

Colby baseball team struggles at tourney

American Legion squad goes 0-4, losing three games by only one run

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So close, but yet so far. That covers the Colby American Legion baseball team's performance in the Columbus (Neb.) Invitational last weekend.

The team went 0-4 in the tournament. They lost three of the games by only one point.

Columbus (Neb.) slipped by Colby 6-5 on Friday. Senior Stephen Dinkel suffered the loss. He gave up six runs, four of them earned, in six innings and struck out eight.

Colby seemed to have the game in hand as the team took a 5-3 lead into the bottom of the seventh, but Columbus was able to tick off three runs and come away with the victory.

Junior Preston Krzycki and senior Corey Sager both had two hits in the game.

The team suffered another 6-5 loss to Hastings (Neb.) on Saturday afternoon in yet another nail-biter. Junior Brandon Rasmussen gave up three earned runs while striking out four in seven innings. He pitched five scoreless innings, but gave up three runs in both the third and fifth. Senior Cade Carter went two for four at the plate.

Colby scored four of its five runs in the third, but was held scoreless

in the final three innings.

Fremont (Neb.) whipped Colby in decisive fashion in the second game on Saturday, hammering the team 10-0 in a game that ended in the top of the fifth under the 10 run limit. Coach Jeff Krzycki said it was a frustrating game for his team, already unhappy after losing two close games.

"The kids weren't focused and didn't have any intensity," he said.

Senior Brent Arberger got the team's only hit. Junior Garrett Rogers gave up nine runs on nine hits in three innings, five earned.

"We made fundamental mistakes we don't usually make," said Krzycki.

Carter gave up one run after relieving Rogers in the bottom of the fourth.

Colby lost yet another close game on Sunday, falling to Norfolk (Neb.) 4-3 in extra innings. Colby jumped out to an early lead, picking up two runs in the top of the first. Norfolk scored a run in the bottom of the second to cut the lead to one. Colby managed to get a run in the fourth to regain a two-point advantage, but Norfolk battled back, tying the game at three after scoring a run each in the sixth and seventh.

Krzycki started the game at pitcher, giving up two runs in five and two-thirds innings before being

relieved by Carter.

Carter gave up two runs, one of them earned. He gave up his earned run in the bottom of the ninth, allowing Norfolk to pick up the victory, and giving him the loss. The winning run came when a Norfolk batter singled up the middle with the bases loaded.

Colby had runners in scoring position in the eighth and ninth, but was unable to get anyone across.

"We couldn't get a hit when we needed it," said assistant coach John Gatz.

Colby managed to out-hit its opponents 10-7 in the game. Carter, Dinkel and Rasmussen each had a hit in the game.

Gatz said the team was a little flat in the tournament and they had yet to hit their stride.

Krzycki said a shortage of pitchers really cost Colby because it forced their starting pitchers to pitch almost the whole game most of the time.

"Our pitchers were tired, and we had no one to bring in," he said.

Pitcher Kevin Lang had to miss the tournament to attend a wedding.

Colby's record now stands at 5-5. The team will play McCook (Neb.) in a doubleheader at 6 and 8 p.m. tonight at the Colby Recreation Complex.



Senior Stephen Dinkel fired a pitch to the plate during a game between the Colby American Legion team and the team from Burlington, Colo., at the Colby Recreation Complex. Dinkel and the rest of the team struggled last weekend, losing four games at the Columbus (Neb.) Invitational.

Royals shut out Diamondbacks 5-0

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Gil Meche wanted to finish what he started.

Meche pitched a four-hit shut-out and Mark Teahen had three hits and drove in a run as the Kansas City Royals beat the Arizona Diamondbacks 5-0 Tuesday.

After eight innings and 110

pitches, Royals manager Trey Hillman came over to Meche in the dugout and said, "nice job."

Meche, however, was not about to turn this game over to the bullpen, although Hillman had Joakim Soria and John Bale warming up.

"If I was really tired or if I felt my arm was getting heavy after

110, I would have taken myself out," Meche said. "It is my career, too. By going out there, I've got to make sure I'm good enough to throw. That's why I made the decision. I told him, 'Look I feel fine. Let me go out there and get it.' So he let me do it."

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