



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Zone 6 Tournament Colby, Goodland to battle for title

By RAY NOLAN
Free Press Columnist

Colby American Legion (19-7) advanced to the today's championship game of the Zone 6 Tournament with wins over Stockton and Goodland.

Colby will play Goodland at 6 p.m. in the championship game. Goodland advanced by defeating Phillipsburg Sunday night after losing to Colby.

Saturday's opener against Stockton moved quick as Colby scored 10 runs in the first three innings to gain the victory by run-rule, 10-0.

Scott Wolf and Jared Cranston both had two hits. Cranston added three RBI's while Brian Sulzman had a two RBI single in the second. Chris Gordon helped the effort with a double.

Josh Houtz was locked in on the mound, as he threw a no-hitter with just 30 pitches in three and a third innings. Jordan Cranston came in for the final two batters.

Sunday's game versus Goodland was tied at one until the fifth when Ryan Arensdorf led off the inning with a triple to the right center gap. He scored when a Scott Wolf ground ball was mishandled. Brian

Sulzman then doubled to put runners on second and third before a Josh Houtz single plated Scott Wolf. Jared Cranston then walked and Bruce Arberger followed with a groundball that scored Sulzman. After Jeff Williams reached base on a fielder's choice, Chris Gordon hit a double that brought home both Cranston and Williams. It was Gordon's second double of the game.

The final score of 7-1 was reached in the sixth with an insurance run scored by Ryan Arensdorf and driven home by a Josh Houtz ground ball.

Ryan Arensdorf not only hit a rally-starting-triple in the fifth but got on base three times for Colby and scored three runs. Josh Houtz and Chris Gordon both had two hits and two RBI's. In addition to Chris Gordon's two doubles, Brian Sulzman, Josh Houtz and Bruce Arberger each knocked a double apiece.

Scott Wolf was impressive on the mound striking out six and giving up just two hits in seven complete innings of work. Wolf is 5-0 on the summer with a 1.72 ERA.

Ryan Arensdorf, Colby's catcher on the American Legion team, ended up getting a base hit during the first inning of play against Goodland on Sunday night. The four-day tournament, which began Friday, continues today with Colby again meeting Goodland

for the championship. There were six teams involved in the Zone 6 baseball tournament to include Colby, Goodland, Norton, Phillipsburg, Plainville and Stockton. Today's championship game start at 6 p.m.

Ostermann inks three out-of-state players

Colby Community College head men's basketball coach, Brian Ostermann, today announced the signing of three student-athletes to continue their basketball careers at Colby.

Andrea's Thornton, a 6'7" forward from Chicago, averaged 20.5 points and 10.7 rebounds per game. He also averaged 2.1 steals and 3.0 assists per contest leading his team in both categories. Thornton shot 47.7 percent from the field and 63.8 percent from the free throw line. He garnered All-Chicago Public League 1st Team honors and played in the City All-Star game. Thornton played for coach Lynn Mister at Steinmetz High School. He chose Colby over Dodge City and Sauk Valley (Ill.).

Ontario McKee, a 5'11" guard from Milwaukee, Wis., averaged 15.3 points and 7.1 assists per game. McKee was named *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* All-Area 2nd Team as well as All-City Conference 2nd Team after leading Juneau High School to a 19-6 overall record.

McKee commented on signing

with Colby, "I chose Colby because it is a situation where I will be able to succeed in the classroom as well as on the court. I am comfortable with the coaching staff especially coach Chad Ostermann and got a good feeling about the community during my visit. It is a great fit and I am excited to play for Coach 'O'!"

McKee had a career high 33 points this past season against Custer High School and hit 33 three-point shots his senior year, highest on the team. He also shot 80.5 percent from the foul line playing for coach Jamie Koepp. Koepp commented on Ontario becoming a Trojan, "Colby and O.T. (Ontario) seem to be a perfect fit. O.T. is a good student that takes his school work seriously. The coaching staff really made an impact on O.T. He feels very comfortable with the honest and upfront approach they displayed throughout the recruiting process. I feel O.T. will be able to succeed as a student-athlete both in the classroom and on the court under the tutelage of coach Brian Ostermann."

McKee also visited Hutchinson

and Georgia Perimeter.

The third member of the 2003 out-of-state recruiting class is Pierre Thomas. Thomas played this past season at Utah Valley Junior College and because the school decided to move to a four-year athletic program, he decided to transfer. As a freshman, Thomas helped lead Utah Valley to a 26-7 record and a 2nd place finish in the Scenic West Conference and the Region 18 Tournament. The 6'3" Thomas averaged 9.7 points and 4.8 rebounds per game. He had a career high 17 points twice (vs. North Idaho and vs. Eastern Utah). His career high of 11 rebounds came against Hill AFB.

Thomas began the Region 18 Tournament in fine fashion scoring 17 points and grabbing 8 rebounds against Eastern Utah. Originally from Chicago, Thomas played high school basketball at Illinois power Thornwood High School alongside Colby Trojan Justin Williams. Thomas helped lead Thornwood to back-to-back state tournament berths his junior and senior seasons. He was an All-Conference and

All-State pick in Illinois. Thomas chose Colby over Dixie, Utah.

Coach Ostermann commented on the out-state signing class. "I really like the addition of these three young men. We return four very good out of state kids and now have added three more. The competition for our six out of state roster spots should be very intense."

The Trojans are coming off a tremendous 26-7 campaign. Colby finished as the Jayhawk West Runner-up and made it to the Region VI Final Four. Colby returns their top three scorers from this past season: EJ Drayton (17.8), Branden Miller (13.4) and Justin Williams (11.2).

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12/U girls continue posting wins

Once again Colby Sweet Thunder's 12 and Under team had an awesome week of ball play.

Tuesday evening (July 8) the ladies took on the Goodland Diamond Dusters at home and won one, lost one.

Wednesday evening saw a rescheduled away double-header with Burlington in which Thunder again won one and lost one.

They then traveled to Hill City for

the American Softball Association Tournament Saturday and Sunday.

Saturday's games gave the ladies three wins against Goodland, Hill City and Hays Strikers Red, which headed them to the top of their pool for a noon game on Sunday.

Russell Crush came fired up and ready to play and Thunder managed to hold them at bay until the fifth inning when Russell scored a tying run, then pulled ahead by one run.

Final score was 7-6, Russell.

Sweet Thunder then turned around and battled back to win third place over the Hays Strikers Red. It took six and a half innings to decide Colby could take their medals home after they kept Hays down to one run made in the fourth inning. Final score was 3-1, Colby.

The ladies are headed to their final games in Wichita at the state tournament this weekend.

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Schedule of Events
Saturday, August 2, 2003
Race Headquarters - Fike Park
700 N. Franklin Ave., Colby, Kansas

6:00 a.m.	Registration for Bikes
6:30 a.m.	53 Bike Race
7:00 a.m.	Registration for Runners/ Walkers
7:30 a.m.	10K and 5K Events
8:00 a.m.	2K Fun Run / 2K Walk
10:30 a.m.	Awards Ceremony

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