

# Trojans sweep Dodge City Conqs

A relaxing spring break and a sweep of Dodge City, Trojan baseball had a good last week. Now we head off to Prescott, Ariz. for a week of challenging baseball.

Due to the heavy snow in Colorado, we did not go to Air Force on Wednesday. Instead, we gave our guys a few days off to relax and get rejuvenated. Dodge City came up here on Sunday and we sent them home winless.

Sophomore Casey Wernke improved his record to 2-2 with a complete game victory in game one. Wernke allowed no earned runs and struck out five. Although our bats were not on fire, we were able to score two in the bottom of the fifth to take the lead for good.

Freshman Blake Barth led off the inning with a walk and sophomore right fielder Travis Glassman followed suit. Freshman left fielder Dan McClure then beat out a hard grounder to third to load the bases. Sophomore second baseman Chris Lebeda was able to lean into the second offering from the Conq pitcher to tie the score at 2-2. Freshman center fielder Joel Gould plated the go-ahead run with a fielder's choice.

Our bats came alive in game two as we took a 4-0 lead after the first. Seven Trojans reached base in the first inning. The rally was highlighted by freshman first baseman Brian Hassing's two run single to left.

The second inning was much like the first as Chris Lebeda led off with a two-strike triple to right center. After freshman Dustin Moore walked and stole second, Keith Wallis hit a double down the right field line to score Lebeda. Moore eventually scored on a single by freshman catcher Kyle Sandusky. Wallis came home on a botched ground ball.

We got two more in the third inning and capped off the 10 run game with Chris Lebeda's third home run



**Ray Nolan**

• From the Dugout

of the season in the fifth.

Sophomore right-hander Brent Suing earned his second victory of the season by striking out five, and walking just one, in six innings of work.

This Tuesday we head to Arizona to play six double headers in three days. On day one we face Head Coach Ryan Carter's alma mater, Yavapai Community College. Yavapai has a great baseball tradition and is always one of the toughest teams in the country. The Rough Riders won the national championship in 1992. They were 39-20 last season.

In addition to Yavapai, who is hosting the tournament, we play Briarcliffe College of Patchogue, N.Y. The Seahawks had a 42-18 record in 2002 and were ranked 19th in the preseason national poll. We also play Jefferson Community College of Watertown, N.Y., Cochise College of Douglas, Ariz., and New Mexico Military Institute of Roswell, N.M.

We will return Sunday and have two days of practice before we take on the 7-7 Garden City Broncbusters. Garden City is under new direction this season. The 2001 Jayhawk West coach of the year, Rick Sabbath, took over the program this past summer. Sabbath spent the previous two seasons resurrecting Cloud County's program.

We are now 3-5 in conference and 7-13 overall. Folks, we are improving every week and are turning into a club that is worthy of being watched. Our tough non-league schedule is paying off. Our next home contest will be Saturday, April 5 versus Barton County.



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

Sophomore Casey Wernke from Alliance, Neb. improved his record to 2-2 as he pitched the first of two games on Sunday as the Trojans hosted Dodge City Community College in a double-header. Wernke allowed no earned runs and struck out five batters. The Trojans are now 3-5 in conference play and 7-13 overall.

# Trojans win championship at Seward County tourney

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS  
Colby Free Press

The Colby Community College softball team was scheduled to play a three-day tournament this weekend in Liberal at Seward County Community College. Due to rain early in the week, the tournament was revised to only two days.

More rain on Friday in the southern part of the state caused the Seward Classic to be relocated to Colby.

The Lady Trojans won the first three games on Saturday in pool play against McCook Community College, Frank Phillips Community College of Border, Texas and Seward County.

In the first game against McCook, Colby won 4-0. Erin Wagner was the winning pitcher giving up just 8 hits and striking out 7 players. Kindra Smith was the leading hitter for the Lady Trojans by going 3-4 and 1 RBI.

