

Eagles make quick work of Goodland behind strong pitching

By Joey Falkoff

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A night at the ball park turned into merely an early evening at the ball park for Eagle fans after two dominating pitching performances by Kevin Lang and Brandon Rasmussen lifted Colby to victories of 5-1 and 2-0 over Goodland Tuesday at the city fields in a brisk three hours and 15 minutes.

The Eagles improved their mark to 9-5 and won for the first time at home after four home losses to open the season.

"It felt like a practice," said Eagle head coach Kevin Cox. "We usually get done around 6:30, and this isn't too far past that. Kevin and Brandon pretty much dominated."

After losing two of his last three starts, Lang bounced back Tuesday by tossing a complete-game four-hitter. Lang, who struck out six and didn't walk a batter, didn't allow the Cowboys a hit until the fourth inning.

"He wasn't missing in the zone and kept the ball down," said Eagle assistant coach Rick Williams. "When he doesn't throw well, he catches too much of the plate. Today, he did a good job of hitting the corners. Cory (Sager) also did a good job of moving around behind the plate."

Lang's only real trouble came in the sixth. Two errors by Rasmussen at third gave the Cowboys men at second and third with one out, trailing 4-1.

But Lang kept his focus and got out of the inning unscathed by striking out Vance Johnson and Teather Dautel.

"Coach Cox talked with the guys about baring down and having more of a bulldog attitude," said Williams. "Kevin did a good job of that today."

The Cowboys got a single from Josh Duke in the seventh, but Lang retired Kevin Anther and Brandon Rome to end the game. He improved to 5-2.



JOEY FALCKOFF/Colby Free Press

Colby Eagle junior Stephen Dinkel, right, was picked off by Goodland's Vance Johnson during their second game Tuesday at the City Fields. The play did the Eagles no harm, though, as they held on for a 2-0 victory to complete the sweep of the Cowboys after winning game one 5-1.

Lang's performance was great, but Rasmussen's was even better—and a bit unexpected.

The Eagle sophomore, slated as Colby's fourth pitcher, needed just 70 pitches to toss his first career complete-game. He also got his first career shut out too boot.

"That's almost unheard of," said Williams of Rasmussen's extremely low pitch count.

"He did his job and did it well," said Cox.

Rasmussen allowed the Cowboys just three hits in seven innings. He struck out seven and also didn't walk a batter.

"That's probably the best game I've ever thrown," said Rasmus-

sen, who improved to 2-1. "My stuff was just working good today. Pretty much from the start, I felt good."

Goodland's starters, Brandon Rome and Preston Dautel, weren't too shabby themselves, but the Cowboy catcher, Tanner Smith, had a tough time slowing down the Eagles running game.

Colby stole 18 bases between the two games, including 12 in the first game.

"We knew we needed to be aggressive running the bases," said Cox. "We saw a great opportunity to do that today, so we did it."

All seven of Colby's runs came with the help of at least one stolen

base in the inning.

In game one, Cade Carter got the Eagles on the board in the first inning. Carter walked, then stole second and third and scored on a passed ball.

Colby tacked on two more in the second despite having their first two batters retired.

Chaz Winger singled, stole second and third and scored on an RBI single by Eric Blanton to make it 2-0. Blanton stole second, moved to third and scored the Eagles third run on a passed ball.

Lang had an RBI single in the fifth to put the Eagles ahead 4-1. Dinkel scored Colby's final run in the sixth inning after an errant

throw from Smith went into left-field.

"Everybody did a good job playing team baseball," said Williams. "Every time we needed a big hit, we got it."

Rome took the loss for Goodland after allowing seven hits and four earned runs in seven innings. Lang led the Eagles at the plate with a 2-3 outing. Brent Arnerberger was 1-3 with a double. Carter, Dinkel, Winger and Blanton also had hits.

Goodland's only run came courtesy of an RBI double by Smith in the fourth inning.

Smith led Goodland, going 2-4 with a double and an RBI.

Both teams failed to score in either of the first two innings of game two, but the Eagles broke through in the third.

