



JOEY FALKOFF/Colby Free Press

Chaz Winger, left, was thrown out by a step at first during the third inning of Colby's 11-3 win over Norton in game two of a doubleheader Wednesday at the city fields. Colby won the first game 13-0. Their record stands at 22-9 as they head into a doubleheader 5 p.m. Saturday at Goodland. Colby returns home 4 p.m. Sunday for a doubleheader with Dodge City.

Colby offense comes to life as Legion team sweeps Norton

By Joey Falkoff

Free Press Reporter
jalkoff@nwkansas.com

Through the first six innings Wednesday, it looked like it was going to be another brisk night at the city fields for the Colby American Legion team.

A one-hit gem from Brandon Rasmussen and a punishing 13-hit offensive attack lifted Colby to a familiar 13-0 four-inning run-rule victory in game one.

The rout appeared to be on in game two as Colby jumped out to a 5-0 lead after two innings.

Then, things got a little interesting.

Norton capitalized on four wild pitches and some sloppy defense to draw within three runs. A sluggish Colby team needed a wake-up call, and Eric Blanton was there to provide one.

Blanton's monster home run into the netting in left field sparked a three-run Colby fifth inning. They went on to score two more in the sixth to put a pesky Norton team away 11-3 and earn their four consecutive home sweep.

"We were pretty flat and then that happened," said Blanton, who finished 2-4 with two RBIs in game two. "It just kinda upped the tempo and got the game going. I knew right away it was gone."

For Blanton, who was hitting in the cleanup spot with Brent Arnerberger getting a blow, it was his second home run of the summer. Colby head coach Jeff Krzycki agreed Blanton's blast provided some much needed energy.

"It was kind of a lull through the game," said Krzycki. "It was really quiet. Nothing was happening. Eric's home run gave us a spark. Then we kind of erupted and came to life."

Norton did its part to get Colby going as well in the fifth. Starter Jordan Durham gave up just his second walk of the game to Chaz Winger, who stole second and later scored on Norton's ninth error of the game. Garret Rogers reached on the error and scored Colby's third run of the inning on two wild pitches and a passed ball.

A walk to Stephen Dinkel to lead off the sixth allowed Blanton to drive him in with a single. Three batters later Rogers ended the game with a shot into the rightcenter field gap.

"That probably took his (Durham's) momentum down a little bit," said Blanton of his homer.

Cade Carter pitched the final 2 1/3 innings of hitless relief, allowing just one unearned run with seven strikeouts to secure the victory for starter Preston Krzycki. Krzycki was brilliant for the first three innings until running into some control problems in the fourth. He walked one in the inning and threw three wild pitches, which led to Norton's first two runs.

"Even when we had a 5-0 lead, it felt like we were in total control, but then we ran into a problem with not throwing strikes and not making many catches," said Krzycki.

Krzycki boosted Colby's lead

back to 6-2 in the fourth after scoring on an error, but Norton clawed back to within three runs when Landon Hamel scored on a wild pitch from Carter.

Thanks in large part to Blanton, that was as much as Colby would have to sweat.

"I kind of went against my better judgment and shuffled the lineup a bit and put some guys in different positions," said Krzycki. "We wanted to give Chaz a little work behind the plate just in case something happens. When you do that, it throws off the rhythm of the team. It's also kind of nice to have to work a little bit and play a full game. It never hurts to have to work for something."

Colby finished with seven hits in the game. Carter was 2-3 with two stolen bases. Levi Schlick was 1-2 with two RBIs and hit his second home run of the night to the opposite field in the first inning that put Colby ahead 2-0.

"He's been in a little bit of a slump not making contact like he was earlier in the season," said Krzycki. "But I think he found it again tonight."

Krzycki was 1-2 with a double, and Jacob Huffles added an RBI groundout.

Game one provided little suspense as Colby used an eight-run second inning to jump out to an 11-0 lead. Colby scored its first three runs in the first inning on RBI singles by Cory Sager, Schlick and Stephen Dinkel.

Schlick and Sager added their second RBIs and Rogers got his first to make it 6-0. With the bases loaded, Krzycki provided the knockout blow with a three-run triple to the fence in right to boost the lead to 10-0. That would be all for Norton starter Garrett Tacha, who allowed 10 runs and 10 hits in 1 2/3 innings.

