

Colby American Legion baseball opens season with a split at McCook

By RAY NOLAN
Colby Free Press

The Colby American Legion opened play on Tuesday with a split at McCook. In game one Colby got down early and could not quite come back, but game two was a different story as Colby took the early lead and never looked back.

Game one saw McCook score one in the first and five in the third before Colby was able to mount a comeback. Jared Cranston hit a solo homerun in the top of the fourth to start the scoring. Colby was also able to score one run in the both the fifth and sixth, before they made a run at the victory in the seventh.

With two outs Cranston hit a single to left. Matt Augustine then got to first on an error before Josh Houtz singled home Cranston. Jeff Williams then singled to drive home Augustine. Unfortunately, that is all Colby could muster as the two-out rally came up short and McCook left game one with a 7-5 victory.

Cranston finished the game 2 for 4 with a homerun and Augustine tallied a double.

Game two was much different as Scott Wolf pitched seven complete innings, striking out four batters and walking just one to earn his first victory of the summer.

The Colby offense attacked early

for Wolf. Brian Sulzman led the game off with a double to the left-center gap and two batters later Chris Gordon doubled to the same spot to score Sulzman. Houtz then singled to plate Gordon.

That was all the scoring Wolf would need as McCook was only able to manage one run against the right hander and Colby rolled to a 4-1 victory.

Sulzman, Houtz, and Wolf each finished the game with two hits. Wolf also had a double along with Sulzman and Gordon.

Legion's next action is Thursday, at 6 p.m. against Garden City at the Colby city fields.

Dodgers edge out Kansas City, 4-3

By JOHN NADEL
AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Dodgers were unable to come up with the timely hit.

They did manage to draw the big walk.

Adrian Beltre walked with the bases loaded and two outs in the ninth inning Tuesday night to give Los Angeles a 4-3 victory over the Kansas City Royals.

The winning rally against D.J. Carrasco (3-4) consisted of three walks — one intentional — a hit batsman and a wild pitch.

"This would have been a bad loss," Dodgers catcher Paul Lo Duca said. "We should have scored eight or nine runs. It was a weird game, a really weird game. We had so many chances."

The Dodgers stranded 13 runners.

By winning for just the second time in seven games, the Dodgers moved within three games of the NL West-leading San Francisco Giants, who lost to Minnesota.

Beltre acknowledged that the last two pitches were close.

"I didn't want to swing at a bad pitch when a walk would win the

game," he said. "They looked like balls."

Beltre said the 2-2 pitch was low, adding: "That was the closest."

Of the final pitch, he said it was up and away, acknowledging it was also close.

Royals manager Tony Pena felt otherwise.

"It looked like a very, very close pitch," Pena said of Carrasco's 2-2 offering. "I don't think he can throw a pitch better than that. I just want to get the same calls everybody else does. We've had several calls like that this year, and I'm just sick and tired of this."

Shawn Green started the winning rally by drawing a one-out walk. He went to second one out later when Carrasco threw a wild pitch.

"The wild pitch set up the big opportunity," Green said.

Carrasco intentionally walked Fred McGriff, then hit Jolbert Cabrera with a pitch to load the bases.

Eric Gagne (1-1) retired the Royals in order in the top of the ninth.

The slumping Royals have lost nine of 11 and trail the AL Central-leading Twins by 4 1/2 games. At 27-28, Kansas City has a losing

record for the first time this season.

The Royals took a 2-0 lead against Odalis Perez in the sixth, scoring on an RBI grounder by Mike Sweeney and a run-scoring double by Raul Ibanez.

The Dodgers tied it in their half against reliever Jason Gilfillan on an error by shortstop Angel Berroa and an RBI grounder by Beltre.

Berroa hit his fourth homer to start the seventh, but the Dodgers tied it against Sean Lowe in their half when Lo Duca scored while McGriff was grounding into a double play.

Jeremy Affeldt blanked the Dodgers on six hits through five innings while walking two and striking out five. He came out of the game after throwing only 88 pitches because of a small cut on the middle finger of his pitching hand.

"I threw a changeup to (Dave) Roberts on the first pitch of the fifth and I felt my finger slice," Affeldt said. "I looked down and there was a small cut on the side of my finger that looked like a paper cut."

Affeldt said he doesn't expect to miss a turn.

Perez allowed seven hits and three runs in seven innings. He walked none and struck out seven.

Crossin' the finish line



LIZ WEST/Goodland Star-News

Erica Erickson crossed the finish line at the state track meet in Wichita on Saturday in first place as the final leg of the 4X800 relay team. The other three members, Summar Stephens, Emily Sloan and Amanda Seeman combined times with Erickson for a 10:01.81 finish and the gold medal.

Sports Briefs

CHICAGO (AP) — Cubs star Sammy Sosa was ejected in the first inning of Chicago's 3-2 win over the Tampa Bay Devil Rays after umpires found cork in his shattered bat.

The Cubs had runners at second and third when Sosa broke his bat with a grounder to second that initially appeared to drive in a run.

But crew chief Tim McClelland gathered with the other three umpires to examine the bat. Cubs manager Dusty Baker came out and the umpires showed the bat to him.

Mark Grudzielanek was sent back to third base, the run was wiped off the board and Sosa was ejected as he stood in the dugout.

Cork inside a wooden bat is thought to help players hit the ball farther and is against baseball rules. Several players have been caught using altered bats in the past, including Albert Belle, Wilton Guerrero, Chris Sabo, Billy Hatcher and Graig Nettles.

UNIONDALE, N.Y. (AP) — Mike Milbury dismissed yet another New York Islanders coach, firing Peter Laviolette after playoff trips in each of his two seasons with the team.

Milbury has fired seven coaches, including himself twice, in the 7 1/2 years he has been Islanders general manager. Laviolette was replaced with minor league coach Steve Stirling, who coached in the AHL the last two seasons.

Laviolette and the Islanders were eliminated twice in the first round of the playoffs after not qualifying since 1994. There was a positive feeling a year ago after a tough seven-game loss to Toronto, but those good vibes were gone after a five-game washout against Ottawa in April.

ALLEN PARK, Mich. (AP) — Scotty Anderson has rejoined the Detroit Lions for the final two weeks of offseason workouts after he and his brother were stabbed outside a Houston nightclub.

Anderson, a 23-year-old who is starting his third season as a Lions wide receiver, missed all of last week's minicamp with relatively minor wounds from the May 26 stabbings but still has a bandaged left shoulder.

He could not participate in every drill, but said he was just happy to be on the field.

CLEVELAND (AP) — Jamel White signed a four-year contract

with the Cleveland Browns, ending speculation he would be traded or released after having his best season in 2002.

The deal includes a \$1.3 million signing bonus — and peace of mind for White.

White made the most of his playing time last season, rushing for 470 yards and three touchdowns. He picked up another 452 receiving yards on a career-high 63 catches.

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