

# Young Colby squad starts K-18 season slow

By Joey Falkoff  
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Young team. First games. Bad combination. Colby's K-18 baseball team, which features only two players that are 15 years old, got swept by Goodland 17-0 and 6-4 in their first games of the season Thursday at the city fields.

Inexperience showed as the Eagles committed nine errors, threw five wild pitches and had a passed ball in the first game alone. They also managed just three hits off Goodland starter Michael Pettibone. The Eagles (0-2) settled down in game two and rallied for four runs with two outs in their last at-bat, but fell just short.

"I'll chalk that first game up to first-game jitters," said Colby head coach Russell Rodenbeck, who was making his K-18 head coaching debut. "I'm not worried about it all. The second game we came around and played a lot better. It's a building process. I see this team getting a lot better toward the end. The talent is there we just have to maximize it."

That talent finally showcased itself at the end of game two. After being shut out for eight consecutive innings to start the day, the Eagle bats broke through for four runs in the bottom of the fifth, putting a scare into the Elks who had a comfortable 6-0 lead entering the final frame.

Down to their final out, Jordan Rasmussen started the rally with a walk. Todd Kane reached on an error and later stole second. Dalton Snyder drove home Colby's first two runs with a double to the rightcenter field gap.

A passed ball moved Snyder to third and he later scored on an infield single by Tyler Bear to make it 6-3. After Jake Thompson reached on a bunt, Bear scored on a double steal from third. With the tying run at the plate, Dalaan Organ struck out and the valiant comeback attempt fell just short.

