

Lady Eagles tennis team wins home meet



Colby High junior Katera Karter hustled to get to the ball during the Colby High tennis team's home meet on Tuesday.

The Colby High varsity tennis brought home another trophy on Tuesday placing first in their home meet at Fike Park and the courts on the Colby Community College campus on Tuesday. The Lady Eagles finished first out of eight teams.

Junior Caitlyn Wark continued her undefeated season by going 3-0 in No. 1 singles action. The No. 1 doubles team of senior Barbara Bickner and junior Kayla Hockersmith placed first with a 3-0 record.

Junior Lauren Shoaff placed second with a 2-1 record. Juniors Kimberly Gerstner and Megan Dougherty also finished second with a record of 2-1.

The junior varsity also competed in the meet. More descriptive details of the meet will be featured on the sports page later this week. The Lady Eagles placed first on Saturday, finishing first out of 11 teams at Garden City, with three of four entrees taking first in their competition.

Other schools at the meet included Great Bend, Meade, Dodge City, Pratt, Scott City, the Garden City varsity and junior varsity, Ulysses, Cimarron and Hays.

Wark easily defeated all her opponents, including Pratt (8-0), Scott City (8-1) and Liberal (8-2). Bickner and Hockersmith finished first with a 3-0 record. They blanked Cimarron (8-0), defeated Hays (8-4) and hammered Meade (8-3).

Shoaff placed first in No. 2 singles, going 3-0 on the day. She crushed Scott City (8-2), defeated Hays (8-4) and got by Dodge City in a tiebreaker (10-8).

Gerstner and Dougherty came in fourth. The duo crushed Scott City (8-1) and Ulysses (8-1), but lost to Dodge City (8-2) and Garden City (8-4).

The girls finished third out of eight teams in a meet at Russell last Thursday.

Hoisington took first; other teams at the meet included Russell, Larned, Osborne, Norton,

Victoria and Phillipsburg.

Wark finished first with a 3-0 record. She shut out Phillipsburg (8-0) and Osborne (8-0) and crushed Hoisington (8-3).

Bickner and Hockersmith also took first. The tandem hammered Hoisington (8-3) and clobbered Larned (8-1).

Shoaff lost twice to Hoisington (8-0, 8-6) but she defeated Norton (8-6). Gerstner and Dougherty lost to Norton (8-7), losing the tiebreaker 7-3. They lost their other match to Larned (8-4).

The girls were dominating a meet at Scott City last Monday before it got rained out.

Wark easily defeated her opponents from Garden City (6-0) and Scott City (6-1).

Bickner and Hockersmith beat Tribune (8-6).

Shoaff went 2-0 on the day with wins over Garden City (6-1) and Scott City (6-0). Gerstner and Dougherty and hammered both their opponents, beating Garden City (8-2) and Scott City (8-1).

Royals give up two late runs; Kansas City loses to Yankees

NEW YORK (AP) — The regular season has been such a rousing success for the Yankees that even fourth-string backups and little-known minor leaguers are getting in on the fun.

That's just fine with A.J. Burnett, who has plenty of whipped cream for all of them.

Burnett pitched well in an encouraging playoff tuneup and New York rallied for two runs in the ninth inning Tuesday night, beating the Kansas City Royals 4-3 for its seventh straight victory.

Seldom-used Juan Miranda got the game-winning hit off ex-Yankee Kyle Farnsworth (1-5), an infield single that caromed off the reliever's leg and into foul territory between home plate and first base.

Miranda raised his arms in jubilation as he crossed the bag and the AL East champions rushed out of the dugout to celebrate as if they'd just won a playoff series.

The custom all season, Burnett pasted Miranda in the face with a whipped cream pie during his television interview on the field.

Nine players have game-ending hits for the Yankees this year, including two rookies who spent most of the season in the minors: Miranda and Francisco Cervelli.

"There are two guys left on the list," Burnett said, thinking of Mark Teixeira and Derek Jeter. "Tex and Jeet."

Following its big league-best 15th walk-off win, New York (102-56) is 46 games above .500 for the first time since finishing 114-48 in 1998. With a 57-23 record at home, the Yankees said they matched the record for most victories at a ballpark in its first season — Boston went 57-20 at Fenway Park in 1912, according to research by the Elias Sports Bureau.

