

Colby Legion wins first game, ahead in second

An angry Mother Nature scatters players and fans

By RAY NOLAN
Colby Free Press

Nothing could stop the Colby American Legion baseball team on Wednesday night in their home double-header against Goodland. Well, nothing except the weather. Colby busted the first game open in the bottom of the third with five runs on two hits, a few walks, and some errors, leading the way for Colby to post a 6-4 victory.

The third-inning rally started with one out when Ryan Arensdorf walked on four straight pitches. John Wark came up next and hit the first pitch he saw to the right center gap to score Arensdorf. Wark ended up on third after an errant relay throw and then scored when a Chris Gordon ground ball was thrown away.

Bruce Amberger followed with a single to center that eventually scored Gordon after a mishandled throw in the infield.

Finally, after the bases were loaded due to walks to Josh Houtz and Matt Augustine, Clay Kaiser

completed the scoring with a misplayed ground ball.

On the mound, despite a three-run home run in the sixth by Matt Kuhlman, lefty Matt Augustine threw seven complete and struck out eight to earn his first victory of the summer.

Game two was going along nicely for Colby before thunderstorms suspended play. Colby held a 12-0 lead in the top of the fourth before lightning forced everyone home for the evening.

The big hit of the second game belonged to Matt Augustine who, with two outs in the bottom of the second, hit an 0 and 1 fastball to the right center gap to clear the bases. The score was 6-0 in the bottom of the third when Colby, with the aid of a singles by Arensdorf, Wark, and a succession of walks, attacked for another six runs.

The thunderstorm came in the top of the fourth and everyone was sent home.

There is no word yet on when this game will be finished. Colby's next action will be Tuesday, June 17 at Norton.

Ugly 'W' for Nets ties series at 2 apiece

By GREG BEACHAM
AP Sports Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — In one impossibly fluid motion, Manu Ginobili stole a New Jersey pass and dribbled the ball behind his back while hurdling the intended receiver. He raced up the floor for a layup — and he somehow missed the entire rim.

Almost every moment of beauty so far in the NBA Finals has been obscured by something hideous. The Nets and the San Antonio Spurs are crossing new frontiers of offensive ineptitude while embarrassing their high-scoring ABA forefathers.

But when Ginobili launched a 3-pointer that could have tied the game with 3 seconds left, the struggles of the previous 48 minutes were forgotten for a moment. Strangely enough, these teams' relatively equal awfulness has produced a tense series with the promise of genuine drama — or at least more tragi-comedy.

Kenyon Martin had 20 points and 13 rebounds, and Ginobili badly missed the next-to-last shot in the Nets' bruising 77-76 victory over the Spurs in Game 4 Wednesday night. New Jersey's first home finals victory evened the series at 2-2, with Game 5 set for Friday night at the Meadowlands.

Martin personified the Nets' ragged determination on a play that probably determined the game. New Jersey trailed by a point with

1:16 left when Richard Jefferson drove the lane and passed to Martin, whose shot was blocked by Tim Duncan.

Martin grabbed the ball and went up again, and Duncan blocked it again. Martin snarled as he grabbed the ball again; the third time up, he drew a foul, and his two free throws put New Jersey ahead for good.

It was ugly, it was messy — but it got the job done.

"We're not satisfied," Martin said. "I wasn't satisfied when he blocked the first one and got it back and blocked the second one. I was going to make something happen. ... That's the attitude of this team. We are never going to quit until it's over."

Jefferson added 18 points and 10 rebounds, and Jason Kidd had 16 points, nine assists and eight rebounds despite another horrible shooting performance. The Nets survived an 11-point third quarter that was just the start of their troubles.

They shot 36 percent. They blew a 15-point lead. They didn't have a basket in the final four minutes. They allowed Ginobili to get open on the final inbounds play.

But their woes were nothing compared to the Spurs' miserable offensive performance. San Antonio shot 29.8 percent (26-of-90) — the third-worst shooting game in NBA Finals history. Duncan had 23 points, 17 rebounds and seven

blocks, but Tony Parker's 1-for-12 performance lowlighted an erratic team effort.

Put them together, and it's no wonder Martin left the court shrugging his shoulders and grinning sheepishly. There have been only three lower-scoring games in the finals since the advent of the shot clock in 1954.

"Shooting was a little bit of a problem," Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said.

Added Nets coach Byron Scott: "We struggled offensively, but the good thing is, so did they, the whole game."

After Martin won his low-post battle with Duncan, New Jersey stayed ahead by controlling the ball for 45 straight seconds during the final minute. The Nets got two offensive rebounds before Kidd made two free throws with 9.1 seconds left for a three-point lead.

