



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press

Josh Matchell took off for third base Wednesday during the semifinal game of the Class 4A Regional tournament in Hoisington. Matchell was a designated runner for Braden Sager in this game and he was on base three times, as Sager had two hits and was walked intentionally.

Colby baseball boys finish strong season

By Kayla Cornett

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The Colby High varsity baseball team had a great season this spring, showing a complete turnaround from last year.

Coach Rick Williams said he is proud of his team and thinks this season was a big step.

"Overall, I am very proud of these guys this year," he said. "We were 5-15 last year and got creamed in the first round of regionals, so to finish this year 15-6, win the league title without losing a league game and make it to the regional finals is a big step for our baseball program."

The Eagles got to the regional finals with a lot of hard work, Williams said, and the performances the team gave in the semifinal and championship games were crucial.

In the semifinal, the boys faced Kingman with Braden Sager on the mound. He allowed no runs, 2 hits and 3 walks and threw 8 strikeouts.

"Sager was absolutely unhittable against Kingman," Williams said. "It was a great match-up of two of the top pitchers in the state, and Braden won that dual. We were able to produce a few runs with some timely hitting at the plate."

Colby had 9 hits for 3 runs and Sager led the team in hitting.

"Braden had a big game at the plate by reaching three times on 2 hits and an intentional walk," Wil-

iams said. "Jordan Rasmussen, Dalaan Organ and Todd Kane all had good games at the plate for us against Kingman. Overall, the Kingman game was won because of our pitching and defense."

Rasmussen had 2 hits and scored 1 run, Kane had 2 hits and 1 run batted in and Organ had a hit and scored a run. The other hits came from Troy Quenzer and Trek Keck.

In the championship, Zack Stones pitched for most of the game, allowing 4 runs, 10 hits and no walks and threw 5 strikeouts. Rasmussen relieved him, allowing 1 hit.

"Against Nickerson, Zack Stones did what we needed him to do for us to win that game, but our bats just struggled to get anything going," Williams said. "Against Nickerson, we only got a lead-off guy on base in one inning and were able to score a run in that inning, but Zack pitched well and we feel like we can win most games when we hold people to four runs. Our defense was solid in the Nickerson game as well."

The Eagles had 5 hits, but only scored just the 1 run. The hits came from Macen Shull, Sager, Kane, Keck and Organ.

Williams said the varsity will lose four players to graduation who have done a lot for the program over the last four years in Jake Thompson, Sager, Organ and Rasmussen.

"But we have a great core of guys coming back next year," he said, "and our goal will be to take that next step."

Softball team ends season 15-7

The Colby High varsity softball team finished its season at 15 wins and 7 losses with a win and a loss at the regional tournament in Pratt.

In game one, Kenzie Curry threw a three-inning no-hitter in a 15-0 win over Ulysses. She struck out 4 and hit one batter.

At the plate, Karly Kriss was 2 for 3 at bat with a triple, a double and 3 runs batted in; McKenna Ortner was 2 for 2 with 2 singles and 4 runs batted in; Andrea Barton was 2 for

2, hitting a double and a single and bringing in a run;

Curry was 1 for 2 at the plate with a single and a run batted in; Lacy O'Neal and Haileigh Shull were each 1 for 2, both hitting a single; and Jenessa Williams was 1 for 3 with a single.

In game two, an 8-6 loss to Hoisington, Curry got the loss, allowing 8 runs, 8 hits and 6 walks and throwing 2 strikeouts.

At bat, Barton was 3 for 4 at bat with 3 sin-

gles and 3 runs batted in; Curry was 3 for 4, hitting a double and 2 singles; Bailey Terrell was 2 for 4, hitting 2 singles; Kriss was 2 for 4 with a double, a single and a run batted in; and Williams was 2 for 3 with 2 singles and a run batted in.

"We made too many errors and mental mistakes in the semifinal game to come out on top," Coach Jack Elliot said. "It was a good season with a great bunch of ladies. Thanks to everyone for all of the support."

Player sues commissioner for defamation

By Brett Martel

AP Sports Writer

NEW ORLEANS – Suspended Saints linebacker Jonathan Vilma filed a defamation lawsuit Thursday against NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell, claiming the league's top executive made false statements that tarnished Vilma's reputation and hindered his ability to earn a living playing football.

The suit in U.S. District Court in New Orleans claims Goodell, "relied on, at best, hearsay, circumstantial evidence and lies" in making comments about Vilma while discussing the NFL's bounty investigation of the New Orleans Saints.

Goodell has said Vilma was a leader of the team's bounty program that put up thousands of dollars for hits which took out opposing teams' star players from 2009-11, including \$10,000 each on then-Arizona quarterback Kurt Warner and then-Minnesota quarterback Brett Favre during the playoffs in 2010.