New York's 50th comeback victory, also tops in the majors, cost

Anthony Lerew his first major league win. Called up from Double-A last week, Lerew quietly a Yankees lineup filled mostly with regulars. He yielded only solo homers to Teixeira and Nick Swisher in six-plus innings.

"He deserved a lot better. He was outstanding. He maintained his composure really well," Royals manager Trey Hillman said.

Looking for his 100th career win, Burnett allowed two runs — one earned — and three hits in 6 1-3 innings. He struck out eight and walked three.

He was originally scheduled to pitch Monday but his turn was pushed back a day so he could be with his father, who had triple bypass surgery.

Burnett is slated to start the regular-season finale Sunday at Tampa Bay, following CC Sabathia on Friday and Andy Pettitte on Saturday.

That would put Burnett in line

Pinch hitter's two-run homer gives Rockies extra inning win

DENVER (AP) — The only bigger surprise than the man whose homer sent the game into extra innings was the man whose homer ended it.

Pinch-hitter Chris Iannetta hit a two-run shot off David Weathers in the 11th inning to give the Colorado Rockies a 7-5 victory over Milwaukee on Tuesday night. The Brewers had tied it on Jason Kendall's three-run shot in the ninth.

The Rockies widened their NL wild-card lead to three games over Atlanta with five games remaining, and their unlikely hero on this night was the backup catcher who lost his starting job last month when Yorvit Torrealba got into a groove at the plate.

"It's tough because you want to play," Iannetta said. "Torry's been playing incredibly well and it's what needed to happen. I've been struggling for most of the year. He's come up big the last month and won some games for us ... so I understand it completely.

"But it doesn't change your desire to want to play and want to contribute. That's what I've said this whole time: I just want to be able to contribute — and it was great to do so."

His teammates were just as thrilled.

"It's good to see I-Man hit that home run right there," Todd Helton said. "Every time he goes up to the plate, you pull for him. He's such a good guy and he works really hard and it's a season-changer right there for him."

And maybe for the Rockies, who are on the cusp of clinching

a playoff berth. Iannetta, who homered off Weathers in Cincinnati earlier this season, sent a 3-2 fastball into the Rockies' bullpen in right-center for his 16th homer and first career game-ending drive.

One pitch before, Iannetta nearly went around for strike three but first base umpire Derryl Cousins ruled he held up.

"That's irrelevant," Weathers said when asked for his take. "You've got to go out there, make pitches, get people out and do your job. Tonight, I didn't make the pitch I needed to to get out of it and I paid the price. I was trying to throw a fastball away, it came back over and he hammered it."

The crowd of 39,087, pretty big for a Tuesday night in downtown Denver, let loose a loud cheer when the Braves' 5-4 loss to the Marlins was announced on the scoreboard in the middle of the sixth.

And there was a collective groan when Kendall, who also had a run-scoring groundout, hit a drive off closer Huston Street with one out in the ninth to tie it at 5.

Kendall has just one other homer in 433 at-bats this season.

"There's probably two people in the league that a home run never enters your mind — (David) Eckstein and Kendall," Street said. "And Kendall might actually be No. 1. He's my former teammate, he's a friend of mine, someone I have a tremendous amount of respect for in the game, but definitely not as a power hitter."

Street said he just left a pitch

out over the plate.

"He spun a slider," Kendall said. "I was just trying to hit a liner up the middle. I don't hit home runs, he spun one and I got the good part of the bat on it. He just left it up."

Matt Belisle (3-1) picked up the win with a perfect 11th. Weathers (4-6) walked Brad Hawpe and got pinch-hitter Jason Giambi to pop out before Iannetta connected.

Jason Marquis gave up two earned runs and six hits in six innings, and was in line for his career-high 16th win before Street absorbed his second blown save of the season.

Despite failing for the fourth time to get his 16th win, Marquis said he felt as if he found his release point and answered questions about his worthiness for a postseason rotation spot.

Milwaukee left-hander Chris Narveson baffled all of the Rockies except Helton, who hit a run-scoring single in the first inning and chased him with an RBI double in the sixth that tied it at 2.

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