

Colby settles for split in Ellis

Following Levi Schlick's complete-game four-hitter Wednesday against Hays, fellow southpaw Stephen Dinkel nearly matched Schlick's dominance on the mound Sunday at Ellis.

Dinkel scattered just five hits and two runs and struck out nine in seven innings as Colby's American Legion baseball team won the first game of a double-header from Ellis, 7-2.

The pitching evaded Colby in game two, however, allowing Ellis to bounce back for an 11-10 victory to earn the split.

Dinkel's impressive showing on the hill in game one was supported by a balanced Colby offensive attack that combined for 11 hits. All but one starter, Eric Blanton, had at least one hit. Colby broke a 1-1 tie with two runs in third and broke the game open with one in the fifth and three runs in the sixth.

Brent Amberger led the way, going 2-4 with a home run, a

double and two RBIs. Schlick also went 2-4 with a double, an RBI and two runs scored. Cory Sager went 2-5 with two RBIs, a double and scored a run. Cade Carter, Dinkel, Brandon Rasmussen, Preston Krzycki and Chaz Winger each had a hit as well.

Carter's only hit was a triple, and Dinkel added an RBI.

The offense was still clicking on all cylinders in game two, but it wasn't enough to overcome a couple of rough outings from Krzycki and Carter and a shaky defensive effort that produced six errors.

In a game that went back and forth the whole way, Ellis landed the first big blow by scoring five runs in the third to pull ahead 6-2.

Colby answered with two in the fourth and three in the third, but Ellis matched them with five runs in those two innings. Trailing 11-7, Colby mounted a late

rally, scoring a run in sixth and two in the seventh, but fell just short.

Ellis scored its first six runs off Krzycki, who lasted just 2 2/3 innings and was charged with the loss. He allowed seven hits, two walks and struck out one. Carter pitched the final 3 1/3 innings and gave up five runs and six hits. He struck out six and walked four.

Colby's offense mounted 10 hits and four different players had a multiple-hit game.

Schlick, Dinkel, Krzycki and Winger all went 2-4. Krzycki drove in four runs, Schlick drove in two and Winger had an RBI as well. Dinkel had a double for Colby's lone extra-base hit.

Amberger and Carter also had a hit.

Colby (12-7) returns to action 6 p.m. tonight against Goodland at the city fields. Results will be available in Thursday's Free Press.

Bulls still weighing their options

DEERFIELD, Ill. (AP) — Derreck Rose or Michael Beasley?

Chicago Bulls general manager John Paxson wasn't about to announce a decision on Tuesday, though he might have hinted at his intentions for the No. 1 pick despite his best effort to hide them.

Surveying the microphones and notepads, he grinned and said, "If anybody thinks I'm going to give something away today, I'm not."

The Bulls have the top pick in the NBA draft on Thursday and a big decision to make, and Paxson said he's thinking about the long term.

Considering he believes Beasley will have a more immediate impact, that could be an indication he's leaning toward Rose.

"I know we can't go wrong either way," he said. "Every team would like to think when they have a bad year, they can turn it around overnight. But we sit here and we have to look a few years down the road and how we're going to be better then to establish something."

The Beasley-Rose debate began in Chicago when the Bulls defied 1.7 percent odds and won the lottery.

Do they go with Rose, who grew up on the city's South Side and played at Simeon High School before leading Memphis to a record 38 wins and the NCAA finals in his lone season? Or Beasley, who delivered one of the best seasons ever by a college freshman?

Rose averaged 14.9 points and 4.7 assists and was better in the postseason when his scoring jumped to 20.8 per game before things ended on a sour note. He missed one of two free throws with 10.8 seconds left in regulation, and Kansas' Mario Chalmers took advantage, hitting a 3-pointer to send the game into overtime and, ultimately, the Jayhawks to the championship.

Then there's Beasley.

He became the third freshman in NCAA history to lead the na-

tion in rebounds at 12.4 per game while averaging 26.2 points. He had the second-most rebounds and third-most points by a freshman in NCAA history, helping Kansas State to its first NCAA tournament victory in 20 years.

Paxson said he will keep the pick unless "somebody calls and wants to offer the best player in the game," and there are no indications that LeBron James and Kobe Bryant are being shopped. That leaves Chicago in a situation similar to Portland's last year.

The Trail Blazers were also a long shot to get the first pick, and they had to decide between a potentially dominant big man (Greg Oden) and perimeter player (Kevin Durant). Unlike Chicago, Portland did not have the added bonus of a coaching search.

"Thank God," Blazers general manager Kevin Pritchard said.

Trying to pick the cornerstone of the franchise was difficult enough. The Blazers ultimately drafted Oden, who had microfracture surgery on his right knee and missed his rookie year.

Pritchard said deciding between two players posed "a lot more challenges than you expect. But it allows you to get very deep into two players."