"Commissioner Goodell opted to make very public and unfortunately erroneous allegations against Jonathan," said Vilma's attorney, Peter Ginsberg. "By making these false and public statements, he has significantly harmed Jonathan's reputation and ability to make a living."

"By suing Commissioner Goodell in court, Jonathan opted to use a fair playing field where he has procedural rights and protections to remedy the harm Commissioner Goodell has done to him."

Vilma wrote on his Twitter account that, "As I've said before...I NEVER PAID, NOR INTENDED TO PAY ANY AMOUNT OF

MONEY, TO ANY PLAYER FOR INTENTIONALLY HURTING AN OPPONENT."

Goodell has suspended Vilma, an eight-year veteran and defensive captain, for the entire 2012 season. Vilma and three other current of former Saints who received shorter suspensions – defensive end Will Smith, defensive lineman Anthony Hargrove and linebacker Scott Fujita – all have appealed their punishments. Hargrove now plays for Green Bay while Fujita is with Cleveland.

"We have not yet reviewed the filing," NFL spokesman Greg Aiello said. "However, our commitment to player safety and the integrity of the game is our main consideration. We recognize that not everyone will agree with decisions that need to be made."

The NFL also hired former federal prosecutor Mary Jo White in late 2011 to review its evidence in the case, and White has said the NFL's findings are corroborated by multiple independent witnesses as well as documentation.

Vilma's lawsuit, which is expected to be heard by Judge Ginger Berrigan, asks for unspecified monetary damages as well as punitive damage and attorneys fees.

The lawsuit states that Goodell, "knew and intended that Vilma would suffer severe emotional distress" when the NFL published its bounty report and handed down punishment for the 30-year-old linebacker.

"Vilma will soon have to leave behind the world of professional football and will likely face difficulties in obtaining other employment and entering into new ventures as a result of Goodell's false

and defamatory statements," the lawsuit said. "Media will forever mention his name in the context of the Bounty investigation and fans will forever remember Vilma with ill repute rather than remember his substantial accomplishments on and off the field."

The players' association has said that the league has refused to turn over what the union would view as hard evidence that Vilma or the other sanctioned players tried to intentionally injure targeted opponents or sponsored such behavior.

Lady Trojans win two at region tourney

By Kayla Cornett

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The Colby Community College softball team ended its season, finishing with a record of 5-13 in the Jayhawk West conference and 17-37 overall.

The Lady Trojans won eight of their last 18 games, starting with two wins on April 18 against Barton County Community College. The women won the first game 4-2 and the second 8-0 at the Colby campus field.

The squad then went to La Junta, Colo., on April 21 to play Otero Junior College. They lost two games, 11-1 and 11-3.

The next stop was Las Vegas, N.M., to play Luna Community College on April 22. Colby lost the first game 7-3, but bounced back to win the second 7-4.

The women came home for a four-game stretch April 25 and 27. The squad won two games against McCook Community College on April 25 with scores of 14-11 and 10-6.

The Lady Trojans weren't able to keep the win streak going, though, losing two to Seward County Community College from Liberal. The first was 12-6 and the second 12-3.

Colby played Lamar Community College next in Lamar, Colo., on April 29. Lamar won the first

Volleyball team names recruits

Colby Community College Volleyball Coach Carey Jones has signed several freshmen for the 2012 squad.

They include:

Maisy Munson, Anthem, Ariz., 5'11", setter/right side.

Micaela McErlean, Las Vegas, 5'10", setter/right side.

Haley Dever, Chicago, 6'2", middle.

Christina Ehr, Longmont, Colo., 5'11", middle.

Taryn Lee, Erie, Colo., 6'0", middle.

Megan Witzel, Salt Lake City, 5'10", outside.

Victoria Yelken, Aurora, Colo., 5'3", defensive special-

ist.

Jones is entering her fifth season as head coach of the Lady Trojans. The squad finished the season in second place last year in the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference. They were 11-3 in the Jayhawk West and 28-15 overall.

Two graduating players for the Lady Trojans recently signed letters of intent to play at four-year colleges. Ana Calito will play for Missouri Valley College in Marshall, Mo., and Elzbieta Klein has signed to compete for West Virginia University.

game 6-4, but the Lady Trojans took the second game 9-7.

The women finished the regular season in Trinidad, Colo., playing against Trinidad State Junior College. The Lady Trojans lost both games, 8-0 and 14-6.

The team played in Region VI tournament games May 5 and 6 in Wichita, winning two games and

losing two.

On May 5, the Lady Trojans defeated Barton County 4-0, but then lost to Butler Community College 11-3.

On May 6, the women won their first game 9-5 against Seward County but lost their second game 2-0 to Butler.



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