

Trojan baseball team continues treading water in conference

By Joey Falkoff

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Trying to figure out the Colby Trojan baseball team is about as futile as predicting the weather in western Kansas this time of year.

Either way, you just don't know what you're going to get.

The Trojans looked nothing like the team that run-ruled Dodge City the day before in their 9-0 game three defeat to the Conquistadors Monday at Trojan Field.

Then, in the series finale, the Trojans were back to being world-beaters again as they rolled over Dodge City 4-0 to earn a series split.

"We've been Jekyll and Hyde," said head coach Ryan Carter. "We never know what team is going to show up. When you're dealing with six to freshman in the lineup at one time, it's hard to get any type of consistency going because these guys haven't gotten used to the grind of day-in, day-out baseball. It's making us better. It's just really frustrating and hard to watch sometimes."

With the split, the Trojans remained right at .500 overall and in conference play at 20-20 (12-12).

Though it was not as fruitful of a weekend as he had hoped for against seventh place Dodge City (17-27, 8-16), Carter couldn't be too displeased with how it shook out.

"No, it's not what we wanted, but as up and down as we've been it's something we'll take right now," said Carter. "Dodge is a much improved team from last year. We battled that first game and just flat out got beat. There's nothing more to say about that."

The Trojan offense could get nothing going against Dodge



Colby freshman Scott Hornstra fired a complete-game, four-hit shutout Monday as the Trojans won the finale of a four-game set with Dodge City 4-0 to split the delayed weekend set.

JOEY FALKOFF/Colby Free Press

starter Lawrence Lasenberry in the first game Monday after finishing the day Sunday with a 15-run outburst.

On a day built for pitchers, Lasenberry took full advantage, allowing no runs and just six hits in his seven innings. He allowed only one extra-base hit as well—a double to Aaron Dunsmore.

"I thought we squared up a lot of balls, but on a day like today with the wind blowing in, we couldn't get any carry," said Carter. "We hit the ball very well, but we needed to find another way to manufacture runs. We also gave away about five or six outs on the bases with poor base running mistakes. That really hurt us."

In his first conference start of the year, Trojan hurler Chris Urbach wasn't quite up to the challenge.

Urbach surrendered seven runs and eight hits in just 3 1/3 innings as he fell to 1-1.

It was a frustrating afternoon for the Trojan right-hander, who allowed only one extra-base hit.

"I thought Chris pitched really well the first game. I just thought he got nickel and dined a little bit," said Carter. "He was in the strike zone with two good pitches."

Dodge City added two more runs off reliever Max Greve in the fifth, but fell a run short of getting the run-rule.

Seven different Conquistadors had at least one hit. Max Taylor and Mark Mitchell each went 2-4. Taylor had three RBIs and Mitchell had a double.

Steve Kletke and Sean Caggiano each went 2-2 for Colby. Zach Semenza reached base twice and stole three bases to raise his season total to seven.

The Trojans didn't score their first run of the day until the bottom of the second of game two, but that was all they needed behind starting pitcher Scott Hornstra.

Following two tough outings against Butler County and Barton County, Hornstra bounced back with his strongest effort of the year Monday, tossing a complete-game, four-hit shutout.

"He's just a little grinder," said Carter. "We trust him. We know he's going to come out and battle every time. We put up a few runs, and on a day like today, a few runs is all you need."

Hornstra mowed through the Conquistador lineup with ease before running into his first bit of trouble in the fifth.

Trailing 2-0, the Conquistadors had a man at third and the tying run at second with two outs. But Hornstra was able to induce a groundout from Brandon Hageman to end the inning, and the Conquistadors wouldn't threaten again.

"I usually feel good before games. It's just a matter of whether

I hit my spots," said Hornstra. "Our defense was playing good, and we got clutch hits when we needed them."

The Trojans scored their first two runs of the game on a sacrifice fly from Eric Sim in the second and an error by Conquistador shortstop David Saiz while attempting a double play in the third.

In the fifth, Brennen Peterson provided a little cushion by leading off the inning with his second home run of the year.

Sim added an RBI double off the glove of leftfielder Cody Lunsford in the sixth for Colby's final run.

Hornstra got the Conquistadors to roll into their fourth double play of the game to close it out in the seventh.

He improved to 4-2 and the Trojans moved to within a game of Barton County for third place in the West.

"I think it was a pretty solid game," said Carter. "I liked the way we played defense. We threw strikes, squared up a lot of balls and manufactured a few runs. It's just getting it through these kids heads that's the way you win ball games."

The Trojans were back in action today with a doubleheader against Brown MacKie at Trojan Field. They play a nine-inning, non-league game Thursday at Lamar, Colo., before playing their final conference road series of the year Saturday and Sunday at Garden City.

"We've got the ability to get hot, especially if we can get a few arms to really compete in the zone," said Carter. "We need to get out and take three of four both of these last two series to help solidify a home playoff series. We think we can hang with anyone in a three-game series."

Eagle tennis takes second at Larned

Colby High's varsity tennis played its first tournament of the year April 8 in Larned and finished in second place.

In #1 singles, Cody Anderson took home a first place medal after finishing a perfect 4-0. Anderson defeated Ellinwood's Ross McGuire 8-2, Larned's Cody Teegerstrom 8-3, Ulysses's Bryce Lubers 8-7 and Hoisington's Manuel Neumann 8-4.