Pritchard told his staff last year to "keep an open mind until right before the draft." He gave Paxson this advice a few weeks ago: "Relax, you got two good guys to look at. Have fun with it."

Paxson said, "I don't think we've had as much fun as they might have. I'm a little more uptight than that."

He has reason to be following a difficult season.

After three straight playoff appearances, the Bulls expected to contend in the Eastern Conference but went 33-49 instead. Coach Scott Skiles got fired in December, and interim coach Jim Boylan was let go after the season.

They ended a drawn-out search by hiring Vinyl Del Negro after

high-profile courtship's with Mike D'Antoni and Doug Collins fell through. The Bulls did catch a big break when they won the lottery. Now, they need to capitalize.

If they go with Rose, the Bulls would have a crowded backcourt with Kirk Hinrich, Larry Hughes and Thabo Sefolosha even if restricted free agent Ben Gordon leaves. There would be a similar scenario up front if Chicago drafts Beasley, with Drew Gooden, Joaquin Noah and Tyrus Thomas in place along with restricted free agent Luol Deng.

Either way, the Bulls would need to make a trade, right?

"That would be the quick reaction," Paxson said. "But it's not a given. It really isn't. We haven't had one guy who has distinguished himself as the real leader on our floor. And we have to be real careful to make any snap decisions. ... You don't want to jump into something, making a move, and then a year from now if something doesn't work out, you don't have a roster."

Lady Trojan softball team uses one school to fill three holes

By Debbie Schwanke

Colby Community College
Public Information

Colby Community College head softball coach Ryan Sturdy has announced three recent graduates of Erie High School, Erie, Colo., have signed to play for the Lady Trojans. The three stand-out athletes are Peggy Nichols, Janay Rahrlich and Britney Baker.

"I am very excited to have three players of their talent sign to play for CCC next year," said Sturdy. "Erie High School is a powerhouse in the 3A division in Colorado. The school has won several state titles in the past few years. I look for these three to come in and contribute right away."



Nichols



Rarich



Baker

The Lady Trojans have signed 15 new players for the 2008-09 season.

"I am expecting big things from these young women," said Sturdy. "Britney and Peggy are outfielders with great speed. They have solid gloves and are smart base runners. Janay is an infielder. She can hit

for power or average. She does what it takes at the plate to drive in runs."

Sturdy is in his third season as the Head Coach of the Lady Trojan softball program. He is assisted by Travis Barnum.

Colby finished fourth in the Jayhawk West last year at 30-32.

Lady Trojans add fourth Coloradoan

By Debbie Schwanke

Colby Community College
Public Information

Colby Community College Head Softball Coach Ryan Sturdy has announced Tiffany Allen, Arvada, Colo., has signed a letter of intent to play for the Lady Trojans.

"Tiffany has a solid glove at the shortstop position and gets a

good jump on the ball," said Coach Sturdy. "She will make the average play and a few great plays. At the plate she has some pop with the bat. She does



Allen

what it takes to drive in runs." Allen is a recent graduate of Arvada High School.

"We look for Tiffany to come in and compete for a starting spot this coming fall," said Coach Sturdy. "She is coming off a shoulder injury but should be 100 percent for the start of the fall season in August."

Tiffany is the daughter of Jim and Georgia Allen of Arvada.

Sports Briefs

WIMBLEDON, England (AP)—Defending champion Venus Williams scraped through a tight first set and then pulled away for a 7-6 (5), 6-1 victory over British teenager Naomi Cavaday to begin her bid for a fifth Wimbledon title.

As reigning champion, Williams was up first on "Ladies Day" on Centre Court as the All England Club enjoyed a second spell of dry, sunny weather on a day that also featured wins by Rafael Nadal and Andy Roddick and former champions Maria Sharapova and Lindsay Davenport. Fourth-seeded Nikolay Davydenko was the top name to go out.

It took awhile for the seventh-seeded Williams, playing her first grass-court match of the season, to find her game and take command against a 19-year-old wild card entry playing only her third career Grand Slam match.

Williams' potential quarterfinal opponent, No. 2-seeded Jelena Jankovic, easily advanced by beating 113th-ranked Olga Savchuk of Ukraine 6-3, 6-2 in a late match.

Men's No. 2 Nadal — coming off his fourth straight French Open championship and a win at Queen's for his first grass-court title — got off to a solid start on Centre Court. Runner-up to Roger Federer the past two years, the 22-year-old Spaniard beat 122nd-

ranked German qualifier Andreas Beck 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (0).

Two-time runner-up Roddick served 17 aces and never faced a break point as he downed Eduardo Schwank of Argentina 7-5, 6-4, 7-6 (0). The sixth-seeded Roddick, who lost to Federer in the 2004 and '05 finals, had only nine unforced errors.

In the day's first major upset, fourth-seeded Davydenko was knocked out in the first round in straight sets by 116th-ranked German Benjamin Becker, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4. It was the fifth time in seven years Davydenko failed to get past the first round; he reached the fourth round last year.

