

Watching the ball



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Brittany Bange put her glove in the right place as Bailey Koerperich watched an outside ball go by in a rookie girls Devil Rays-Giants matchup on Monday night at the Colby rec fields. The Giants won 21-7.

Sweet Thunder second in tourney

The Colby Sweet Thunder 18 & Under girls fast pitch softball team finished second in the North Platte Invitational Tournament last weekend.

Sweet Thunder was the number one seed in their pool on Sunday, after going 3-1 in pool play on Saturday. Colby went 2-1 in the tournament, losing only in the championship game.

The first game Saturday was Colby's only loss, a 1-0 pitcher's duel with the North Platte Belles. The game was scoreless until back to back singles in the seventh.

Erin Wagner took the loss, giving up three hits with seven strikeouts and three walks. Marlo Hobbs and Cody Pettibone each had a single.

The Orthman Angels gave Colby their first win, 6-3 in the second game. Orthman opened with three runs in the top of the first and Colby countered with five in the bottom.

Dawn Knipp led the offense with two hits, an RBI and scored a run. Amber Lane, Dominique Palser, Jamie

Smith and Pettibone added singles. Wagner got the win with 13 strikeouts, five walks and five hits.

The North Platte Bandits were next. Sweet Thunder's offense came out with a bang, winning 9-3. Palser hit three doubles in the game to lead the team. Pettibone and Danielle Wolf also had doubles.

Also getting hits for the Thunder were Hobbs with two singles, Kristen Arensdorf, Christi Somers and Katy Herl.

Wagner again picked up the win by throwing a two-hitter.

The final game on Saturday was against the undefeated Cheyenne, Wyo. Extreme. Colby scored two in the top of the first inning and cruised to an 8-2 win. Wagner allowed four hits, struck out six and walked one.

Sunday's tournament play found Sweet Thunder in a rematch with the Bandits, an easy 6-1 win.

Wagner got the win with relief from Andrea Bailey in the fifth. Arensdorf

led the team with a double and two singles. Herl, Somers, Palser, Pettibone, Lane and Knipp each picked up a hit.

The Extreme was Colby's semi-final opponent, winning 3-2. Palser led off by reaching on an error. Pettibone singled her in and scored on a pass ball. The Thunder added one run in the fourth. Smith reached on an error and scored on a double by Palser.

Wagner threw a one hitter, struck out three, walked two and gave up one earned run. Palser led the team with a double and two singles. Arensdorf, Smith and Wolf added singles.

The championship game found Sweet Thunder falling 12-0 to the North Platte Sensations. Colby's offense was shutdown, with no one recording a hit. Wagner finished the weekend at 7-2 after taking the loss.

Next action for the team is in Topeka this weekend. Members of the team are; Kristen Arensdorf, Andrea Bailey, Kayla Hansen, Marlo Hobbs, Katy Herl, Dawn Knipp, Amber Lane, Dominique Palser, Cody Pettibone, Jamie Smith, Christi Somers, Erin Wagner and Danielle Wolf.

Coach pleased with K-18 performance this season

Colby K-18 is at 4-4, a very respectable mark, according to coach Jeff Kryzcki.

"When our older guys are in, we win very convincingly," he said. At this early time in the season, many of the older boys are still in basketball camps and not always available.

"Most of our high school kids will be available after this week," he said.

One bright spot is a 3-1 win over the Hays Renegades in the second game of a double header.

"They beat us 13-0 in the first game, but it was 2-0 in the fifth," said Kryzcki. The win in game two was the

first against the Renegades in "4-5 years."

Kryzcki called this year's team "a coach's dream."

"Anybody can play any position," he said.

The interchangeability combined with young talent makes Kryzcki optimistic about the future.

"Our young guys are getting lots of playing time, and we'll just get better," he said.

K-18 will play at home Thursday night in a double-header against Goodland at 6:30 p.m. at the Colby recreation diamonds.

Royals get much needed victory

Chad Durbin came within two outs of Kansas City's first complete game of the season, pitching the Royals to a 7-4 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals on Tuesday night.

Durbin (4-5) allowed three runs on five hits, struck out five and walked two while breaking a three-game personal losing streak.

He retired 14 of 15 batters before the

ninth, when J.D. Drew singled leading off and Albert Pujols hit his 20th homer, making it 7-3 with one out.

Durbin, whose 8 1-3 innings was the longest outing



by a Royals starter this season, was replaced by Jason Grimsley, who got the last two outs despite allowing a solo homer to Edgar Renteria.

Cardinals starter Darryl Kile (7-6) gave up seven runs on nine hits and three walks in six-plus innings.

He lost for the fourth time in five decisions and his third straight for the first time since joining the Cardinals.

Area Schedule

Thursday, June 14
Colby recreation baseball and softball at the rec fields.
Rookie boys baseball
Dodgers vs. Mariners on field 5 at 6 p.m.
Cardinals vs. Cubs on field 5 at 8 p.m.

Junior boys baseball.
Indians vs. Braves on field 2 at 6:15 p.m.
Yankees vs. Orioles on field 2 at 8 p.m.
Bambino girls softball.
Indians vs. Rockies, double-header, on field 3 at 6 p.m.

Rec Update

Here are the scores from Monday and Tuesday night's recreation league games:

Monday, June 11
Rookie girls softball.
Giants 21, Devil Rays 7
Mets 5, Mariners 2
Bambino boys baseball.

Rockies won by forfeit.
Orioles 16, Cardinals 2
Tuesday, June 12
Rookie boys baseball.
Mariners 17, Cardinals 16
Dodgers 8, Yankees 7
Junior boys baseball
Dodgers 10, Braves 8
Orioles 9, Indians 6



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