Jayhawk West Coach of the Year.

"From a coaching perspective,"

he said, "it was a sloppy game yesterday, but we always stress playing in the moment and finding ways to compete. I believe we did that today. We were able to overcome some subpar pitching performances and find a way to win against McCook."

The Trojans then faced Lamar again on Saturday, where they were able to do something they have not accomplished in many years. The team won three out of four games played this year against a power Lamar team.

The Trojans won the first game 18-12. Game two ended in a loss for Colby with a score of 11-2.

"The weather helped contribute to 43 runs scored that day," said Carter. "Brandon Wilson stayed hot with 5 hits, 10 runs batted in and 3 home runs for the day."

The team has the week off to prepare for the opening Jayhawk Conference game on Saturday at Concordia. Game time is set for 1 p.m.



Brandon Wilson was congratulated by his teammates Saturday for hitting a home run during a Colby Community College baseball game at Carl Adams Field against Lamar Community Col-

lege. Wilson hit 3 homers that day with the Trojans winning the first game 18-12 and losing the second 11-2.

KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press

# Middle school A-team places third in league

By Judy Rogers

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The Golden Plains Middle School A-team girls placed third in the Freedom League Basketball Tournament in Sharon Springs.

They defeated Cheylin 51-22 on Feb. 16, then lost to Wheatland-Grinnell 15-17 in the semi-final round on Feb. 18, and took third place with a 24-13 win over Sharon Springs.

Against Cheylin, the girls were confident as they stepped on the floor. They had defeated the Bird City team two weeks earlier. Cheylin was equally determined, putting in 6 points to the Lady Bulldogs' 9 in the first quarter. The Lady 'Dogs then ran away with the game, adding 10 points in the second period while holding the Lady Cougars scoreless.

With a 19-6 lead at half, the Lady Bulldogs found their rhythm and posted 16 points in each of the third and fourth quarters. The defense held the Lady Cougars to 16 in the entire second half.

The 51 winning points came from Tayler Petersen 17, Kami Miller 12, Kynndra Rush 8, Maddy Walz 6, Brianna Stoll 4 and Gabrielle Schiltz 4.

In the semifinal round early Saturday, the Lady Bulldogs had to face the Grinnell-Wheatland Lady Thunderhawks.

They had played the Lady 'Hawks closely in the preseason tournament, coming out victorious, but fell to them during the regular season. This high-pressure, low-scoring game started out with only 2 points for the Lady Bulldogs.

During the second quarter, the girls put in an additional 5 to bring their half-time score to 7 – all made

by Rush. Holding the Lady 'Hawks to 1 point in the second quarter, the Lady 'Dogs led 7-5 at halftime.

In the third, the Golden Plains girls put in an additional 5 points while Grinnell-Wheatland added 4. The Lady Bulldogs only managed 3 more in the fourth quarter, however, while the Lady Thunderhawks had four girls with a basket apiece, including a last-second shot that gave them the win with a final score of 17-15.

Rush finished the game with 9 of those 15 points while Miller chipped in 3, Petersen 2 and Schiltz 1.

For the final round of the tournament, and the season, the Lady Bulldogs finished with a win over Sharon Springs. They had easily defeated the Lady Wildcats in the regular season (25-14) and took third in the tournament with a similar 24-13 win.

They led 14-3 at halftime and finished up with 6 points in the third and 4 in the fourth. Rush again led the offense with 7 points along with Petersen 6, Walz and Miller 4, Schiltz 2 and Kaycie Clapp 1. Contributing on defense was Brianna Stoll.

The A-team girls completed their season with an 11-3 record.

"I am very proud of how our girls played all season long," Coach Travis Smith said. "We had five new B-team starters and four new A-team starters, but that didn't keep us from setting our goals high for the season."

"Our eighth grade girls showed great leadership on and off the court and will be a great asset to the high school program next year. The returning players need to get into the gym this summer so that they can continue to get better. This was by far the most improved group of players that I have ever coached. They were easy to coach and great to be around."

# March's madness in full swing as conference tourneys begin

By John Marshall

AP Basketball Writer

The madness of March kicked off over the weekend with some wild finishes and the first NCAA tournament berths.

Now, it's time for the big boys to get going.

After teams like No. 11 Murray State, Virginia Commonwealth and Creighton secured spots in the 68-team bracket, all the major conferences will play their tournaments this week.

**Big East, Tuesday-Saturday, New York.** The BEast is typically one of the most difficult conference tournaments to get through and this year's should be no different.

**Big 12, Wednesday-Saturday in Kansas City, Mo.** Another season, another conference title for No. 3 Kansas. The Jayhawks earned their eighth straight Big 12 title in the regular season and will head into the conference tournament as the No. 1 seed. Again, Kansas can lock up a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament if it wins the Big 12 tournament and could even sneak in if it loses. Either way, it's not going to be an easy run for the Jayhawks. No. 5 Missouri beat Kansas in February and No. 25 Iowa State, making its

**Atlanta, North Carolina.** Duke. That's all you need to know about this conference tournament. OK, maybe not all, but the possibility of a third matchup between these rivals makes the ACC tourney worth watching. The sixth-ranked Blue Devils won the first matchup on freshman Austin Rivers' buzzer-beating 3-pointer but the fourth-ranked Tar Heels got their revenge last week by routing Duke.

But before we get ahead of ourselves and lock those two neighboring teams into the final, don't forget about No. 17 Florida State. The Seminoles beat Duke and North Carolina in January and finished third in the ACC.

**SEC, Thursday-Saturday, New Orleans.** Top-ranked Kentucky is the clear favorite after setting a school record with 30 regular-season wins and becoming the third team since Alabama in 1956 to go unbeaten in SEC play. What the conference tournament likely will determine is whether the Wildcats get a No. 1 seed in the NCAA tournament – they may get one even with a loss – and how many teams get in. The SEC could be in line to get six teams into the big bracket, but the games will have to fall just the right way.

**Pac-12, Wednesday-Saturday, Los Angeles.** A down year in the Pac-12 could mean an ugly selection Sunday. Yes, just one bid. Washington won the regular-season title, but could be left out if it doesn't win the conference tournament.

**Big Ten, Thursday-Sunday, Indianapolis.** The regular season was a weekly beatdown and the battles figure to continue in Indy.

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