

# American Legion squad hammers Burlington

By Andy Heintz

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The Colby American Legion baseball team swept Burlington from Colorado in convincing fashion in a home doubleheader Sunday.

The team crushed Burlington 14-1 in the first game and hammered the visiting team 14-3 in the second. Senior Stephen Dinkel was the winning pitcher in the first game and junior Preston Krzycki picked up the win in game 2 at Young Memorial Field in the Colby Recreation Complex.

Dinkel got off to a rocky start in the first inning, failing to get out Burlington's first two batters. Burlington's third hitter slapped a single to right field to give his team a 1-0 lead. Dinkel settled down after that striking out the next three.

"At the beginning of the game, I felt like I wasn't in sync," said Dinkel. "but I felt more smooth near the end of the game."

Senior Cade Carter walked to start the bottom of the first for Colby. He would score later in the inning when Burlington's catcher fired the ball over the third baseman's head while Carter was attempting to steal. He got up and headed home to tie the game at 1.

Colby broke the game wide open in the bottom of the second. Rasmussen got the things going

by belting a line-drive triple over the head of Burlington's center fielder, who seemed to get a bad read on the ball. He scored on a wild pitch to give Colby a 2-1 lead. Later, Kevin Lang ripped a single down the third-base line, driving in two runs and increasing Colby's lead to 5-1. Senior Brent Aramberger smashed a three-run homer over the center-field fence to give Colby a 7-1 lead.

"Their pitcher got down in the hole a lot, so we knew he was going to have to throw strikes," said Aramberger.

Colby struck again in the top of the third. Senior Corey Sager hit a double to center, driving in Carter and extending the lead to 8-1. With Colby leading 10-1, senior Eric Blanton slapped a ground ball to Burlington's shortstop, who fired a throw that got by the first baseman, allowing two runs to score and making it 12-1. Later in the inning, Rasmussen hammered a double to center, driving in two more runs for Colby.

Dinkel worked a drama-free top of the fourth to give Colby a 14-1 win. The game ended in the top of the fourth because of the 10-run limit. If a team is leading by more than 10 runs after four innings and the other squad has already batted, the leading team is declared the winner.

Colby got off to a rough start in game two. Krzycki walked the

first batter and the second man hit a ground ball to third. Lang launched a throw over the head of Aramberger at first, allowing one run to score and giving Burlington an early 1-0 lead.

Senior Corey Sager got an infield hit early in the bottom of the first. Moments later, Burlington's pitcher attempted to throw out Sager at first, but the throw was off target and got by the first baseman, allowing Sager to make it to third. Soon after that, Burlington's catcher made an errant throw to third base in an attempt to pick off Sager, allowing him to run home to give Colby a 2-1 lead.

Colby had a breakout inning in the third. The team had already scored two runs before Krzycki drove in Sager with a sacrifice fly to extend the lead to 5-1. Moments later, Blanton was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded, allowing Lang to trot home from third and increasing the lead to 6-1. Colby piled on eight more runs, stretching their lead to 14-1. Burlington scored two in the top of the fourth to give Colby a 14-3 lead and ending the game because of the 10-run limit again.

With the wins, the team improved to 5-1. They will play in the Columbus (Neb.) tournament this weekend. Colby's first game will be against Columbus at 7:30 p.m. on Friday at the Columbus Legion Baseball Field in Pawnee



Colby High graduate Brent Aramberger got ready for the next play during the second game of the Colby American Legion's baseball team's doubleheader against Burlington, Colo., on Sunday afternoon.

## Colby High senior pitcher wins Player of the Year award

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The Colby High varsity baseball team's amazing 24-2 season, which culminated with a second-place finish in the Class 4A state tournament, has not gone unnoticed.

Since the Eagles' season ended, several players and Coach Kevin Cox have been recognized by the state's coaches for the roles they played in the team's success this year.