GOLF

Tiger Woods had reconstructive surgery on his left knee in Utah to repair a torn ligament, and doctors said it was "highly unlikely" there would be any long-term effects.

It was the second time in 10 weeks Woods had surgery on his knee, this time on his anterior cruciate ligament.

The surgery came one week after Woods went 91 holes at Torrey Pines to win the U.S. Open in a playoff over Rocco Mediate, revealing later that he also had a double stress fracture in his left tibia.

The surgery, performed by Dr.

Thomas D. Rosenberg and Dr. Vernon J. Cooley in Park City, was the fourth time Woods has had surgery on his left knee. He had a benign tumor removed in 1994, and he had benign cysts removed in 2002, along with fluid around the ACL.

OLYMPICS

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP) — Banned sprinter Justin Gatlin got support but no relief from a federal judge who rescinded his order allowing the defending 100-meter champion to compete in this weekend's Olympic track and field trials.

Judge Lacey Collier said that while he believed Gatlin "is being wronged," he lacked jurisdiction over the U.S. Olympic Committee to determine who is eligible for the trials.

The former world 100- and 200-meter champion's only recourse appears to be with the Swiss Federal Court, Collier wrote in his seven-page order.

Two weeks ago, the Switzerland-based Court of Arbitration for Sport upheld a four-year ban against Gatlin. He had asked CAS to rescind his first doping violation — from 2001 — which he had hoped would reduce his penalty to a two-year ban, allowing him to compete in the trials.

Royals win for ninth time in 10 games

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Zack Greinke matched a career high with 10 strikeouts and Alex Gordon hit a two-run homer as the surging Kansas City Royals beat the Colorado Rockies 7-3 Tuesday night.

The Royals have won four straight and nine of 10, all against National League clubs. Their 11-3 record is the best in interleague

play. The game included a frightening moment in the bottom of the second inning, when plate umpire Brian O'Nora was hit in the head by a shattered piece of Miguel Olivo's broken bat.

With blood streaming down his face, O'Nora rushed to Kansas City's dugout, where Jose Guillen quickly covered the umpire's head

with a towel.

O'Nora came out of the game and was treated by Kansas City trainer Nick Swartz. The Royals later announced that O'Nora had a small cut on his forehead and was taken to St. Luke's Hospital for further evaluation.

After the injury, both teams left the field and the game was delayed for 13 minutes.

FREE Bedframe with purchase of \$799 or more!†

New Models Are Here!

| Teesdale II Plush | |
|-------------------|-------|
| Twin | \$399 |
| Full | \$449 |
| Queen | \$499 |
| King | \$799 |

| May Bank Ultra Plush | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Twin | \$499 |
| Full | \$549 |
| Queen | \$599 |
| King | \$899 |

| Burbank Rose Pillow Top | |
|-------------------------|--------|
| Twin | \$699 |
| Full | \$799 |
| Queen | \$899 |
| King | \$1299 |

| Westbend Firm | |
|---------------|--------|
| Twin | \$999 |
| Full | \$1099 |
| Queen | \$1199 |
| King | \$1699 |

Schaffer II Pillow Top

\$399

Queen Set

SEALY POSTUREPEDIC IS DESIGNED TO ELIMINATE TOSsing AND TURNING CAUSED BY PRESSURE POINTS

no interest for 12 months!*

2702 Vine Street
Hays
785.621.2664

Number One
selling home furniture brand in North America

Stop by Days Inn of Colby and sign up for **FREE TICKETS to the Jeff Boschee Basketball Clinic** July 21-22 Colby High School Grades 3-6 and 7-9 **THE DRAWING WILL BE HELD ON JULY 15TH.**

Sponsored by:

1925 S. Range • 462-8691

*On approved credit. Minimum purchase of \$1199 required. Financing for 6 months no interest with no minimum purchase also available. See store for details. Maintenance fee may apply depending on promotion chosen. Financing provided by Citifinancial Retail Services. Finance Charges will not accrue on the purchase during the credit promotional period if the required minimum payment is made each billing cycle during the credit promotional period when due. The purchase price is divided by the number of months in the credit promotional period to determine equal monthly payments to be made during the credit promotional period. Credit promotional period may be terminated if you default under your account agreement. SEE STORE FOR DETAILS. Some pieces and fabric prints may vary by store. Selection may vary by store. Although every precaution is taken, errors in price and/or specification may occur in print. We reserve the right to correct any such errors. Prices valid for a limited time only. Participation times may vary. HomeStores are independently owned and operated. An amount equal to sales taxes and delivery charges must be paid at the time of purchase. Previous purchases excluded. Picture may not represent item exactly as shown, advertised items may not be on display at all locations. †FREE Bedframe with purchase of \$799 or more. See store for details. ©2008 Ashley HomeStores, Ltd. Expires 6/30/08.