



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Trailing Oakley 6-1 early in Sunday's Colby Tournament championship game, the Colby K-18 comeback began when Brady Holzmeister stole third base and dashed home after the catcher's throw sailed into left field.

## Colby K-18 topples Oakley in title game

By R.B. Headley  
Colby Free Press

Moments after his daring decision led to the tying run being thrown out at home plate, coach Brian Quagliano offered a perfect reaction for his Colby K-18 team Sunday evening.

"I have faith! I have faith you can make it," he proclaimed as son Casey Quagliano and all those 15-and-under players as they returned to the field.

Faith that was rewarded again during Sunday's 11-9 victory over Oakley in the Colby Tournament championship baseball game.

The thrilling four-team tourney featured so many close contests, some probably thought Oakley had plenty of "breathing room" with its 6-1 advantage.

Yet a six-run first inning only meant plenty of rally time for the Jayhawk League leaders, still unbeaten against every league foe this season.

Colby K-18 (15-2 record) didn't panic even though Oakley still led 6-2 through two innings and 6-3

with only two innings remaining. No problem.

Brady Holzmeister's sizzling single to left ignited the fifth inning. Holzmeister swiped second, stole third and promptly motored home when a catcher's throw sailed into left field.

Rex Branum singled and then, after hearing coach shout "We need you!", Ben Mitchell smashed an RBI-hit over shortstop.

Matchell moved into scoring position even as Casey Quagliano got thrown out on that earlier-mentioned play.

Again, Colby never blinked. Shevin Martin stepped up and tied the game 6-6 on a two-out hit.

Oakley showed its own great toughness, regaining an 8-6 lead through five frames.

However, a five-run Colby sixth decided this championship.

Austin Hart ripped a two-RBI hit to finally knot the score at 8-8.

Another huge hit from Matchell put Colby ahead to stay, 9-8, and Hart scored run No. 10 when Oakley's pitcher balked. A Hudson Stramel single finished the rally.

## Jumping in with the Sharks



Sharks were everywhere on Saturday as the Colby Swim Club Sharks entered more than 80 competitors into their home meet at Aquatic Park. Several other Kansas and Colorado teams were happy to dive in with the Sharks while putting on a terrific all-day event in warm-but-not-blazing hot weather conditions. Goodland, Oberlin and Oakley along with familiar Colorado foes Wray and Holyoke definitely made their marks in 86 events, most of which featured multiple heats. Above, girls began the backstroke while Joseph Yanez, right, discovered the water feels great while beginning his freestyle. Colby set records and placed second behind Goodland. Complete results were not available in time today but will be featured later this week.

R.B. Headley/Colby Free Press



## Colby gets payback at McCook

By R.B. Headley  
Colby Free Press

Colby K-18 began a super 6-1 weekend by sweeping two games at McCook, Neb., Thursday evening.

Besides avenging their one regular-season loss last month, the 15-and-under boys delivered another highlight as Brady Holzmeister hit for a rarely-seen baseball "cycle".

Holzmeister smashed a home run, triple, double and single (not in that order) en route to scoring four runs. Colby K-18 took both games 13-7 and 11-9.

Colby carried into home tournament play starting with Saturday's 6-5 triumph over eventual finals opponent Oakley.

Rex Branum, Casey Quagliano, Austin Hart and Ben Matchell delivered two hits apiece while Hudson Stramel hammered a double.

K-18 dropped an 11-6 battle to Johnson even though Jonah Thompson scored two runs after drawing walks.

Shevin Martin, Stramel and Quagliano all singled.

However, K-18 recovered to beat Burlington 8-7 in the final pool game Saturday evening. Austin Hart doubled and singled twice.

On Sunday morning, the Colby boys enjoyed payback again with their 7-4 semifinal win over Johnson. Quagliano got the final out to secure a title game spot, where Colby edged Oakley 11-9.

A glance at all Colby tournament scores:

- Colby 6, Oakley 5
- Johnson 16, Burlington 1
- Johnson 11, Colby 6
- Oakley 12, Burlington 3
- Colby 7, Burlington 6
- Burlington 12, Johnson 3
- Oakley 8, Burlington 7
- Colby 7, Johnson 4
- Oakley defeated Burlington
- Colby 11, Oakley 9
- Burlington and Johnson played in the third-place game.

