



JOEY FALKOFF/Colby Free Press

Lady Trojan second baseman Courtney Duell flipped the ball to first base for an out during Colby's 12-11 loss to Neosho County in their second game Sunday at Carl Adams Field.

## Lady Trojans drop three of four

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With an opportunity to make some hay in the regional standings, the Colby Lady Trojan softball took a step backward over the weekend, losing three out of four games at home to Seward County and Neosho County.

The Lady Trojans were defeated twice by Seward County 4-0 and 5-0 Friday. Sunday, the Lady Trojans won the first game from Neosho 4-1, but were nipped in the second game 12-11.

The topsy-turvy weekend leaves Colby at 13-16 overall and 3-7 in Region VI play. They sit in fourth place; three games behind Garden City for third.

It wasn't the performance head coach Ryan Sturdy had hoped for, but he says he is more concerned about his team peaking at the right time.

"We're giving away games we need to be winning," said Sturdy. "But everybody goes to the region tournament; these games just determine where we'll be seeded at. As long as we're learning, then you get down there and want to be playing your best ball the first part of May."

Colby couldn't have played or pitched much better than they did in their game one loss to first place Seward County.

Trojan starter Karri Panno and Seward starter Courtney Auger were locked in a scoreless duel until the ninth inning when Lady Saint designated hitter Cara Russell broke the tie with a grand slam.

Auger finished off the Lady Trojans in the bottom of the ninth to put the cap on her dominant 18 strikeout performance. She allowed the Lady Trojans just three hits as well and no extra base hits.

Panno surrendered 10 hits, but managed her way out of several tough situations to hold the Lady Saints at bay for eight innings.

Seward carried the first game momentum into game two as they jumped on Trojan starter Brittani Kage for four runs in the second inning. Kage surrendered another run in the fourth and was replaced

by Ninotska Amaro. Amaro pitched a perfect 3 1/3 innings to close the game, but the Trojan offense once again could get nothing going.

Russell started game two for the Lady Saints and proved to be Colby's nemesis again. In her seven innings, she allowed seven hits and struck out five, while not walking a batter.

Kaylie Gomez had a double for Colby's only extra-base hit. She was 2-2. Mary McLaughlin was 3-3 with three singles

"I thought that grand slam hurt us at the start of game two," said Sturdy.

"We just couldn't get any hits. We had runners in scoring position, but we couldn't get a key hit. I thought defensively we played really, really well. The scores look worse than the actual games were."

It was the fourth loss of the year to Seward for the Lady Trojans. In the four games, they've scored a combined one run. Even so, Sturdy believes his team can get it done against them in a one-game situation.

"All we gotta do is beat them one time at the region tournament," said Sturdy. "That's what we're trying to entrust upon the girls."

The weather turned cold Sunday, but Colby's bats started to heat up.

Meanwhile, the Lady Trojans top starter, Panno, remained on fire.

Panno turned in her best performance of the year against Neosho in game one. In seven innings, she allowed just one hit and one run, which was unearned. She improved to 7-8 and lowered her ERA to 2.19.

Lynette Ebert hit a two-run homer in the sixth to add some cushion before Panno finished the Panthers off in the seventh. It was Ebert's second home run of the year.

Gomez and McLaughlin also had big days at the plate. Gomez was 2-4 with a triple, while McLaughlin went 3-4 with a run scored.

Both teams had the bats going in what turned out to be a wild

game two.

The lead switched hands three times in the first three innings before the Lady Trojans got a run in the bottom of the third to tie it at 7-7.

After a scoreless fourth, Kage was tagged for three runs in the fifth and was removed in favor of Amaro, who allowed two more.

Kage allowed 10 runs in 4 1/3 innings, but only four were earned. The Lady Trojans committed a season-high nine errors in the game.

"We didn't come out fired up or look to be aggressive," said Sturdy.

Behind 12-7, the Lady Trojans tried to mount a rally.

They scored two in the bottom of the fifth and two more on Chloe Jackson's second home run of the game in the sixth to close to within 12-11.

It remained a one run game heading into the bottom of the seventh.

Things looked promising after Courtney Duell led off with a single, but the Lady Trojans failed to execute from there. Jill Schmidt popped up a bunt to first, Panno popped out to short and Tina Fabrizio flied out to right to the end the game.

"Our leadoff hitter does her job and finds a way to get base," said Sturdy. "We ask the next kid to get a bunt down and she can't get it down. The next kid pops it up. Those other two kids have to step up and get it done too. This was a day of up and downs."

Neosho starter Niki Boyles picked up the win despite allowing 11 runs and 10 hits.

The Lady Trojans hit five home runs in the game. Jackson had two (2, 3), Amaro had one (12) and Kat Nickel hit her first of the year.

"We can't rely on that as the sole way of scoring runs," said Sturdy. "We have to continue to do the little things like execute bunts and hit and run to keep pressure on the other team."

Colby will try to get their situational hitting corrected before they take the field again 3 p.m. Tuesday at Pratt. The Lady Trojans don't return home until April 18 when they host Cloud County.

## Eagle boys third in opening meet

The Colby Eagle boys and junior varsity girls track and field teams kicked off their seasons Saturday at the LeRoy Hoehner Meet in McCook, Neb.

The Colby varsity boys took third as a team with 75 points. Team scores weren't kept for the junior varsity Eagle teams.

McCook won the boys team title with 162.5 points and Lexington finished second with 155.5 points.

Mitchell Tuma and Josh Baden each had multiple first place finishes for the Colby boys.

