

# Keepin' an eye on the ball



MICHELLE L. HAWKINS/Colby Free Press

The Colby Community College Lady Trojan softball team hosted the first annual Allen Wolf Memorial Tournament this weekend at the college. The ladies finished in second place behind Otero Junior College of La Junta, Colo. Complete results of the tournament will appear in Wednesday's edition of the *Colby Free Press*. Above, Abby Nighswonger, a sophomore from Torrington, Wyo., kept her eye on the ball as the pitch was too high.

# Baseball coach searches for answers

I don't believe in jinxes, but I shouldn't have said in my last column that we had become a good team. It is not that I don't believe it, but I am just searching for answers to the past week. After coming off a great week in which we swept Garden City in Garden City, this past week has been far from stellar.



**Ray Nolan**  
• From the Dugout

On Wednesday we went to Liberal to take on the league leading Saints (16-0 in conference). The bottom of the fifth in both games was not kind to us. In the first game, we were trailing 4-1 going into the bottom of the fifth when they unloaded for 10 runs. In the second game, we were trailing just 7-6 when they unloaded for eight runs in the bottom of the fifth.

We did have a few highlights on the day. Freshman center fielder Joel Gould hit a solo home run in game one. Game two saw sophomore right fielder Travis Glassman from Oakley hit a full count, two RBI single to spark a five run fourth inning that knotted the score at five. Freshman left fielder Dan McClure hit an RBI double during the fifth inning rally as well. Freshman Dustin Moore had an RBI double in the second inning of the defeat.

So we left Liberal the same way we felt about it. The bright side was that we still had a chance to prove our worth against another great team in Hutchinson at home on Saturday.

Game one on Saturday left much to be desired. Little mistakes, and twelve hits, amounted to nine runs and the victory for the second place Blue Dragons (16-3 in Jayhawk play heading into the weekend).

Game two contained one of the strangest, and most disheartening, plays I have ever seen. Down 2-0 in the fifth, Dan McClure hit a single up the middle to score freshman shortstop Nick Krick and Travis Glassman. Both were advanced into scoring position by a great two-strike sacrifice bunt by freshman Jared Lambertson.

The game went into extra frames with the score 2-2. Hutchinson scored one with two outs in the top of the eighth. Dan McClure led off

the bottom of the inning with a single. He then stole second, and advanced to third on a ground out. Sophomore third baseman Ian Mabb of Hays then walked.

Trojan fans, you are not going to believe what happened next. Sophomore Keith Wollis stepped to the plate and hit an apparent game tying single to right field to plate McClure. At first base, Ian Mabb was hit in the back by the first baseman. The umpire ruled that Mabb had intentionally gotten in the way of the first baseman, thus impeding him from fielding the ground ball. Mabb was ruled out and the game was over.

There was obviously no intent on Mabb's part to do this. He was simply trying to avoid contact with the ball, which would have led to an out. The first baseman was playing right behind Mabb, and actually almost tackled him.

It was obviously the wrong call, but Trojan fans, we try not to ever blame the umpires for a loss. We should have already won that game anyway. On the bright side, Dan McClure had a big double header going 4 for 7 with 2 RBI's. Freshman righty Roy Allen pitched a great game, giving up just one earned run in eight innings of work against a good hitting club.

On Sunday we faced last place Dodge City. We felt that we could

get back on track against a team we had swept at home three weeks ago. Dodge had other plans. We got swept with scores of 16-9 and 11-10. We tied the second game at ten in the top of the seventh, only to get beat by a two out single to right in the bottom of the inning.

Several players had big days on Sunday. Dan McClure went 4 for 9 with a two run home run in game one. He was 8 for 16 on the weekend. Joel Gould had a great day, going 2-4 the first game, and 4 for 5 the second game. He also made some terrific catches in center and right field. Keith Wollis was 5 for 9 on the day, including a clutch two out single in the second game to tie the score in the top of the seventh. Wollis had two doubles in the first game. Finally, Nick Krick went 3 for 5 for the double header, with two walks.

Well, even though we are down, we will not stay down. We will be back. I am happy to say that our press box is almost done. Several of our players fathers have been kind enough to donate their time, energy, and expertise to the project. Ed Mildenerger and Lyle Saddler have been integral to the success of the project. Thank you to both of them for their terrific support.

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# Jayhawk fans await Williams' decision

By DOUG TUCKER

AP Sports Writer  
LAWRENCE, (AP) — With suspense rising, the Roy Watch moved into day six.

Will Roy Williams announce today whether he's staying at Kansas or heeding Carolina's call to come home? Or will the most popular man in the state drag this out for another day or two?

"I think we'll hear something in the next day or two," said Bob Frederick, who was athletic director at Kansas three years ago when Williams agonized for a week before turning down the Tar Heels.

Williams was scheduled to get back to Lawrence about 2 p.m. today from California, where he received a coaching award over the weekend.

Williams had said he would not talk to North Carolina people again until today.

In a loosely organized effort to keep Williams, who has won nine conference championships and more than 400 games in 15 years and become the most popular man

in the state, many former players were sending messages and e-mails urging him to stay.

But most of all, everyone was waiting and hoping.

"He is the classiest person that I've ever known in coaching," said Monte Johnson, another former Kansas athletic director. "He's just a unique person."

Johnson, who hired Larry Brown, the coach who preceded Williams and took the Jayhawks to their last NCAA championship in 1988, said he spoke with Williams last Friday.

Yet, as of Sunday night, he did not know what might happen.

"I wouldn't venture a guess on what he might do," said Johnson, who played on Kansas' Wilt Chamberlain teams of the 1950s.

"I know he's been as loyal as anybody could be. I know when he has to make decisions like this, it is very, very difficult for him. I wouldn't in any way try to guess when he might make a decision, or what it would be."

Around campus, there were signs

urging Williams to stay. Someone had even tampered with the sign outside Allen Fieldhouse. A hand-lettered piece of paper was taped over it, causing it to read, "Roy's House."

If Williams' teams did not win conference championships and go to the NCAA tournament every year, he would not be as popular as he is. But his popularity with Kansas fans seems to transcend the sport of basketball.

3rd Degree Dinner  
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