

# Trojans finish 3-3 in Arizona

Trojan baseball just completed an 18-hour journey from Prescott, Ariz. We left after our game Saturday afternoon and have spent a cozy evening in the Colby Community College bus. Nothing brings a team together like 36 hours on the road and five nights together on a bus and in a hotel.



**Ray Nolan**

• From the Dugout

We left for Prescott after practice Tuesday night at 7 p.m. and arrived in Prescott 18 hours later on Wednesday afternoon, primed and ready to play the local junior college power, Yavapai College on Thursday morning.

Yavapai is an extremely talented club, but I thought we could hang with them without a problem. Three errors and a stiff wind to right ruined my optimism. The game was tight early, but the Rough Riders eventually steamrolled us 11-1. Our lone highlight belonged to freshman Dustin Moore who accounted for our one run with a solo shot to left in the fifth.

After the game Coach Carter's challenge to the team was to earn the right to play Yavapai in the championship game Saturday at noon. We took that goal into our 3 p.m. game on Thursday against New Mexico Military Institute. After two innings it was 4-0 Trojans and we seemed on our way to a quick game, but the Bronco's hung around and we only beat them 7-0.

Freshman lefty Tyler Landenberger from Lakewood, Colo. threw six innings of one hit ball to earn his first collegiate victory. Tyler had a no-hitter through five when with two men on (due to walks) the Bronco hitter bunted a ball on a low line drive in the direction of our young pitcher. Tyler dove forward in an attempt to catch the ball and double one of the runners off base. Unfortunately the ball hit the top of his glove and dropped in front of him for a base hit. (It was not an error since the play would have taken an extraordinary effort and some luck to make.)

Tyler lost his no hitter because of this hustle, but that is precisely why this young man is in our starting rotation. He is gutsy, tough, and cares about victories, not stats.

Friday brought for us a pair of New York colleges. Game one was with Jefferson Community College of New York. We started fast and got out to a one run lead after the first. That was all we would be able to muster as Jefferson's pitcher kept us off balance the rest of the morning. We did have several chances to score throughout the contest, but we could never quite get our line drives

to miss fielders. Freshman right-hander Tim Robins of Ellis, Kansas took the loss despite allowing just three runs. We should have been able to pull that one out for him.

After the Jefferson game our hope of playing in the championship round seemed bleak. Briarcliffe College was our next challenge. Freshman righty Bobby Van Wieren of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada got the call to face the pre-season, top twenty-five Seahawk squad.

Van Wieren did a great job, and aided by two home runs by freshman center fielder Joel Gould, cruised to an 8-5 victory. This was also Van Wieren's first collegiate win.

All of a sudden, our goal of the championship game was back in our sites. Briarcliffe was scheduled to play Yavapai Saturday morning and we were sure that the Rough Riders would win. All we needed to do was beat Cochise College of Douglas, Ariz. on Friday morning and we would earn a rematch with Yavapai.

Sophomore Casey Wernke took the hill Saturday morning at 9 a.m. By 11 a.m., he had earned a 2-1 victory over a talented Cochise team. Wernke pitched fantastic allowing just one walk.

Sophomore Keith Wollis drove in the winning runs in the bottom of the fifth with a double to the left center gap. The double was the product of a great at-bat in which he fouled off several balls with two strikes before clubbing the game winner.

Our goal was realized, we had earned a berth in the championship game. There was only one problem, Yavapai lost to Briarcliffe 9-7. That meant that those two teams each had one loss and we had two. We were instead to have a rematch with Cochise for third place, and Yavapai would play Briarcliffe again.

The last game of the trip was less than desirable as we made several errors, and although we had runners in scoring position practically every inning, we only managed five runs and lost 12-5.

So our week ended at 3-3. This Wednesday we face Garden City at their place and are at home on Saturday against Barton County. Please come out and support us at 1 p.m. Saturday against what is sure to be a good Cougar squad.

## Off to state



CRYSTAL RUCKER/Colby Free Press

The Colby Kids Wrestling Club traveled to Topeka on Friday to compete in the two day state tournament. Parents and fans had a send-off on Friday morning as the wrestlers left town. Ten Colby grapplers finished in the top six. Complete results of the tournament will appear in Tuesday's edition of the *Colby Free Press*.

# Jayhawks make it to the Final Four

By JIM O'CONNELL

AP Basketball Writer

The 65th Final Four will have one No. 1 seed, one team back for a second straight year and two schools from the same conference for a fifth straight season.

Texas was the only top seed to make it through its bracket, beating Michigan State 85-76 Sunday to get the Longhorns in the Final Four for the first time since 1947.

Second-seeded Kansas eliminated Arizona, the other No. 1 seed, 78-75 on Saturday.

The presence of the Jayhawks, who lost in the national semifinals last season, makes it the fourth straight year a team has made consecutive appearances in the Final Four.

Syracuse, which beat top-seeded Oklahoma 63-47 Sunday to win the East Regional, is back in for the first time since 1996 and the third time under coach Jim Boeheim.

The third-seeded Orangemen's other appearance in New Orleans was in 1987 when they lost to Indiana on a jumper by Keith Smart in

the final seconds.

Third-seeded Marquette, which stunned top-ranked and top-seeded Kentucky in the Midwest Regional on Saturday, is in the Final Four for the first time since the then-Warriors won it all in 1977 in the last game for coach Al McGuire.

This will be Kansas coach Roy Williams' fourth Final Four, one

more than Boeheim. Marquette's Tom Crean and Texas' Rick Barnes will both be Final Four rookies.

The matchups next Saturday have Marquette against Kansas and Texas against Syracuse.

The winners play Monday night for the national championship, something none of these coaches has won.

## Local Sports Calendar

**Monday** - Boys Basketball Awards Night, 7 p.m. in the commons area

**Tuesday** - Varsity baseball, JV softball and Varsity softball at Colby Recreation Fields, with Russell, 5 p.m.; Varsity baseball, JV softball and Varsity softball at Colby Recreation Fields, with Scott City, 7 p.m.

**Wednesday** - Colby All-Sports Booster Club meeting at high school commons area, 7 p.m.

**Thursday** - Track meet scheduled in Hays has been canceled; Wrestling Awards Night, 7 p.m. in the commons area

**Friday** - Dance Team Awards Night, 6:30 p.m. in the commons area

**Saturday** - Varsity and JV track meet at McCook; Golden Plains Powerlifting meet

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