



Lady Trojans softball player Casey Dirks made contact with the ball during the second half of a doubleheader against Barton County Community College Wednesday at Carl Adams Field. Colby won its first game 2-1 and its second 1-0.

ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Heartland team finishes second in tournament

The Heartland Christian School boys basketball team made history this weekend when the school put on the Kansas Christian Athletic Association statewide tournament for the first time.

The Crusaders took second in the tournament, the highest placing in the basketball program's six-year history.

After winning an 82-79 overtime thriller against Syracuse on Thursday in the Crusaders gymnasium, Heartland beat Ark City Christian Academy 67-56 in the semifinals on Friday in the Community Building.

Coach Randy Regier said he thought it was the best ball his team has played all season.

"We played excellent defense," he said.

The Crusaders lost to Chanute Christian Academy 51-43 in the championship. The coach said his team only scored two points in the second quarter and fell behind by 20 in the third. Heartland applied a full-court press defense in the fourth and brought the game within seven points. The Crusaders were unable complete the comeback, however, and Chanute picked up the victory.

Regier said he was proud of his team in spite of the loss.

"They never gave up and they never stopped fighting," he said.

The coach said he thought his team could have won. If they had a deeper roster, he said, they could have pressed Chanute longer and not had to worry about fatigue. Heartland only had six players.

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Lady Trojans win at home

The Colby College Lady Trojans bounced back to sweep Barton County Community College in a doubleheader in the team's home opener at Carl Adams Field on Wednesday.

The women won the first half of the doubleheader 2-1. Freshman Courtney Blosski gave up seven hits and one run, while striking out two in six and two-third innings, for the win. Freshman Holly Denny got a save.

Sophomore Peggy Nichols went 2 for 3 at the plate. Colby scored its first run in the bottom of the third and the second, to take the win, in the bottom of the seventh.

Denny pitched a shutout and the Lady Trojans prevailed 1-0 in game two. She struck out 11 batters, including the last two in the top of the seventh. She gave up just three hits. Sophomore Logan Wark went 2 for 3. Colby scored its run in the bottom of the second.

Coach Ryan Sturdy said Denny is continuing to develop an off-speed pitch that will help her become a better overall pitcher.

Colby split two games at Lamar Community College from Colorado on Tuesday, 8-5 and 15-3.

The Lady Trojans lost their first three games at Western Texas Community College this weekend, but managed to win the last match.

The Lady Trojans hammered the Lady Westerners from Snyder 12-1 in the final contest. Denny got the win, striking out three while giving up only three hits and allowing one earned run in four innings.

Denny helped her own cause by hitting two doubles. Freshman Chelsey Kinnett went 2 for 4 and drove in three runs. Freshman Kaitlyn Wright went 2 for 3 and sophomore Ashley Primm and

freshman Casey Dirks both were 2 for 4.

"We finally put everything together for the final game of the series and came away with a win," said Sturdy.

The Lady Trojans went up 5-0 in the top of the first and extended the lead to 12-0 in the top of the second. Western Texas got its first and only run in the bottom of the first.

Colby fell to Western Texas 8-0 on Sunday. Blosski gave up 10 hits and eight runs, three of them earned, while striking out three in four innings. She took the loss.

The Lady Westerners scored eight in the first two innings and neither team scored for the rest of the game. Sophomore Kali Brester and Dirks both went 1 for 2.

Colby fell to Western Texas 9-6 in its second game Saturday. Sophomore Jamie Main gave up five hits and nine runs, four of them earned, while striking out six in the losing effort.

Nichols went 2 for 3 with two

runs batted in. Dirks went 2 for 4 with a double. Primm went 2 for 4 with one run batted in.

Western Texas scored five runs in the bottom of the first, but Colby came back with five in the top of the fifth to tie the game. The Lady Westerners outscored the Lady Trojans 4-1 in the next two innings. Neither team scored in the seventh, and Western Texas won 9-6.

Colby fell to Western Texas 7-2 in game one on Saturday. Denny gave up nine hits and seven runs in six innings, taking the loss. Only three of the runs were earned.

The Lady Westerners scored two runs each in the bottom of the first and third. Western Texas tacked on three more runs in the sixth to take a 7-0 lead. The Lady Trojans picked up two runs in the seventh. Blosski had the team's only hit.

"You could tell we were not able to get outside to practice the week before," said Sturdy. "Our defense wasn't as sharp as it was against Otero Junior College (from La

Junta, Colo.) the week before.

"We struggled at times at the plate, but for the most part we put the ball in play and forced them to make plays."

The coach said his team's failure to make the average play on defense hurt them.

"You can't make mistakes against a good team," he said. "They were able to take advantage of our mistakes in three of the four games. In our second game Saturday, we outthit them 11 to five, but a few key mistakes cost us the win."

Colby will play in a tournament at Cloud County Community College in Concordia on Saturday and Sunday.

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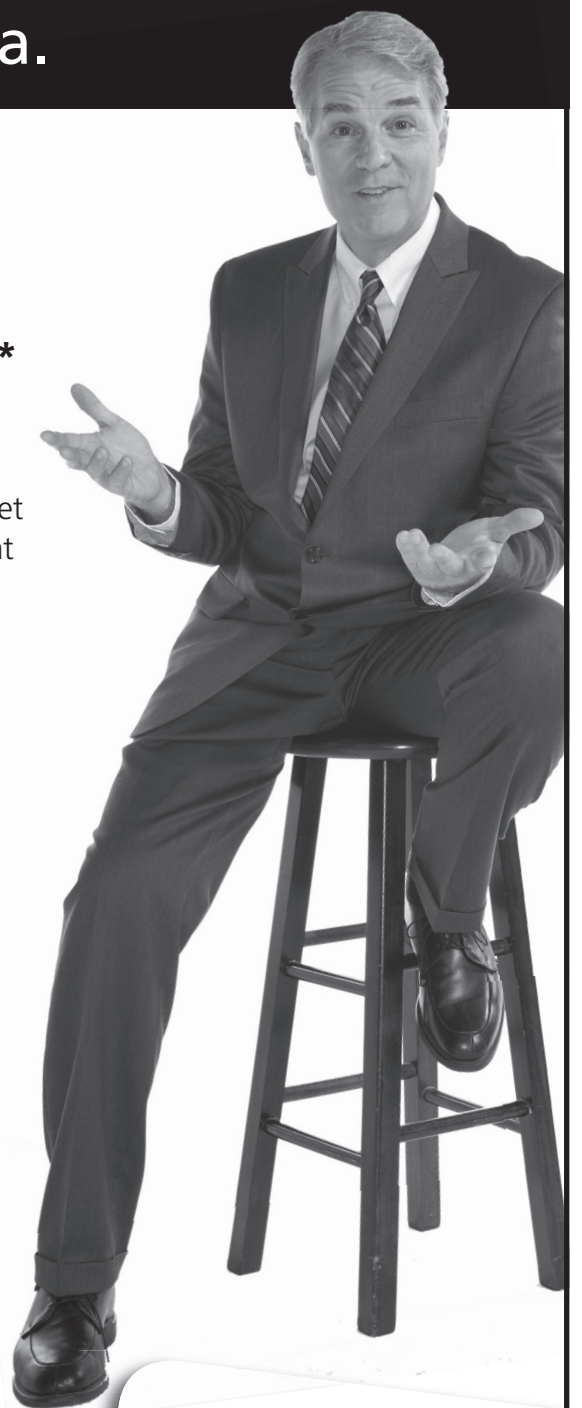
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