## Sluggers dominate four foes, win Goodland tournament

By R.B. Headley  
Colby Free Press

Absolutely awesome. No phrase better describes the Colby Sluggers' four-win weekend capped with a Levi Hayden Memorial Tournament title in Goodland.

Although "mad dash to the popcorn stand" provides a little more flavor.

"As a fan, this is a fun Colby team to watch play," coach Jared Hamilton said. "They can put up three or four runs before you're back from the concession stand."

Indeed, the Sluggers (8-3 overall record) piled up runs like jalapenos on your nachos. Their spicy attack delivered 17 runs against Leoti (17-0 win), buried Burlington with 16 (16-5 triumph), topped another 10 upon Goodland (10-2 trouncing) and added nine to rally past finals foe Ellis (9-6 victory).

Yet perhaps the most impressive number showed these Sluggers can be speedsters. They finished a perfect 26-for-26 in stolen bases during the tourney.

"Our running game demands a lot of attention from other teams," Hamilton confirmed. "That's what I was very happy to see on the offensive side. Our guys didn't just hit, they looked to advance after they hit and did so intelligently."

Intelligence and looking good all weekend. No wonder the Slug-

gers were such a hit.

Virtually everyone reached base safely multiple times with Marc Bremenkamp going 11-for-15 at the plate. He blasted three doubles and drove home six runs.

Meanwhile, Colby's pitching was equally dominant whether it was Luke Cox, Todd Kane, Jake Thompson or Bremenkamp.

"The performances we got from those four pitchers made the weekend possible," Hamilton said.

Quick recaps from each Colby tournament game:

### Colby 16, Burlington 5

Bremenkamp's four hits started the big weekend Friday morning. Josh Matchell added three hits and swiped four bases.

Kane threw three no-hit innings en route to the opening win.

### Ellis 12, Colby 2

Colby's one setback would be avenged in the title-game rematch.

### Colby 17, Leoti 0

A two-and-a-half inning mercy-rule mismatch still offered enough time for Colby to collect eight hits, draw nine walks and steal 10 bases.

Thompson's terrific three-for-three hitting paced the attack. He scored two runs, drove home two more and stole three bags.

### Colby 10, Goodland 2

Host Goodland won both games on Friday to bring a No. 1 pool seed into this semifinal.

Yet after two first-inning runs,

Goodland never motored home again thanks to Cox's pitching. He struck out four in five innings.

The Sluggers then caused an eight-run mercy rule to be enforced. Every hitter reached base safely with eight recording hits.

"This was one of our better games as a team this summer," Hamilton observed. "Midway through the game, we were playing like the No. 1 seed."

### Championship Colby 9, Ellis 6

Facing its third game of Saturday, Colby turned to catcher Thompson for his pitching talents.

Seven innings later, Thompson's last offering resulted in a fly ball that Bremenkamp caught to clinch the tournament championship.

Down four runs early, the Sluggers rallied behind a four-run third and five-run fifth.

Kane not only took over the catching duties, he crushed three hits including a three-run triple which put Colby ahead 8-6.

Thompson discovered his breaking pitch and blanked Ellis through those final three frames.

"When we throw strikes, we can be extremely challenging for an opponent," Hamilton concluded.

The Sluggers will now showcase their talents in only their second home appearance this season.

They'll host TMP from Hays for a Wednesday 6 p.m. pair.

## Challenge Race set for July 4

The 33rd running of the Lake Atwood County Challenge Race will take place at 7:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 4.

Men will run four times around the lake for a distance of eight kilometers, or five miles, while women will run twice for four kilometers.

Every age-division finisher scores points for his or her county. In nearly every race, the team with the most participants tends to win the competition.

There are no awards or entry fees.

Runners take part for the honor of his or her county.

County residence is not a requirement. Friends from outside of counties can represent a county.

The County Challenge Race is the first event of the annual Lake

Atwood Day celebration on Independence Day.

Anyone with questions should contact Charles Peckham at (785) 626-3295 or 626-9516. You can also E-mail atwood01@ruraltel.net.

## Chicago leads series

CHICAGO (AP) — A 3-1 win Sunday night has moved the Chicago Blackhawks within one win of their second Stanley Cup championship in four seasons.

The Boston Bruins will need to win their final game in Boston Tuesday night to force a decisive Game 7 later this week back at Chicago.

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