

Trojans men's squad struggles on the road

By Kayla Cornett
Colby Free Press
colby.sports@nwkansas.com

The Colby Community College baseball team had a tough road trip Saturday and Sunday in Garden City, going 1-3 for the weekend, but the Trojans came home Tuesday and grabbed a win against Western Nebraska Community College on the campus field.

The Trojans (12-8 Jayhawk West conference, 22-14 overall) were on a six-game win streak in late March, but so far, April has only brought two wins.

In Garden City, Colby won the first game 3-2.

Mike McLaughlin pitched all seven innings for the Trojans, getting 3 strikeouts and allowing 3 hits, 2 runs and 2 walks. The team made no errors.

The leading hitter was Brandon Wilson, who was 3 for 4 at the plate, all singles, and knocked in 2 runs.

The men lost the second game 5-2 with Devin Chavez, Bert Guzman and Dylan Klava on the mound.

Chavez had the only strikeout for the Trojans and allowed 9 hits, 4 runs and 6 walks. The men made 3 errors during his set.

Guzman allowed 1 hit and Klava allowed 1 hit, 1 run and 1 walk. There was an error while Klava was on the hill.

Jacob Nath led the bats with 3 for 4 hits, 1 run batted in and he scored one run. His hits were all singles.

In game three, the Trojans lost 2-1 with David Johnson and Guzman pitching.

Johnson had 3 strikeouts and allowed 5 hits, 2 runs and 2 walks. There was 1 error. Guzman allowed 1 walk.

Brandon Wilson and Zach Wilson led the hitters with 2 hits off of 3 at bats. All of their hits were singles.

Colby lost the final game 15-

1, using four pitchers to try and slow Garden City's offense: Kyle Matusoff, K.J. Morales, Cole Holt and David Garcia.

Together the men had 5 strikeouts and allowed 14 hits, 15 runs and 7 walks. The team had 8 errors in the game.

Nath and Nick Bata led the hitters, going 2 of 3 at the plate. Nath brought 1 run home while Bata crossed home plate for the Trojans' only run. Nath had 2 singles and Bata had a single and a double.

On Tuesday, Colby dominated Western Nebraska 10-0 at home.

K.J. Morales pitched all seven innings, where he threw a four-hitter and had 4 strikeouts.

The leading hitter was Zach Wilson, who had 2 for 3 hits, but he knocked in 3 runs with those hits. Five other Trojans had a least 1 run batted in for the game.

The team's next games will be at 1 p.m. Saturday and Sunday against Hutchinson on the campus field.



KATHRYN BALLARD/Colby Free Press
K.J. Morales warmed up Tuesday for a Colby Community College baseball game at the campus field. The Trojans beat Western Nebraska Community College 10-0.

The perils of replacing a legend

There is much excitement surrounding this year's Kansas City Royals baseball team.

To borrow a phrase from Stephen Colbert's super PAC, the Royals are finally promising their fans more than a better tomorrow, tomorrow. Yet, there is one area that Royals fans are less than enthused about: new Royals broadcaster Rex Hudler.

Judging by comments on Twitter, Hudler's jargon-heavy, ultra-hyper style has not played well with Royals fans. And, I, for one, can't blame them.

Hudler's announcing style is a stark contrast from the more subdued approach employed by Frank White, Royals infield legend and five-time All Star, whose broadcast contract was not renewed by upper management.

Letting White go may go down as one of the worst public relations decisions in Royals history.

While watching the Royals opener on television, I couldn't help but miss White. And I just wasn't ready for Hudler's non-



Andy Heintz

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stop energy. It was akin to going to a James Taylor concert only to find out that he had been replaced by some heavy metal band that was long on sound and short on substance. Instead of "Fire and Rain," I was being forced to listen to some head-banging anthem that was making my head hurt.

At one point, I texted my dad that the Royals' new announcer was annoying. Perhaps I was rushing to judgment, but I had grown accustomed to White's leisurely style of banter with his broadcast partner, Ryan Lefebvre.

It was a mellow, laid-back style of calling a game that made me want to grab a beer, order a pizza and plop down in my easy chair for a couple of hours. Now, I felt like

I was being smacked in the face by a hurricane of over-the-top enthusiasm.

Yet, Hudler isn't entirely at fault for his unpopularity among the Royals faithful. No matter who followed White, it was going to be hard to replace a man canonized by a statue in front of Royals stadium — a stadium White helped build while working a construction job. The fact that many fans believe White was treated unfairly only adds to the already unenviable position Hudler finds himself in.

Whether Hudler likes it or not, many fans see him as the upper management's boy: the optimistic guy who won't ask hard questions or say mean things about the team, the preferred alternative to a man who some may have thought was getting too big for his britches.

Hudler is seen as a "team player" instead of a guy who, apparently, wasn't afraid to criticize

"the team." In this context, team is a euphemism for the upper tier of the organization.

I was content disliking Hudler until I read his column in *The Kansas City Star*. Hudler says he's aware of his critics and is trying to tone down the jargon. After giving it some thought, I've decided to do the same.

After all, Hudler isn't the reason for the public split between the Royals organization and one of the best players to ever put on its uniform.

Plus, it would be unfair to hold a grudge against him simply because the Royals management happens to like his style.

Aside from that, there is no honor in ganging up on the new guy. It's never easy to be the new kid in town, especially when you're replacing a community icon. It wouldn't hurt to show this guy a little empathy.

So I plan to indulge the better angles of my nature and give Hudler a second look. I encourage all Royals fans to do the same.

Fired Arkansas coach's phone records released

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP) — Former Arkansas coach Bobby Petrino went out of his way to refer to his relationship with Jessica Dorrell in the past tense when he was put on paid leave.

Cellphone records show the two remained in near-daily contact before and after the motorcycle accident that led to his firing.

Petrino and Dorrell exchanged

more than 4,300 text messages and nearly 300 phone calls over the past seven months....

The messages, among some 300 pages of records released Wednesday under a Freedom of Information Act request, appear to include picture and video files, though there was no way to verify the content.

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Colby golf boys take seventh spot

The Colby High boys golf team competed against 10 teams Tuesday, taking seventh place with 367 team points in the Goodland Invitational at the Sugar Hills Golf Club.

Goodland took first place with 317 points, Ulysses second with 323, Thomas More Prep third with 361, Oberlin fourth with 363, Rawlins County fifth with 364, Norton sixth with 365, Hays High eighth with 370, Hugoton ninth with 376, Oakley 10th with 381 and Hoxie in last with 414.

Paul Schiferl led the Eagles, taking 16th place individually with 87 points. Tayte Query followed in 20th with 89 and Ian Koerperich landed in 29th with 92.

Konnor Kriss took 49th with 99 points and David Browne rounded out Colby at 52nd with 104. Trevor Strutt was disqualified.

The varsity's next match will begin at 9 a.m. on Tuesday in McCook, Neb., while the junior varsity will play at 2 p.m. in Goodland.

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