

Legion team ups winning streak to 10

By Joey Falkoff

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Four games in the span of 24 hours. No sweat.

It's going to take more than that to derail the red-hot Colby American Legion baseball team these days.

Coming off a sweep at Goodland Saturday, the Legion team won its ninth and 10th games in a row Sunday with a sweep of Dodge City 8-5 and 12-2 Sunday at the city fields. Colby improved its record to 26-9 and did so even without the best effort from their two aces.

"Levi (Schlick) and Stephen (Dinkel) were not really on top of their game," said Colby head coach Jeff Krzycki. "The sign of a good ballteam is when you can battle through that with two victories. This is a good stretch. We're playing some pretty good ball. Today wasn't perfect ball, but good enough to get the job done."

Schlick, who had not allowed more than two runs or four hits in his last five starts, was far from his usual dominant self in game one. He gave up only five hits in six innings, but four walks and four hit batsmen helped Dodge City cut an early 4-0 deficit to 4-3 in the fourth.

His pinpoint control wasn't there. Fortunately, his recent power surge provided two more jolts.

Schlick followed his solo home run in the third with a two-out, three-run blast in the fifth to expand Colby's lead to 7-3. His second home run of the day was also his fifth in the last five games.

"The kid has definitely come out of a slump he had early on," said Krzycki. "He's just seeing the ball, making good contact and getting his arms extended. He didn't have it on the mound today, but he definitely made up for it at the plate."

And in other ways too. After a two RBI single by Dodge's Taylor Doans in the fifth made it 7-5, the Rangers got their leadoff man on in the sixth and looked to have Schlick on the ropes.

But any momentum the Rangers had ceased when Schlick picked off Jordan Slaton at first. Dodge never got a runner to second base the rest of the way.

"It kinda sunk their ship because they were starting to put a little pressure on us," said Krzycki. "We were able to pop that balloon real fast. Nice move, good throws to get the pickoff. I think that changed the outcome of the game."

Brent Aramberger, who finished

4-4, added his second RBI in the sixth to give Garrett Rogers a little more wiggle room in the seventh. The young Rogers came on for Schlick, who was pulled after six because of a high pitch count, and didn't seem the least bit fazed by the moment.

Rogers walked Jon Mills with one out, but came right back with a strikeout of Luke Hampton and got Aaron Heiland to line out to end the game.

"Any time a young guy can come in and throw some smoke and throw strikes, he did an excellent job," said Krzycki. "I wasn't going to let Levi go that last inning. Garrett had good stuff and threw strikes. Strikes are the name of the game. That was a big pick-up for us right there."

Rogers' first save of the year allowed Schlick to pick up his sixth consecutive victory and took Colby's defense off the hook after committing an uncharacteristic four errors.

All five of Dodge City's runs were unearned. Corey Santana took the loss, allowing eight runs and 11 hits in six innings. Six of Colby's hits came courtesy of their 3-4 hitters, Schlick and Aramberger.

Brandon Rasmussen went 2-3 with a two RBI double in the first. Stephen Dinkel also had a double. Cory Sager and Garrett Rogers each had a hit. Dodge's only other RBI came courtesy of Slaton on a third inning single that made it 4-3.

It looked like it would be another struggle for Colby early on in game two as Dodge jumped out to a 2-0 first inning lead, but that's about where the fun ended for the Rangers.

Colby responded with four in the bottom of the first, added two in the second and put the game away with a six-run outburst in third. Colby was able to take advantage of a wild Slaton, who walked six and threw seven wild pitches.

Schlick and Sager scored on wild pitches in the first and Rasmussen and Chaz Winger followed with RBI singles to put Colby on top 4-2.

In the second, it was Dodge's defense that began to crumble. The first of three errors plated Cade Carter to make it 5-2. Sager, who reached on the error, scored for the second time on a wild pitch.

Colby batted around in the fourth with Winger, Carter, Sager and Schlick each providing RBI singles. Schlick scored on a wild pitch to give Colby a 10-run cushion and Dinkel finished the Rangers off in the fourth.

Colby had seven hits, which they made the most of with sev-



JOEY FALKOFF/Colby Free Press

Chaz Winger, bottom, slid into second under the tag of Dodge City shortstop Winston Hines during the second game of Colby's doubleheader sweep of Dodge 8-5 and 12-2 Sunday at the city fields.

en stolen bases including four by Sager.

"We hit the ball well and were very aggressive on the bases," said Krzycki. "Just a lot of hustle by the guys on the bases created a lot of action and a lot of runs for us."

Dinkel overcame four walks to pick up the win. He allowed no earned runs and just one hit in four innings with four strikeouts. Dodge scored their only two runs of the game on an error by Rogers.

But that was about all that went wrong for Colby in the second game. Since the calendar turned to July, not much has gone wrong for Colby period.

With only four games remaining before the Zone Tournament, Krzycki says his team is right where he thought they'd be.

"I had a guesstimation of being 26-9, 26-10 or 26-11 at zone," said Krzycki. "I kind of expected us to be at 26 wins, and we have a great chance here on Wednesday to go over that which would be awesome."

Packer fans show support for retired quarterback

(AP)- Brett Favre's fans came to his defense Sunday, rallying outside Lambeau Field to pressure the Green Bay Packers to reinstate him as the starting quarterback.

The crowd of more than 100 chanted "We want Brett," and carried signs reading, "Favre for President" or "Favre Forever." Many in the parking lot wore No. 4 jerseys, tossed footballs and grilled.

"We've always appreciated the passion of our fans," the Packers said in a statement. Team spokesman Jeff Blumb said there would be no other comment.

The rally in Green Bay, Wis., was the brainchild of brothers Adam and Erick Rolfson, who on Friday tried to think of a way to keep Favre in Green Bay. Another rally is planned for Monday night in suburban Milwaukee and every Sunday thereafter at Lambeau Field until Favre is back.

The brothers also are demanding an emergency meeting of stockholders "to help control the fate of our quarterback," Erick Rolfson said.

A message left for Favre's agent, James "Bus" Cook, wasn't immediately returned Sunday.

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