After a quick jumper by Duncan and two more free throws by Kidd in the hushed arena, the Spurs executed a pretty cross-court inbounds pass. Ginobili got a clear look at the basket after a pump-fake, but the Argentine guard barely got it to the rim, where Kidd swatted it away.

Duncan made a jumper as time

expired — but San Antonio needed three points to tie, not two.

The Nets and the Spurs have played two of the seven lowest-scoring finals games since the invention of the shot clock. Those games have included two of the lowest-scoring quarters in finals history, both by the Nets — and they've still made it halfway to the franchise's first NBA title.

"This was a big-time win," Scott said. "It ties the series — a series a lot of people thought wasn't going to be a series. Now, it's just the best two-out-of-three."

The Spurs got dreadful performances from four key players. Parker, Stephen Jackson (1-for-9), Bruce Bowen (2-for-9) and Malik Rose (0-for-9) combined to go 4-for-39 (10.2 percent).

David Robinson had 14 points and seven rebounds — and also had strong words for Parker, the 21-year-old point guard who had three points after getting 26 in Game 3.

"Tony has to do a better job of staying involved in the game and choosing his moments," Robinson said. "I don't think Tony did a very good job of that tonight. He's got to understand he plays a big role for us, so he has to come in there and make good things happen."

Briefs

Royals acquire Lima
NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — The Kansas City Royals have purchased the contract of Jose Lima, who won 21 games for the Houston Astros in 1999 and spent the last two months with the Newark Bears of the independent Atlantic League. The Royals assigned the right-hander to Triple-A Omaha of the Pacific Coast League on Wednesday.

Iowa State names assistant
AMES, Iowa (AP) — Damon Archibald, who spent the last three years on the staff at Southern Cal, has been named an assistant basketball coach at Iowa State. Archibald has a strong basketball background. His father, Lynn, was an assistant at USC and later was the head coach at Idaho State and Utah. While Damon Archibald was at USC, the Trojans twice went to the NCAA tournament, reaching the final eight in 2001. Archibald also has been an assistant at Pepperdine (one season) and Fresno State (three seasons).

Cubs sign Fitzgerald
DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Ryan Fitzgerald, who played baseball at West Des Moines Dowling High School and Creighton University in Omaha, Neb., has signed with the Chicago Cubs. Fitzgerald is expected to play for the Mesa Cubs of the Arizona League. Their season begins June 22.

Royals fall, 4-3
KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) —

Arizona rookie Andrew Good won his third straight start and Junior Spivey hit a go-ahead double in the seventh inning as the Arizona Diamondbacks beat the Kansas City Royals 4-3 Wednesday night. Good (3-1) allowed two unearned runs in six innings. He gave up five hits in the first three innings, but allowed only an infield single after that. Jose Valverde worked the ninth for his third save in as many opportunities. Carlos Beltran hit an RBI single with two outs.

Rockies lose, 7-4
MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Kyle Lohse allowed one run over six innings and Corey Koskie had four of Minnesota's 15 hits as the Twins beat the Colorado Rockies 7-4 Wednesday night. The Twins, who managed just three hits Tuesday in a 5-0 loss, built a 7-1 lead through six innings Wednesday. Lohse (6-4), the Twins most dependable pitcher this year, gave up six hits, including Jay Payton's solo homer, striking out seven. He has given up more than two earned runs only three times in his 13 starts and pitched at least six innings 11 times. In his last 26 starts, dating back to last year, Lohse is 12-7 with a 2.79 ERA.

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Registration deadline near

The Mid-America Youth Basketball's 10th annual national tournament will be held in Wichita and Hutchinson on Aug. 1-3 and registration deadline is July 11. Greg Raleigh, the organization's contact person, told the Free Press today.

The tournament is for 4th through 12th grade boys and girls. He said more than 500 teams from throughout the country are expected.

He said the Wichita/Hutchinson tournament is one of the largest such tournaments in the nation.

He encourage potential participants to visit their website at www.mayb.com, e-mail mayb@mayb.com, or call (316) 284-0354.

UCLA's Adams plans to retire

LOS ANGELES (AP) — UCLA baseball coach Gary Adams plans to retire after the 2004 season, his 30th with the Bruins.

During his 29 seasons, beginning in 1975, the 63-year-old Adams has compiled a 950-793-7 record, taking the Bruins to the NCAA Division I playoffs seven times, reaching the College World Series in 1997 and the NCAA Division I Super Regional in 2000.

Thirty-eight of his players have made it to the major leagues, including Eric Karros, Troy Glaus, Dave Roberts and Todd Zeile.

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