Colby's #2 singles player, Jordan Hockersmith, went 3-1 and took second place. Hockersmith knocked off Larned's Brandon Cregger and Ulysses's Victor Rivera each 8-1 and beat Hoisington's Jordan Klima, 8-0.

His lone defeat came at the hands of Ellinwood's Brett Lyman, 8-1.

The Eagles #2 doubles team of Tim Howard and Jared Bixen-

man went 2-2 and finished third. Their two wins came over Jordan Mooney and Chris Batt of Hoisington 8-2 and Carlos Dillon and Charles Hart of Ulysses 8-5.

Their two defeats came to Kometer and Bryant of Ellinwood 8-5 and Hoisington's Ryan Hoffman and Brad Harting 8-4.

Colby's #1 doubles team of Gray Henry and Jeremy Harter went 0-4 and finished fifth. They lost to Thomas and Deter of Ellinwood 8-1, Ethan Deckert and Evan Dunn of Larned 8-2, Tyler Fagle and Grant Prusa of Ulysses 8-6 and Lee Geotz and Neil Ochs of Hoisington 8-3.

The varsity Eagles played a tournament at Russell Monday. Results were still unavailable at press time. They return to action 3 p.m. Friday at Goodland.



Eagle junior varsity doubles player Geoffrey Rohr returned a forehand during a match against Hays Tuesday at the Colby Invitational at Fike Park. Rohr and teammate Sam Matzek won the match 6-3 and finished in first place in the #1 doubles bracket.

JOEY FALKOFF/Colby Free Press

Eagle junior varsity tennis team finishes third at Colby Invitational

The Colby Eagle junior varsity tennis team finished third at the Colby Invitational Tuesday at Fike Park.

The field was made up of six teams, including Liberal, Garden City, Scott City, Hays and Goodland.

Colby's #1 doubles team of Geoffrey Rohr and Sam Matzek took first place with a 4-1 record.

Matzek and Rohr defeated Liberal's Hai Vo and Bryan Murillo

6-2, Scott City's Dustin Hopkins and Carl Minnix, 6-1, Garden City's Aaron Allen and Chase Sterling, 6-3 and Hays High's Taylor Ermoian and Brett Beougher, 6-3.

Their only loss came at the hands of Goodland's Ryan Irvin and Hazen Deeds, 6-1.

The Eagles #2 doubles team of Jaeger Thompson and Brock Roemer went 3-2 and finished in third place. They picked up forfeit wins over Goodland and Scott City, and

defeated Liberal's Preston Myer and Cornelius Tablate, 6-5.

They lost to Garden City's Jason Proffitt and Josh Arellano 6-0, and Hays's Trey Desaire and Bien Glassman, 6-4.

In singles, Taylor McClure finished in fifth place with a 1-4 record. McClure's only win was over Michael Sterling of Hays, 6-4. He lost to Liberal's Fouad Ansari and Garden City's Chris McMillan each, 6-1. He also lost a pair of 6-4 decisions to Boetten Hillery of Scott City and Bryan Gray of Goodland.

Colby's junior varsity tennis squad returns to the court 10 a.m. Saturday at Scott City.

Colby gets sweep at Holcomb

After getting swept at home by Russell April 8, the Colby Eagle baseball team got back on track Tuesday as they put the broom to Holcomb in their home park 12-0 and 21-6.

The sweep was highlighted by the dominant performance of Levi Schlick in game one.

On the mound, Schlick no-hit the Longhorns and struck out 12 in five innings to improve his record to 2-1.

Schlick also showcased his skills at the plate, finishing 2-4 with a three-run second inning home run that put the Eagles ahead 4-0.

The Eagles would tack on two more runs in the inning, four in the third and one in the fourth to run-rule Holcomb after the fifth inning.

Colby finished with nine hits in the game; all off Holcomb starter Jordan Wilcox.

Kevin Lang and Cory Sager also had big days at the plate. Lang was 3-4 with two doubles. Sager reached base four times and finished 2-2 with two doubles.

Stephen Dinkel reached base twice and had an RBI triple in the second.

Eric Blanton also doubled in the third inning and reached base twice.

Things didn't look very promising for the Eagles in game two as Holcomb jumped out to a 5-1 lead after the first inning.

But the Eagles came back with two runs in the second and went to score 18 runs in the final three innings to run-rule the Longhorns again after five innings.

All nine Eagle starters scored at

Royals split two in Seattle

SEATTLE (AP) — John McLaren didn't need a bat or ball in spring training. He needed a pulpit.

He constantly preached during his first camp as a major league manager about the need to manufacture runs with bunts, hitting behind runners and taking extra bases.

The sermons paid off Tuesday night.

Jose Lopez became the 12th player in major league history to hit three sacrifice flies in a game, Yuniesty Betancourt drove in

three runs and the Seattle Mariners set a season high for runs with an 11-6 victory over the previously stingy Kansas City Royals.

"Yeah, pretty cool," said Lopez, the 24-year-old second baseman and No. 2 hitter on entering baseball's record book. "I've just been listening to the manager: 'Get the base hit. Get the long fly ball. Get the RBI.'"

Lopez added an RBI single while joining Edgar Martinez as the only other Mariners player to have three sacrifice flies in a game.

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