



Cowboys' sophomore Kevin Amthor (above) reached out to tag first as the Colby Eagles' pitcher tried to pick him off in the first inning of the first game Friday at Memorial Field. Cowboys junior Brandon Rome (right photo) pitched the first game, and hit a home run in the first inning of the second game. The Cowboys lost both games, 16-0 and 15-5, but Rome hit a home run in the first inning of the second match. Photo by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News



# Cowboys drop home opener games to Colby

By Tom Betz  
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The weather turned nice Friday afternoon at Memorial Field, but the Cowboys found it hard to take advantage, dropping both games of a doubleheader to the Colby Eagles, 16-0 and 15-5.

The highlight of the afternoon for the Cowboys was a three-run homer by junior Brandon Rome in the bottom of the first inning of the second game to make the score 6-3 Colby.

Senior Preston Dautel pitched five innings of the second game and Junior Rory Kling came in to pitch in the sixth inning.

Rome pitched the first game, which was shortened to five innings by the 10-run rule. He started in good shape and the score was

0-0 after the first. In the second, Colby's Levi Schlick got a double and scored on an error to make it 1-0.

Rome got two outs, but gave up a walk to load the bases. The next Colby batter hit a ball that should have been an out, but an error let two Eagles score to make it 3-0.

The Eagles batted around and when Schlick came up again, the bases were loaded. He got a triple to make the score 7-0. Rome got the next batter out to end the Colby runs, stranding Schlick on base.

A couple more errors gave Colby more chances to score and the game ended after fifth innings with the Eagles winning 16-0.

In the second game, the Cowboys had fewer errors, and managed to turn two

double plays, but could not manufacture enough runs.

The Cowboys did manage to get two in the sixth inning to avoid the 10-run rule. Senior Tanner Smith got to first on a Colby error and Kling hit a single to left. Junior Brad Geist got an infield hit to load the bases with no outs.

Colby changed pitchers, bringing Schlick in to finish the game.

Rome got a deep single to right to score two runs and make the score 14-5. Then Schlick got freshman Devon Garrett to strike out, Preston Dautel popped out to the catcher and junior Vance Johnson popped out to second to end the Cowboy rally.

"We have to play better," said Cowboys Coach Devlin Mull. "We had too many er-

rors, and we will have a long season if we can't catch a fly ball.

"You know the guys aren't going to be perfect, but it is not good when you drop a ball hit right at you.

"We seemed to lose focus pretty quickly. We need to stay focused to stay in the game and grind it out."

Mull said he talked to the team in the sixth inning, telling the boys they had only been run-ruled once last year and already had one that day.

"We managed to score a few runs to keep from getting 10-run ruled twice," he said. "We will get better, and I think our pitchers are doing better — if we can stop the errors and get some runs."

Mull said Kling is the leading Cowboy

hitter at 9 for 16 and four doubles so far. Sophomore Kevin Amthor is 4 for 12, and sophomore Teather Dautel is 4 for 9. Rome has the lone home run for the team.

Mull brought in some of the younger players in the second game and said some of them played well, mentioning sophomore Brook Redlin at second base. Late in the game, there was a play at second where Redlin missed the tag, but he caught the Colby player off base and tagged him out.

The Cowboys will play a doubleheader at 3 p.m. today at Memorial Field against the Ulysses Tigers. Mull said he thinks the Cowboys have a chance this week if they can keep focused and eliminate the mistakes.

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