Tuma won the 100 meter race with a time of 0:10.8 and the long jump competition, stretching 21-2.75. Tuma also finished sixth in the 200M (0:23.6) and was a part of the 4 X 100 relay team that finished third in 0:46.6.

Heath Stephens, Scott McCoy and Adam Weber were the other team members. McCoy ran the fastest leg (0:10.8).

For his performance, Tuma was named Colby's varsity boys Gatorade Athlete of the Week.

Baden continued his dominance from cross-country season, finishing first in the 1600 with a time of 4:53 and first in the 3200 in 10:26.4. Baden was also third in the 800 with a time of 2:08.8.

McCoy added a second place finish to his weekend in the long jump with a leap of 5-6. He ran an 0:11.5 in the 100 meter dash as well, but didn't place.

Ryan McCoy had a couple of top five finishes to his credit. Ryan finished fifth in the long jump (19-

11.5) and fourth in the triple jump (39-3).

Colby's 4X400 relay team of Stephens, Adam Schroeder, Kalen Rasmussen and Ryan Baalman took fourth as well with a time of 3:47.4. Baalman also finished sixth in the 400M with a time of 0:55.2.

The Eagles' other two varsity placers were Chase Moore, who took fifth in the pole vault (10-6), and Ethan Stover, who finished sixth in the javelin (125-5).

In the junior varsity meet, the Eagle boys saw plenty of success as well.

Corbin Stephens, who was named Colby's junior varsity Gatorade Athlete of the Week, finished first in the 100M (0:11.9) and first in the high jump (5-6). Corbin also took second in the 200M race (0:23.8) and was part of the 4X100 relay team that finished first in 0:47.9. Corbin ran the last leg in 0:12.4.

Other team members included Troy Koon (0:12.7), Andrew Flanagan (0:11.4) and Ryan Parker (0:12.9).

Flanagan had another first place finish in the 100/110 hurdles with a winning time of 0:17.3. Koon tied for second in the 100M with a time of 0:12..

Rasmussen also competed in the junior varsity meet and added two first place finishes to his weekend. Rasmussen took first in the 800M race (2:23.6) and was part of the 4X800 relay team that took first in 9:43. He ran the first leg in 2:21.7. Other 4X800 runners were Moore

(2:21.4), Kale Arnberger (2:34.8) and Christian Wilson (2:25.3).

Wilson won the 1600M in 5:24.7, while Moore took fourth in the 800M in 02:28.4. Arnberger would also take fifth in the triple jump (36-9).

For the junior varsity girls, Rachel Lamm was the only first place finisher. She won the 100/110 hurdles in 0:18.4. Lamm also took fifth in the long jump (12-1).

Ashley Standage, Kim Gerstner and LaTrisha Viegra each garnered a second place finish.

Standage tied for second in the high jump (4-2). She also took sixth in the triple jump (27-3.5) and was a part of the 4X100 relay team that took fourth. She ran her leg in 0:14.6 seconds. Standage was named the JV girls Athlete of the Week.

Other 4X100 team members included Ali Barton (0:14.2), Allison Giersch (0:14.9) and Caitlin Wright (0:16.1).

Gerstner tied for second in the high jump with a leap of 4-2. She also placed fifth in the 400M with a time of 1:15.3. Viegra took second in the shot put with a toss of 28-0.

Giersch added a fourth place finish in the 100M (0:14.2), while Barton also tied for sixth (0:31.3) in the 200M.

Colby's only other placer was Jessica Leiker, who took fourth in the shot put (26-5.5).

The Eagle varsity teams return to the track 3 p.m. Thursday at Norton. The junior varsity resumes action April 7 at Goodland.

## Eagle baseball squad splits with Plainville

The Colby Eagle baseball team suffered their first loss of the year Friday to 2A #8 ranked Plainville 3-2, but bounced back to win the second game 12-0.

Levi Schlick (0-1) took the loss for the Eagles in game one. Kevin

Lang improved to 2-0 with his complete-game shutout in game two.

No further statistics were available at press time.

Colby (3-1) will be back in action 4 p.m. Friday at Goodland.

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## Jayhawks headed back to Final Four

LAWRENCE (AP) — Thousands of jubilant Kansas fans poured onto Massachusetts Street on Sunday after the Jayhawks squeaked past Davidson 59-57 and vaulted into the Final Four against North Carolina and Roy Williams.

Police cordoned off several blocks of Massachusetts, the main thoroughfare of downtown Lawrence, which is lined with sports bars and restaurants.

"It's so wonderful to feel good again," said Patricia Miller, shouting to make herself heard over the din. "I've been here since 1963, got my bachelor's and master's degrees from KU. The happiest I've ever seen this town was 1988 when we won the national championship."

"I think this is better."

Jerry Neverve, owner of the Red Lyon Tavern, stood at the entrance blocking people from crowding in.

"Capacity is only 101 and the fire department told me it's only one in, one out," he said. "This party's going to go all night."

Despite a light rain, many young men were bare-chested as they skipped and danced up and

down the street. Conversation was almost impossible as cars honked, people shouted and sirens screamed.

Adding spice to Kansas' first Final Four appearance in five years is the North Carolina coach the Jayhawks will face Saturday in the semifinals.

"This is for you, Roy Wil-

liams," a young man shouted to no one in particular as he made an obscene gesture. "We're going to show you we wound up with the best coach, anyway."

Anger still simmers among many Jayhawk faithful from when Williams left Kansas after 15 years and returned to his alma mater on Tobacco Road.

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- May 8** - CHS Softball @ TMP (DH) 3-5 p.m.

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