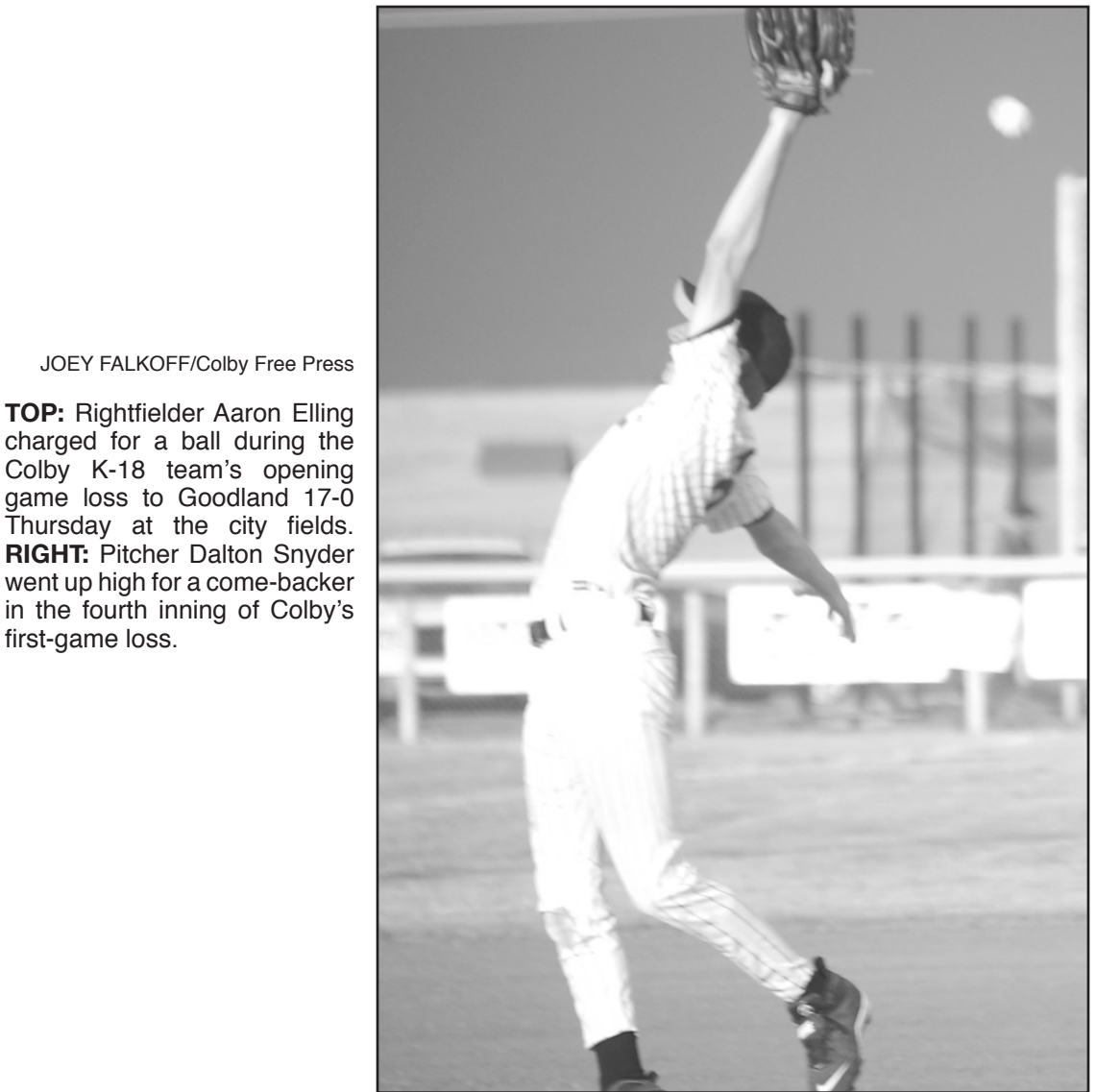
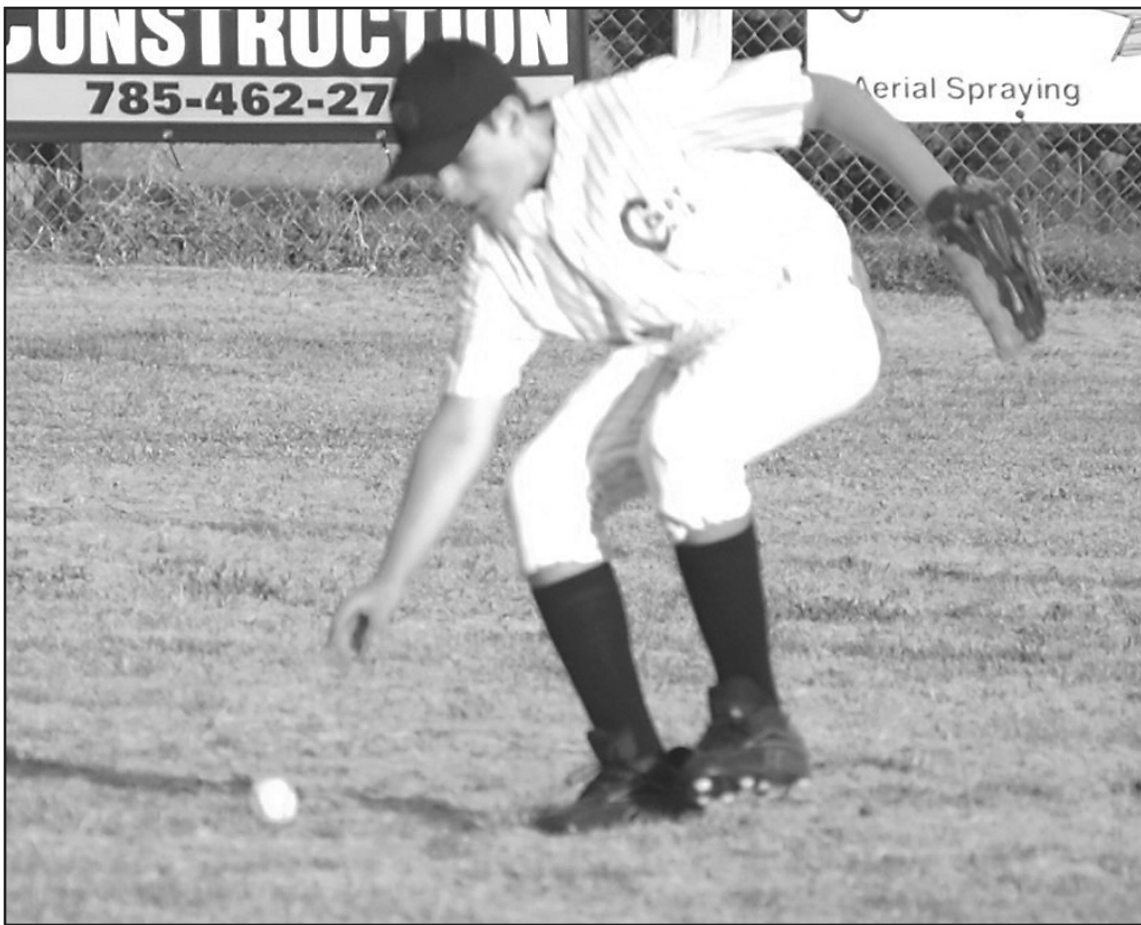
"That last inning shows the potential we have," said Rodenbeck. "We got two-out hits, ran the bases well. That's how we'll play every game once the kids get it worked out. It's a good starting point and a good reference point for us."