"The first game was just a matter of being patient," said Krzycki. "The kid didn't throw very hard so a lot of times we can be on our front foot and out of sink. We told them sit back, relax, pick your pitch and hit it hard. That's what they did."

Schlick, who finished 3-3 with three RBIs, added a solo home run to center in the third. Winger plated Colby's final run with an RBI single. Colby finished with 13 hits in just three innings. Sager, Carter and Krzycki each had two hits.

"We can be a very darn good hitting ballclub," said Krzycki. "At times, it just kinda looks like we're a machine out there. You saw that again the first game."

Rasmussen looked like a machine himself on the mound as he pumped in strikes at a dizzying rate. He had a season-high nine strikeouts and didn't allow a hit until Hamel led off the fourth with a single.

"He was just around the dish the whole night," said Krzycki. "When you're challenging hitters and keep them off guard, it makes for a good night. He was strong."

Colby (22-9) will look for their seventh and eighth wins in a row 5 p.m. Saturday when they travel to Goodland for a doubleheader. They host Dodge City 4 p.m. Sunday.

Game 1	1	2	3	4	R	H	E
Norton	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
Colby	3	8	2	x	13	13	0

WP: Brandon Rasmussen 4IP 0R 1H 9K 1BB
LP: Garrett Tacha 1 2/3 IP 10R 10H 3K
3B: Krzycki
HR: Schlick

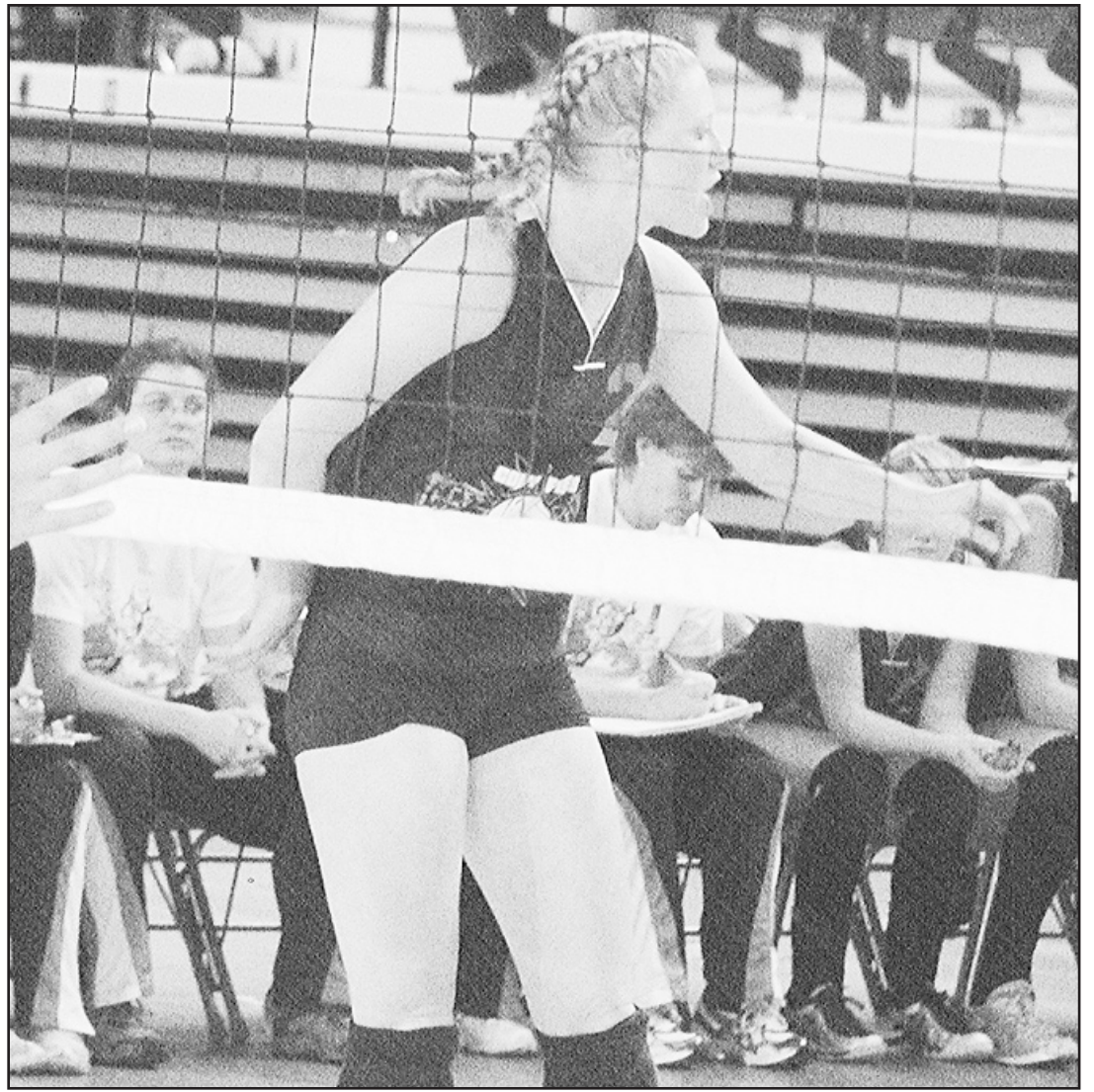
Carter 2-3 RBI SB, Sager 2-3 2RBI SB, Schlick 3-3 HR 3 RBI, Arnerberger 0-2, Dinkel 1-2 RBI SB, Rasmussen 1-2 walk, Huffles 0-3, Krzycki 2-2 3RBI triple SB, Rogers 1-2 RBI walk, Blanton walk, Winger 1-1 RBI