Carter led the inning off with a single. He stole second and later scored on a two-out RBI single by Levi Schlick.

The Eagles added an insurance run in the fourth after a botched attempted pick-off play allowed Carter to score his second run of the game from third.

Goodland's only offensive highlight was Forrest Trachsel's third inning double. He remained stranded at third after Duke popped out to end the inning.

The Cowboys never got a runner to second base the rest of the game.

"I just knew I needed to keep the ball down. I left that one up a little bit," said Rasmussen.

Preston was the hard-luck loser for Goodland. He allowed one earned run and four hits in five innings.

Carter, Schlick, Dinkel, Winger and Rasmussen had hits for the Eagles. Smith, Trachsel and Rory Kling combined for Goodland's three hits.

"We only needed a few runs to win and that's what happened," said Cox.

The opposite was true earlier this year when the Eagles swept the Cowboys and put up 26 runs in the process.

"They'll be dangerous to play in regionals," said Cox.

"They don't even look like the same team. They're much improved from earlier in the season."

Goodland's improvement didn't show at the plate, and the Eagles now have their top two pitchers, Schlick and Dinkel, rested and ready to go for their next games 4 p.m. Friday at Ulysses.

But Goodland found out Tuesday the Eagles have more than two aces in the fold.

Local soccer league needs support for trip

Colby's AYSO (American Youth Soccer Organization) has entered a U14 (under 14) team into the second annual Tri State Games tournament May 30-June 1 at Centennial Park in North Platte, Neb.

But in order for the trip to go forward as planned, head coach Daniel Morris says he needs additional community support.

"We badly need donations to help with the costs of getting 15 kids (three of which are girls) and

three referees up to North Platte," said Morris.

Morris is being assisted by Terilyn Fleming.

The team has already received donations from Shelbourne Reynolds, Fotogirl Photography, Wal Mart, S&T, Stephens Construction, Colby Bowl and Fun Center and Comfort Inn.

"If it wasn't for these sponsors, we wouldn't have even been able to pay the entry fee," said Morris.

Anyone who would like to help

sponsor the tournament is asked to contact Morris at (785) 443-3325.

The AYSO sanctioned tournament features teams from Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado.

All proceeds from the tournament go back into the tri-states AYSO region to help with training costs and soccer promotion.

The U14 age group will play on a field close to full size—100 yards long and 50 yards wide. Games are 11-on-11.

"This tournament will be great

for soccer in our region," said Morris.

"They will be playing and seeing a higher class of soccer than they are normally use to. North Platte has wonderful soccer facilities. They have about 16 fields, all with underground sprinklers and very nice grass."

There are age groups for U12 (under 12), U14 and U19 (under 19), but Colby is only entering a U14 team.

"We hope to be able to enter more teams in the future, if we can raise the money," said Morris.

Lady Trojans clinch fourth spot with split at Barton County

Fourth place Colby and fifth place Barton County already knew they were going to match up in the first round of the Region VI Softball Tournament heading into their regular season finale Monday in Great Bend.

The only question remaining was who the home team would be in their opening round game.

Two Barton victories Monday would have moved them past Colby for fourth place.

But the Lady Trojans weren't going anywhere.

Barton put the pressure on with a 7-1 victory in game one, but the Lady Trojans rebounded to win game two 10-8 and held onto the #4 spot.

The #4 seeded Trojans finished the regular season 29-30 overall and 11-13 in the region. Barton ended up 22-28 overall and 9-13 in the region.

Both teams will square off again 3 p.m. Friday at Two Rivers Complex in Wichita.

The winner will take on #1 seed Butler 5 p.m. Friday, while the loser will play an elimination game 11 a.m. Saturday.

The deciding final regular season game looked to be all Colby's as they took a 8-0 lead in the bottom of the fourth.

But Barton rallied for five runs in the inning to close the gap to 8-5.

Colby held a 10-7 lead in the seventh. Barton scored a run in the inning, but the Trojans prevailed.

Despite allowing 13 hits and six earned runs, Ninostka Amaro lusted the entire seven innings and picked up the win to finish the

regular season 10-8.