Against Frank Phillips, Colby took a huge 14-2 win. Wagner only gave up 1 hit and struck out 2 in two innings, while Miranda Brown gave up two hits and struck out three while on the mound for two innings. Dani Wolf went 3-4 and had 4 RBI, while offensively Wagner was 2-3 with two home runs and 4 RBI.

In their final game on Saturday, Colby defeated Seward County, 4-3. Lindsey Kastanek was the winning pitcher by allowing only 7 hits and 3 runs. Cody Pettibone led the hitting and was 3-3 with 2 RBI.

In the semi-finals on Sunday, Colby again played Frank Phillips and took another win, 5-1. Kastenak was at the mound for the Lady Trojans and allowed 6 hits and only 1 run. She struck out 7 batters during the game. Wagner was the leading hitter and was 2-3.

In the championship game against Seward County, Colby pulled out the 1-0 win after 8 innings. Wagner was the winning pitcher and gave up no runs and only 6 hits. Smith led the offense by hitting 2-3.

The ladies are on a five-game winning streak and are now 11-5 in the last two weeks.

"The team is starting to play like they are capable of," said head coach Carl Adams. "Our defense continues to be solid and people are stepping up and getting hits when we need them. We are making some mistakes that we need to correct but the good things is that we aren't allowing them to hurt us. The key to a successful season is playing with the heart and desire that we have showed a majority of the time the last two weeks."

The Lady Trojans are again in action Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at home. On Tuesday they will play Pratt Community College and on Wednesday and Thursday they will play McCook and Dodge City respectively. All three games will be double-headers and will start at 3 p.m. at the Community College softball diamonds.

## Local Brief

The Colby Recreation Department will be holding a Playstation 2 Tournament on April 7 at 7 p.m. at the Colby Community Building. NCAA Football 2003 will be the game played for the tournament. All ages are welcome to participate in the tournament. The cost is \$5 per person.

To sign up, call the Recreation Department at 462-4440.

# State park permits now on sale

Annual Kansas state park permits are now available at the lowest prices of the season.

Through March 31, annual state park motor vehicle permits are discounted to \$30, compared to \$45 beginning April 1. A permit for a second vehicle registered to the same owner is \$20 compared to \$25 beginning April 1.

The annual motor vehicle permit allows entrance to all Kansas state parks for the entire calendar year for the vehicle to which it is affixed.

Permits for Kansas residents 65 and older or holders of a Kansas handicap license plate or permanent placard are \$15.25 and \$10.25 for a second vehicle. In April, they will go up to \$22.75 and \$12.75 respectively.

Annual camping permits will increase from \$110.50 to \$150.50 on April 1. These permits allow the permit holder to camp throughout the year without additional charges with the exception of utility fees.

All permits can be purchased at the Prairie Dog State Park Office in Norton between 8 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. Monday through Friday.

# Royals hang on for win

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) — Mike Sweeney hit his sixth home run in 15 at-bats and Mike Tucker homered twice as the Kansas City Royals took an 11-run lead and held on to beat an Arizona Diamondbacks' split squad 12-11 Sunday.

Arizona's Elmer Dessens gave up five homers in the first two innings, with Mendy Lopez, Mike DiFelice and Tucker hitting consecutive home runs in the second.

Tucker and Sweeney both had four RBIs, each doubling in a five-run third inning.

Since going hitless in his first five at-bats, Sweeney is batting .563

(27-for-48) with seven homers, four doubles and 20 RBIs. He has hit safely in 17 of his past 18 games.

"I'm where I want to be at this point in spring training," Sweeney said. "But I feel like there's still a little room for improvement. We still have more than a week to go and I want to peak for opening day."

Sweeney, a three-time All-Star, hit .340 last season, the second in the AL to Boston's Manny Ramirez (.349).

The Royals led 11-0 after three innings. After Arizona closed, rookie reliever Mike MacDougal pitched a perfect ninth for his second save.

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