Game 2	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	H	E
Norton	0	0	0	2	1	0	3	2	9
Colby	2	3	0	1	3	2	11	7	3

WP: Preston Krzycki 3 2/3 IP 2R 2H 5K 3BB
LP: Jordan Durham 5 2/3 IP 11R 7H 7K 1BB
2B: Krzycki
HR: Schlick, Blanton

Carter 2-3 walk 2 SB, Sager 0-2, Schlick 1-2 HR 2RBI, Blanton 2-4 HR 2RBI SB, Winger 0-1 2 walks 2 SB, Rasmussen 0-3, Rogers 1-4 RBI, Krzycki 1-2 double walk, Huffles 0-2 RBI walk SB, Dinkel 0-1 walk SB, Arnerberger 0-2

Back to work



FILE PHOTO

Coming off their fourth consecutive trip to the state tournament, rising senior Jordan Krzycki and the rest of the Colby Lady Eagle volleyball team return to the court next week for their summer team camp. The Colby High School and middle school volleyball camps get underway Monday at the high school gymnasium. The middle school camp, open to girls entering seventh and eighth grade, runs from 8-10 a.m. Monday through Thursday. Girls entering grades 9-12 will be instructed from 10-noon Monday through Thursday. Camp instructors include Colby High head volleyball coach Lesley Wagoner and Colby Middle School head coach Shirley Arnerberger. Both camps are free and open to any girl who wants to play.

Colby High dance team earns several honors at Colorado camp

On June 26, eight of the 12 members of the Colby High School dance team traveled to the campus of the University of Colorado in Boulder for four days of intensive training at the National Dance Camp sponsored by NDA (National Dance Association).

The team won an excellent rating on their home routine they had been working during the summer. They also won several excellent ratings on dances learned at the camp.

Individual dancers won superior and excellent ratings on dances learned and performed as well. Tera Raymond came away with a Special Event award, which will enable her to perform at Disney

World.

The team earned the Spirit Stick each day at camp for their spirit and enthusiasm.

Marsha Wright, a parent of one of the dancers and a past high school dance coach, has been participating as acting coach for the summer and also went to camp with the team.

While at camp, she also received a top NDA award voted on by the other coaches.

This was an award recognizing her leadership in realizing team unity and learning are top aspects at camp. She also took NDA training in technical knowledge and hands-on application, which awarded her a Dance Director

Certification.

"Many new techniques and dances were learned while a strong bond was formed by the team," said Wright.

"The girls came back stronger dancers and more confident in their dancing abilities. Thank you to those who supported our money-making projects and helped the team to go to camp."

Next year's team members include senior Kaitlyn Albers; juniors Caitlin Wright, Keesa Wright and Tiffany Wilson; sophomores Raymond, Audra Fleming and Bailey Koerperich; and freshmen Christina Ostmeier, Katera Harter, Lacy O'Neal, Jennifer Schwanke and Kayla Skiles.

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