



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Clayton Kaiser batted against Dodge City in the Colby Eagle's recent double-header sweep of Dodge at home. Josh Houtz was on third and later scored on a wild pitch.

Eagles ranked fourth in state

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

In just its third year as a program, the Colby High School baseball team is ranked 4th in the state by the Kansas Baseball Coaches Association. The Eagle are off to an 8-2 start, led by Chris Gordon's .433 batting average. Josh Houtz and Jeff Williams are hitting .391, and the team batting average is a very respectable .286.

"The kids are doing great and hav-

ing a lot of fun right now," head coach Kevin Cox says. "I'm very happy with where we're at right now, especially for a program that's only three years old." On the mound, Jared Cranston is 4-0 with an ERA of just 1.12. Josh Houtz is 2-1, Jeff Williams is 1-1, and Clayton Kaiser is 1-0. While not an over-riding factor in the team's success this year, Cox is also delighted with the new infield at the Colby Recreation Complex.

"This grass infield is great," Cox said. "This field went from being one of the worst to one of the best. It's great to play on."

Colby's two losses on the year have both been against Russell, with Colby splitting two games at Russell earlier this year, and losing to them once at home.

The Eagles take on the number one 3A team, Lakin, at home next Thursday.

Royals demolish Minnesota, 16-3

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—As soon as the Kansas City Royals relaxed, they broke open the game.

Leading 7-3 after the seventh inning Wednesday night, the Royals scored nine more runs in the eighth, taking advantage of Minnesota's worst pitching performance of the season in a 16-3 win, the Twins' most lopsided loss since 1994.

"In this ballpark, a lot of strange things can happen. I don't think there's any kind of lead that's ever been safe here," Kansas City's Joe Randa said. "To be up like that kind of gives us some breathing room."

The Twins scored all their runs on home runs by Bobby Kielty and David Ortiz before Carlos Beltran hit a three-run homer in the seventh to give the Royals a 7-3 lead.

"At that at-bat, what I was thinking was about making good contact," Beltran said. "I'm glad that I got a pitch to drive, and I hit it pretty good."

"I think after that, everybody was calmed down and more relaxed."

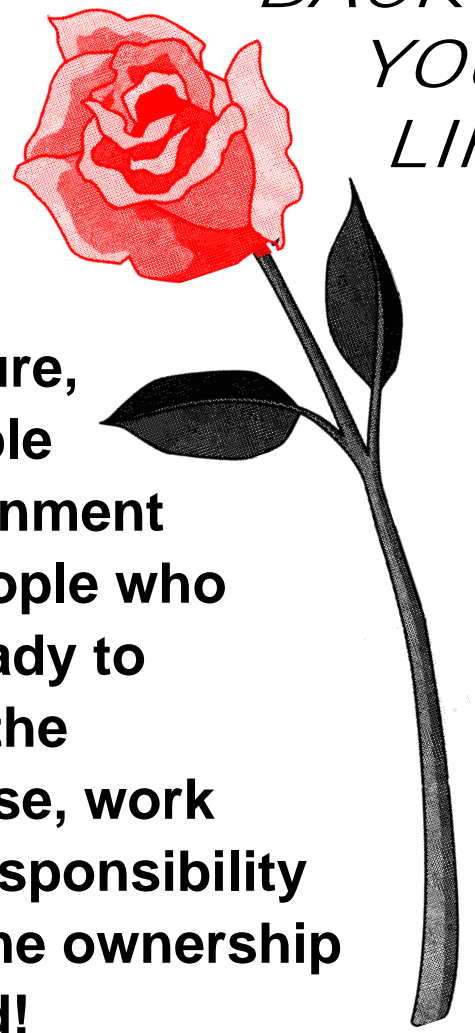
Then Kansas City did some real damage. In the eighth, the Royals hit five consecutive singles with one out off Bob Wells. Reliever Jack Cressend gave up an RBI double to Neifi Perez that made it 11-3, Beltran hit a sacrifice fly, Michael Tucker had an RBI single and Ibanez doubled.

Brent Mayne ended the outburst with a flyout, bringing sarcastic applause from the crowd.

Paul Byrd (3-0) pitched six innings, allowing three runs in snapping the Twins' four-game winning streak.

Brad Radke (2-1) has given up nine runs in 10 innings against the Royals this season. Minnesota's ace continued the latest trend for the Twins starters, who have struggled this year to a 5-6 record with a 7.47 ERA.

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3-on-3 tournament a 'success'

The 3rd annual 3-on-3 basketball tournament sponsored by Kappa Upsilon Sorority was held on Saturday, April 13 in Colby. The tournament featured 80 teams from Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado competing in four different age groups. Colby was represented by 24 teams.

Bonnie Dinkel and Pam Augustine, co-chairpersons, stated the event was successful in every way. "The games ran on time, the teams and fans were great and we had a super group of workers which made everything go as planned," Augustine said. "Our officials did a very good job and we are very pleased with the whole tournament."

Results are as follows:

3rd-4th grade girls:

1st place: Sharon Springs Sharp Shooters-Kenzi Knobbe, Audrey Mote & Gabrielle Kuhlman

2nd place: The Little Falcons of Trenton, Nebraska -Jaci Wright, Laramie Lewis & Rebekah Lewis

3rd-4th grade boys:

1st place: D-Up of Quinter-Brady Reed, Matt Bird & Zach Nemechek

2nd place: Colby Blazerboys-Ryley Haas, Garrett Rogers & Kirt Dugger

5th-6th grade girls:

1st place: LTL of Colby-Lissa Mazanec, Tasha Wagoner & Leah Cox

2nd place: Sharon Springs Hoopsters-Abby Mote, Aarika Heyl & Kassie Weinland

5th-6th grade boys:

1st place: The Answers of Colby-Ethan Stover, Chase Vaughn & Travis Parker

2nd place: Norton Beater Boys-Wesley Georgeson, Logan Kats & Jerrod Cox

7th-8th grade girls:

1st place: Orange Crush of Colby-Brittany Kersenbrock, Ashley Barnes & Lauren Cox

2nd place: The Colby Elite-Jenna Johnson, Rishonna Martin & Caitie Henry

7th-8th grade boys:

1st place: T-Birds of Oakley-Brandon Ahrens, Mykel Rodriguez & Jordan Burris

2nd place: Hot Shots of Goodland-Heath Chatfield, Wyatt Dautel & Mikey Doll

9th-10th grade boys:

1st place: Prestige of Colby-Jared Dinkel, Shane Stover & Travis Fromholtz

2nd place: Madquenztime of Colby/Norton-Ryan Maddy, Dusty Quenzer & Matt Augustine

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