Goodland got two runs on the board right away after Nelson scored on a wild pitch and Devon Garrett drove in a run with an RBI double. Garrett, who finished 2-2, drove in his second run of the day in the third as Goodland plated three more runs to take a 5-0 lead. They tacked on another run in the fifth on an RBI triple by Ryan Hillmer.

Dallas DeLaRosa earned the victory for Goodland allowing just two hits and four runs in five innings. He didn't allow Colby their first hit until the fifth inning. Rasmussen took the loss after allowing six runs and only four hits in five innings.

In game one, there would be no comeback to speak of for Colby. Goodland took an early lead and just kept adding to it.

Already ahead 7-0, Goodland



JOEY FALKOFF/Colby Free Press

**TOP:** Rightfielder Aaron Elling charged for a ball during the Colby K-18 team's opening game loss to Goodland 17-0 Thursday at the city fields. **RIGHT:** Pitcher Dalton Snyder went up high for a come-backer in the fourth inning of Colby's first-game loss.

put up 10 runs in the fourth inning to get the run-rule.

Colby committed five errors and had two wild pitches in the inning. Garrett, who finished 1-2, drove in a run to make it to 10-0. That sent Colby's starter, Snyder, to the showers, after 3 1/3 innings. But he allowed just six hits.

Bear came on in relief and gave up an RBI single to Hillmer, a wild pitch that scored a run, a two RBI single to Cy Paxton and a ground-rule double to Garth Helton.

Paxton finished 2-2 with four RBIs.

DeLaRosa, who was 3-3 with two RBIs, got Goodland on the

board with an RBI single in the first. He later scored on a wild pitch. He added his second RBI in a five-run third inning that made it 7-0.

Michael Pettibone picked up the win after limiting Colby to three hits in four innings. Rasmussen, Trek Keck and Nathan Quigliano combined for Colby's three hits.

Colby was scheduled to play at Oakley Thursday, but that game has been cancelled. Instead, they will play their second double-header 3 p.m. Saturday against McCook, Neb., at the city fields.

"I think we need work on our defense and hitting about equal-

ly," said Rodenbeck.

