



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Colby pitcher Josh Houtz looked in for a sign while first baseman Jared Cranston held the runner on first in recent American Legion action against Norton at Young Memorial Field. Modnay night, Colby trav-

eled to Norton and won both games of a doubleheader, 13-4 and 8-0. Colby is playing in the American Legion zone tourney this weekend in Scott City.

Three Colby baseball teams head for post-season

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

Colby's American Legion baseball team finished the regular season with two victories, 13-4 and 8-0, over Norton Monday night in Norton.

Colby takes a 16-5 record to Scott City this weekend for the American Legion Zone 7 tournament. Colby's first game in the tournament will be Friday, against the winner of the Gove County-St. Francis matchup, which takes place Thursday. Bucklin will take

on Goodland Thursday as well, with Scott City waiting to play the winner of that match.

Colby's K-18 team is also playing this weekend, in the regional tournament at Ellis. Colby is the top seed in the tournament, and looks to head to

Lucas to play in the state tournament, which starts July 27.

The 12 and under traveling team from Colby is also playing post-season games. Colby beat Grainfield 20-10 Monday night, and will play in Hays Friday night at 6:30.

Kansas City sweeps two from Texas Rangers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Raul Ibanez looks at the Royals' lineup and gets inspired — and the RBIs keep coming.

He drove in three runs in each game of a doubleheader Monday as Kansas City swept the Texas Rangers 8-6 and 6-4. He knocked in seven runs to tie a team record the day before.

Ibanez credited teammates hitting ahead of him, including Joe Randa, who also drove in three runs in the nightcap.

"Absolutely, it feels great to get key hits," said Ibanez, hitting .386 over the past 17 games with 23 RBIs and seven homers. "Again, Joe Randa was hitting in front of me and having a good at-bat. You see that and you push yourself to not be the one to not put a great at-bat out there."

An outfielder filling in at first for the injured Mike Sweeney, Ibanez put his team ahead in the nightcap with a two-run single in the seventh that broke a 4-4 tie.

In the opener he had a bases-loaded triple.

On Sunday, he had a pair of homers, one of them a grand slam. The seven-RBI performance tied a club record held with seven other players, including Hall of Famer George Brett. The 10 RBIs in two games and 13 in three are Royals marks.

Ibanez was moved to first base on Sunday because Sweeney's back was bothering him. Sweeney, second in the AL in hitting with a .355 average, sat out both games again Monday.

"It's nice for someone to step in when the big man is out," Royals manager Tony Pena said.

The two wins Monday extended the Royals' streak to four in a row, matching their longest of the 37-54 season.

Kansas City's Luis Alioca had his first four-hit game of the season in the second game and scored three runs, as did Carlos Beltran, who had three hits including two doubles.

The Royals nearly had two young pitchers pick up their first big league

victories. Shawn Sedlacek won the opener, his first decision in five starts. He'd left three of those games with the Royals ahead, only to see the bullpen fail to hold the lead.

On Monday, he retired 14 straight batters after a shaky start that saw the first four Texas batters reach base.

"Sedlacek deserved the win," Pena said. "He was a little rusty, but we expected that. He pitched out of a jam in the first inning and then took care of business."

The bullpen almost failed him again as the Rangers scored three runs in the ninth, two on Herbert Perry's home run off Dan Reichert, who was optioned to Triple-A Omaha after the game. Closer Roberto Hernandez got the final out for his 15th save, and he picked up a 16th in the second game.

Ronelvy Hernandez, called up from Wichita, made his big league debut in the second game and left after five innings with a 4-2 lead. But reliever Kris Wilson yielded solo homers to Kevin Mench and Rafael Palmeiro that tied the score until Ibanez put the Royals ahead to stay.

Pena said Hernandez, who started the season in Single A at Wilmington, Del., will get a second start Saturday when the Royals play another doubleheader against Cleveland.

"I was not nervous because I pitched the same way as I did in Wichita," the 24-year-old Hernandez said. "My two-seam fastball and my slider were working well. I also threw some good changeups."

Joaquin Benoit (2-1) of the Rangers hurt himself with seven walks before leaving in the sixth inning of the first game.

After he'd walked the bases loaded in the first, Ibanez cleared them with his triple and then scored on a sacrifice fly by Michael Tucker.

The loss in the second game went to Anthony Teleford (2-1), who relieved starter Bob Bell to begin the seventh but retired only one of the four batters he faced.

Rangers' pitcher hospitalized

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Texas Rangers closer Hideki Irua was hospitalized with small blood clots in his lungs.

Irua was taken to St. Luke's Hospital by assistant trainer Ray Ramirez

about 4 a.m. EDT after complaining of chest pains and shortness of breath.

Irua, who will fly with the team back to Texas after Tuesday night's game, was given medication and blood thinners to dissolve the clots.

Raiders sign quarterback Gannon to six-year deal

NEW YORK (AP) — The Oakland Raiders signed quarterback Rich Gannon to a six-year, \$54 million extension Monday, a football source said.

The source, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the 36-year-old Gannon will get \$8 million a year over next three seasons.

The agreement was first reported Monday night on USA Today's Web site.

Gannon was a no-show at an earlier voluntary minicamp and quarterback orientation before he came to the Raiders' final offseason minicamp in June.

Gannon threw for 3,828 yards last season and 27 touchdowns with only nine interceptions. His pass efficiency rating of 95.5 led the AFC, and was second only to Kurt Warner of St. Louis.

The Raiders won the AFC West title last season, despite finishing 2-4 after beginning the year 8-2.

After beating the wild-card New York Jets in the first round of the playoffs last season, the Raiders were eliminated with a 16-13 overtime loss to the New England Patriots.

Gannon was drafted out of Delaware in the fourth round in 1987 by New England. The Minnesota Vikings acquired him two weeks later for two draft choices.

He was traded by Minnesota to Washington in 1993. He was signed by the Kansas City Chiefs as a free agent in 1995 and stayed with them until the Raiders signed him as a free agent in 1999.

He was the MVP of the last two Pro Bowls.

Denver Bronco injured in vehicle accident

DENVER (AP) — Denver Broncos quarterback Brian Griese was involved in a minor traffic accident in southeast Denver. No one was injured.

Griese was traveling about 20 mph on South Monaco Parkway just before 1 p.m. Monday when his 2001 GMC Denali hit the rear end of a 1995 Ford Explorer that was stopped for a funeral procession, police Detective John White said.

Griese's truck sustained moder-

ate damage and was towed, White said. The Explorer did not need to be towed.

Griese was ticketed for following too closely, White said.

Monday's incident is the latest in a string of off-the-field difficulties for Griese. In 2000, Griese was arrested for driving under the influence.

In May, he fell on teammate Terrell Davis' driveway and knocked himself unconscious.

Details emerge concerning shooting by NBA star

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — While a friend disposed of his clothes, former NBA star Jayson Williams jumped into the pool at his home after fatally shooting a limousine driver, according to an upcoming article in GQ, which will be published in August.

Williams had been in the bedroom of his mansion with Christofi early Feb.

14 when the shooting happened. The one-time member of the New Jersey Nets closed a Browning 12-gauge shotgun "with a snap of his wrist," according to the magazine.

The weapon immediately fired, sending 12 pellets into the left side of Christofi's chest, the article said, citing unnamed sources.

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