



Bob Renner threw out the first pitch at the Surprise (Ariz.) Stadium. Surprise is a suburb of Phoenix and is home to the Kansas City Royals and Texas Rangers spring training headquarters.

Trojan softball takes second in Colby event

The Colby Community College Lady Trojans softball team continued its improved play this past weekend placing 2nd in the six-team Colby Classic.

Colby opened with a 6-5, 8-inning win over McCook in pool play. Lindsey Kastanek was the winning pitcher for Colby going the distance tossing all 8 innings. She allowed 10 hits and 5 earned runs but struck out 9 and didn't walk a batter. Alisha Liess led the 16-hit Colby attack with a 3 for 4 performance. She collected 2 RBI.

Western Nebraska defeated the Lady Trojans in pool play game number two 8-7. Corri Ball took the loss pitching 5 innings. She allowed five hits and two walks while striking out a batter. Kastanek pitched two innings and allowed 5 earned runs on six hits. Shanae Calkins went 3 for 3 with an RBI to lead Colby's 11-hit offense.

In the final pool play game on Saturday, Colby defeated Trinidad State 10-6. Kastanek won her 2nd game of the tournament pitching a complete game nine hitter. She allowed just 3 earned runs and didn't walk a batter. She struck out 4. Liess was the leading hitter for Colby going 4 for 4 with an RBI. Lauren Jameson went 3 for 4 with 3 RBI as the Lady Trojans pounded out 12 hits.

On Sunday in the opening round of bracket play, Colby defeated McCook 7-6. Kastanek was again the winner in the circle for the Lady Trojans pitching 4 innings and allowing 4 earned runs. She struck out 3, walked 4 and allowed 5 hits. Ball pitched 3 innings and allowed 2 earned runs. She struck out 3 and

didn't allow a walk. Dani Wolf was 3 for 4 with an RBI as the Lady Trojans squeezed 7 runs out of just 6 team hits.

Colby defeated Trinidad State 4-0 behind a dominating performance from Kastanek in the semi-final round. She threw the shutout striking out 9 while walking 4 in allowing just 5 hits. Calea Meyer led the 10-hit Colby attack with a 3 for 4 performance. Meyer had 2 RBI in the contest.

In the Championship game, Colby fell to Western Nebraska 9-8 in a thriller. Christina Obernolte took the loss pitching 3 innings. She allowed 4 earned runs, 3 hits and 3 walks while striking out 2.

Kastanek pitched 4 innings and allowed 3 earned runs. Meyer led Colby's 13-hit attack with a 3 for 4 performance and 5 RBI. Meyer hit the only home run of the tournament for the Lady Trojans in the championship game. Wolf was 3 for 4 with 2 RBI while Liess was 3 for 3 with an RBI.

Coach Carl Adams had these comments: "We have started to hit the ball. We are coming out of the slump we have been in for the first part of the season.

"This is a good time to start playing better, the conference and region games are right around the corner.

"We had some people step up and hit the ball. We still have people that need to come out ready to play every game. We play nine games this week. In our last eight games we are 6-2."

The Lady Trojans travel to Wichita to play in the cross-over tournament this weekend.

Local resident gets...

An unusual 55th birthday gift

By TRENT RENNER

Special to the Free Press

SURPRISE, Ariz. — I am a Christian minister in Surprise and volunteer as the Chairman of the Board of the Surprise Recreation and Community Services Advisory Board.

I asked the City of Surprise if my Dad (Bob Renner, Colby) could throw out the first pitch for one of the night games. The Royals played the Rangers and Dad threw out the first pitch on Monday night, March 22 — his 55th birthday!

Bob and Connie Renner (aka Mom and Dad, and my sister Robin) drove the 16 hours straight through to Phoenix to celebrate Dad's 55th birthday with us.

My younger brother Travis Renner also lives in the Phoenix

area and Mom and Dad have 5 grandchildren down here in Phoenix between Travis and I. (We grew up in the Mingo area on the Renner Farm. The Renner family was heavily involved in 4-H and participated every year at the Thomas County Fair.) Their names are Madison 8, Riley 6, Garrett 4, Mia 2 and Avery under 1 year! Bob and Connie have 3 other grandchildren that live in Norton.

Travis Renner is a manager of a fitness gym in a suburb of Phoenix called Chandler. I started a church from ground zero in October of 1997 and we are currently running about 700 in attendance and have just purchased 43 acres of land to build our church campus.

The Surprise Stadium announcer spoke of Dad and gave a short bio

about him. Northwest Kansas was mentioned to the crowd on hand at the stadium. We noticed hundreds of Kansas license plates in the area throughout the whole month of March as spring training took place.

Dad actually got the pitch right to the catcher! (But don't tell him I didn't think he'd get it there!) I guess you could call his pitch a "Curve Ball" but I think it could best be described as a lob pitch. When asked what the catcher was talking to him about...Dad said...."They offered him a pitching job!" I thought to myself..."pitching out the trash!"

It was good to have him out for a weekend. Happy Birthday Dad.

(Trent Renner is Pastor of Parkway Christian Church.)

Taste of home cooking 4x16 85% GSN w/ spot color place in GSN

SportsLine

Colby District

• **Monday** — Junior varsity tennis at Garden City, 9 a.m.; Colby High girls' basketball potluck and awards in the commons area, 6:30 p.m.

• **Tuesday** — 7th/8th track at Norton, 10:30 a.m.; junior varsity/varsity baseball at Ulysses, 4 p.m.; the junior varsity/varsity softball games at Ulysses scheduled for this date have been moved to Friday, April 30, 4 p.m.

Colby 3-on-3

Don't forget the April 17 deadline to register for the 5th Annual Colby 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament. The event is scheduled for April 24. If you need additional information, call Donna Henry at 460-6363 (evenings) or 465-5350 (daytime), or Bonnie Dinkel, 462-7247 (evenings) or 462-2751 (daytime).

Awards potluck

A reminder was issued today to all parents of students who participated in girls' basketball at Colby High School of the "Awards Potluck" on Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the high school commons area. Parents and students are encouraged to attend and to bring a food dish and table service. Drinks will be provided. The evening is also open to the public.

Colby College

• **Saturday** — Trojan baseball at Garden City, 1 p.m.; Trojan softball in Wichita Cross-Over Tournament.

• **Sunday** — Trojan baseball hosts Barton County, 1 p.m.; Trojan softball in Wichita Cross-Over Tournament.

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