Senior Levi Schlick was named the Class 4A Player of the Year by the Kansas Association of Baseball coaches; he was one of four Eagles named to the 4A all-state team.

"He's just a tremendous athlete," said Cox. "Everything comes so naturally for him."

Cox was voted 4A Coach of the Year. Senior Cade Carter and Schlick were picked for the 4A all-state first team. Schlick was cited as both a pitcher and an outfielder, while Carter was the shortstop. Seniors Stephen Dinkel, as an outfielder, and Corey Sager,

as catcher, both made the second team.

Cox said the senior boys were the leaders of this year's team, especially Sager, who he said is competitive and intense.

Senior Eric Blanton, an outfielder, was the funny guy on the team, said Cox.

"He gets everyone loosened up," the coach said. "He's laid back and very funny."

Cox said this year's team really loved playing the game.

"They were a pretty tight-knit group," he said.

## Rockies pitcher helps team win fifth straight game over Cardinals

ST. LOUIS (AP) — After the first three hitters, Ubaldo Jimenez trailed by two runs. Things got a lot tougher for the St. Louis Cardinals after that.

Jimenez finished with eight innings of four-hit ball and the Colorado Rockies got unexpected offense from Paul Phillips, who drove in three runs in a 7-2 victory on Sunday.

"When you trail, your starting pitcher has to step up and subdue the opposition and give us a chance to get back in the game," manager Jim Tracy said. "Once he got the lead, you saw a face of a guy that said, 'That's it.'"

Phillips had a career-best four hits, including his first homer since 2006. Troy Tulowitzki, who missed four games with a bruised left hand, had two hits and an RBI.

The Rockies have scored 38 runs in their first four-game winning streak of the year and are 6-4 under Tracy after going 18-28 under Clint Hurdle. They've beaten the Cardinals five straight times, evening the all-time series at 73-73.

Albert Pujols had a rare two-run sacrifice fly in the first inning for

the Cardinals, who have totaled three runs and nine hits in the last two games. Joel Pineiro (5-6) allowed three runs and 10 hits, all singles, in five innings after skipping a start due to back spasms.

The Cardinals have lost seven of 10 and scored three or fewer runs in seven of those games.

"It's a tough time," manager Tony La Russa said. "Just don't throw your hands up, and whatever you do, don't get depressed. If you want to do anything, get upset because that's adrenaline."

Skip Schumaker singled and Colby Rasmus doubled to open the first for St. Louis. Both runners scored when left fielder Carlos Gonzalez banged into the wall in left-center after stretching to track down Pujols' drive. Gonzalez flipped the ball to center fielder Dexter Fowler but Rasmus scored easily from second.

Jimenez retired 17 in a row before the next hit, a two-out double by Rasmus in the sixth. Jimenez

had a season-high nine strikeouts and won for the first time in five starts.

Jimenez mixed his pitches better after the shaky first, frequently opening at-bats with his slider.

"He could have said 'I throw 99, I'm going to keep throwing the fastball,'" Phillips said. "But he didn't do that. We were able to make the adjustment we needed to make."

The 32-year-old Phillips is getting a chance as the backup catcher with Yorvit Torrealba on the restricted list after the kidnapping of his 11-year-old son and brother-in-law, and Chris Iannetta on the 15-day disabled list. He singled in his first three at-bats, including the go-ahead hit in the sixth for a 3-2 lead, and homered in a four-run eighth.

"Four hits is great, but if I can have my pitcher do what he needs do on a consistent basis, that's more gratifying," Phillips said.

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## Flea Market

TNT Auction, located at 200 North Franklin, Colby, Kansas, will host a 3 day flea market on June 19-21. Anyone wanting to rent a space needs to contact Tom Harrison at (785) 443-0136 or Bob Jones at (785) 460-0050. Rent prices will be \$15.00 per space inside and \$10.00 per space outside. Tables are \$5.00. Doors open at 9 a.m. and close at 4 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Sunday. Lunch will be served Friday and Saturday.

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