**Game 1**

	1	2	3	4	
Goodland (1-0)	2	0	5	10	17
Colby (0-1)	0	0	0	0	0

WP Pettibone (1-0) LP Snyder (0-1)  
2B: Helton, Hilmer

**Game 2**

	1	2	3	4	5
Goodland (2-0)	2	0	3	0	1-6
Colby (0-2)	0	0	0	0	4-4

WP DeLaRosa (1-0) LP Rasmussen (0-1)  
2B: Garrett, Snyder. 3B: Hilmer

# Trojan volleyball team signs Oberlin hitter

By Jim Merriott  
The Oberlin Herald  
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Recent Decatur Community High School graduate LeAnna Sheaffer will be attending Colby Community College this fall on a volleyball scholarship.

"I am pretty excited," said Sheaffer. "This is a challenge I have been looking forward to."

She will study general education for her two years in Colby with the hopes of transferring to Kansas State University in Manhattan, where she hopes to major in English and possibly journalism.

"My dad got me interested in sports at an early age," she said. "He has inspired me."

"He started taking me to swimming lessons when I was in kindergarten. Swimming just opened the doors to other sports for me."

Sheaffer, who moved to Oberlin when she was young, is a University of Colorado Buffalo fan.

"We lived in Broomfield

when I was a little girl," she said. "My Dad followed the Buffs. I just became a fan."

Sheaffer lettered in volleyball, basketball and track while attending Decatur Community High. She works at Pizza Hut during the summer and is buying a new car for college. She is the daughter of Steve and Dawn Sheaffer of Oberlin.

Sheaffer said that she used jumping drill and breathing techniques to improve her athletic skills.

"If I had one thing to tell the younger kids of Oberlin, it would be....go to as many summer sports camps as possible to help improve your skills," she said.

Colby finished 20-19 last year. They will be under the direction of new coach Valerie Armstrong next season.



Sheaffer

# Royals demote top prospect to the minors

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)-The offensively weak Kansas City Royals sent DH/first baseman Billy Butler to Triple-A Omaha on Thursday, hoping to kick-start a feeble attack that had contributed to their 10-game losing streak.

Coming up from Omaha was infielder Mike Aviles, a 27-year-old non-roster invitee who was hitting .338 through 50 games. Aviles got the start at shortstop against Minnesota on Thursday night, replacing slumping Tony Pena Jr.

The Royals also put right-hander Leo Nunez on the 15-day disabled list with a strained muscle in his right side and called up left-hander Neal Musser, who was 0-4 with six saves and a 3.07 ERA in 19 relief appearances at Omaha.

Many fans had been clamoring for someone to replace Pena, who was hitting .160.

The 22-year-old Butler is one of the Royals' most promising young hitters.

"In the last month, Billy's hit .217," said manager Trey Hillman. "In the last two weeks, he's hit .233. We all know Billy's better than that. I thought we'd made some good progress two days ago with his early hitting. He's not squaring balls up at the same ratio. He's not taking pitches with the same comfort level and balance at the plate."

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# Legion Baseball Schedule

**Manager:** John Gatz  
**Coach (Head):** Jeff Krzycki  
**Assistant Coach:** Dane Olofson

Note: All games other than tournaments are doubleheaders. Times are central.

**Schedule**

May 31 vs. Burlington, Colo., 2 p.m.  
June 1 vs. North Platte, Neb., 2 p.m.  
June 6-8 at Dodge City Tournament  
June 11 at Scott City 6 p.m.  
June 13-15 at Columbus, Neb., Tournament  
June 18 vs. Hays 6 p.m.  
June 22 at Ellis 2:30 p.m.  
June 25 vs. Goodland 6 p.m.  
June 28-29 at North Platte, Neb., Tournament 2 p.m.  
July 2 vs. Scott City 6 p.m.  
July 3 at Burlington, Colo., 6:30 p.m.  
July 8 vs. Ellis 6 p.m.  
July 9 vs. Norton 6 p.m.  
July 12 Tri. at Goodland with Goodland/Burlington, Colo., TBA  
July 13 vs. Dodge City 4 p.m.  
July 16 vs. McCook, Neb., 6 p.m.  
July 20-26 at Zone Tournament  
Aug. 1-5 at State Tournament in Sabetha

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