Amaro, who homered in the first game, added her 27th home run of the year in game two, which will stand as a school record. The previous high was 17 by Lynette Bohannon in 2000. Amaro also set the school record for slugging percentage, finishing with a 1.079 mark.

Amaro's 27 home runs ensures her of the Division I national home run crown this year.

The nation's second highest home run hitter, Jenna Dell of Iowa Western Community College, entered Monday's action with 20 home runs.

In addition, the Lady Trojan sophomore finished the year leading the team in batting average (.434), RBIs (72), doubles (17), hits (66) and runs (66).

Colby finished the game with 10 hits off Barton starter Brigitte

Hitschmann, who suffered the loss.

Kat Nickel led the way, going 4-4 with three RBIs and a stolen base. Courtney Duell was 2-3 with two RBIs. Mary McLaughlin was 1-4 with an RBI double.

Jill Schmidt and Erin Myers also had a hit for Colby.

In game one, the Trojans weren't able to get much going against Barton starter Jennifer Jackson.

Jackson limited the Trojans to three hits and one run in seven innings. She struck out five and walked two. Colby's only run came in the fifth on a solo shot by Amaro.

Nickel and Myers had the team's other two hits. Colby stranded eight runners in the game.

Trojan starter Karri Panno fell to 13-16.

She allowed seven runs and 10 hits in six innings.

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~ League Bowling Results ~

April 22nd - Pinbusters			
Team	Won	Lost	Place
Pepsi	225	111	1
Colby Automotive	206	130	2
Colby Bowl	182	154	3
United Commercial Travel	166	170	4
Cummins Central Power	154	182	5
Killer Bees	150	186	6
Donelan's Jewelry	132	204	7
Gambino's	109	167	8
First high Individual game: Arron Rondeau, 249			
First high Individual series: Arron Rondeau, 674			

April 21st - First Nighters League			
Team	Won	Lost	Place
McKee	204	90	1
Parking Lot Maintenance	174	120	2
7-Up	171	123	3
Discount Repair	163	131	4
Woolter Pump and Well	154	140	5
Frontier Ag Inc.	143	151	6
Grinnell Furniture	141	153	7
Wild Ride	140	154	8
Sparky's Fireworks	138	156	9
Fire Xtrikers	134	160	10
NW Refrigeration	118	176	11
First high Men Individual game: Charles Schwanke, 245			
First high Men Individual series: Nick Tubbs, 623			

April 23rd - Ladies Nite Out			
Team	Won	Lost	Place
Camouflage Lawn Care	19	13	1
Twisters	18	14	2
Strike-Outs	17	15	3

Service oil			
Team	Won	Lost	Place
Golden Harvest Seeds	16	16	4
Straightline	16	17	5
Margaret's Day Care	15	16	6
Don's Electric	14	18	7
Phillips-Carmen	13	19	8
First high Individual game: Samantha Sabatka, 196			
First high Individual series: Dee Hovda, 510			

April 22nd - Early Bird Ladies League			
Team	Won	Lost	Place
www.strike	36	20	1
Van's Merry Four	35	21	2
NW Vacuum	34.5	21.5	3
Bowlerettes	33	23	4
4 4 Fun	26.5	29.5	5
First high Individual game: Rosie Stover, 209			
First high Individual series: Pat Criss, 521			

April 13th - King & Queen			
Team	Won	Lost	Place
Swartz - Barnett	39	17	1
Renner-Schwanke	38	18	2
Pancake - Heartman	35	21	3
Barton-Kreutzer	32	24	4
Schissler - Koehn	32	24	5
Norman-Gaede	31	25	6
Schmidtberger-Benson	27	29	7
Nelson-Williams	27	29	8
Waddington-Mosley	26	30	9
Phillips-Carmen	21	35	10
Pounds - Mariman	14	10	11
Men's First high Individual game: Kipp Nelson, 245			
Men's First high Individual series: Kipp Nelson, 627			
Women's First high Individual game: Mandy Kreutzer, 185			
Women's First high Individual series: Mandy Kreutzer, 495			

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