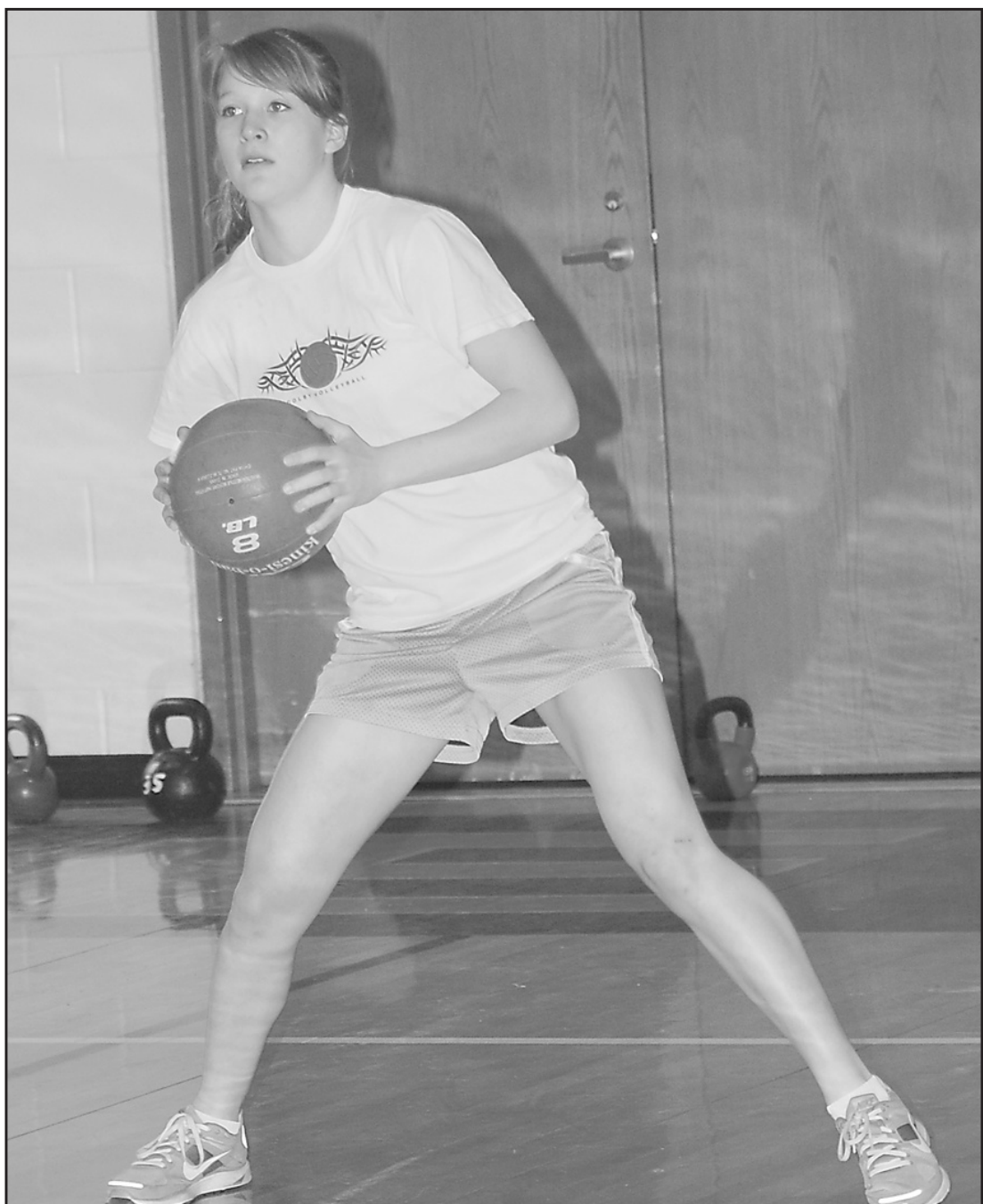


Working on the basics



Colby High sophomore Emilea Finley did lateral lunges with a medicine ball at the Eagles track and field practice Wednesday afternoon in the high school gym.

Trojans lose close ones to Butler on Tuesday

The Trojans' baseball team lost two nailbiters to Butler County Community College on Tuesday at the baseball diamond.

Butler beat Colby 6-4 in game one and the Grizzlies from El Dorado slipped by the Trojans 15-13 in the second game.

Freshman Marshall Dean gave up six runs on nine hits, while striking out four in a losing effort in the first game. Only three of the runs were earned. Sophomore Keith Carey walked two and struck out one in a little over an inning of action. Sophomore Griffin Campbell also saw action on the mound.

Freshman Nathan Wilson went two for three at the plate and sophomores Jon Cotter and Boston Langley both went two for four.

Langley scored on a single to left field by sophomore Cotter to give Colby a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning. A sacrifice ground ball by freshman Matt Balogh allowed freshman Matt Edwards to score, extending the Trojans' lead to 2-0 in the bottom of the second.

The Grizzlies' Sheldon Howell doubled to right field, scoring Brennan Murphy to cut Colby's lead to 2-1 in the top of the third.

But the Trojans answered back in the bottom half of the third. Freshman Robert Glover singled to right field driving in two runs and giving Colby a 4-1 lead.

The Grizzlies went on a five-run rally in the top of the fifth. Butler scored its first two runs on an error by sophomore shortstop Aritz Garcia. Then the Grizzlies' JC Oshoa hit a three-run blast that gave Butler a 6-4 lead. The Grizzlies' pitchers held the Trojans scoreless for the next three innings and Butler picked up a 6-4 win.

Butler also got the better of Colby in game two, beating the Trojans 15-13 in an offensively-charged game.

The Grizzlies scored two runs in the top of the first. Garcia drove in Balogh with a double to right field, cutting Butler's lead to 2-1 in the bottom of the first. A sacrifice ground ball to the shortstop by sophomore Brendan Miller allowed Garcia to score from third, tying the game at two. Later in the inning Balogh singled to centerfield allowing Langley to score and giving the Trojans a 3-2 lead.

But Butler recaptured a 4-3 lead by scoring two runs in the top of the second. But Colby picked up a

run of its own in the bottom of the second. Later on in the bottom of the fourth, Cotter hammered a three-run homer, giving the Trojans a 7-4 lead.

Glover tripled in the bottom of the fifth. He later scored on a sacrifice fly to left field by sophomore Mark Clausen increasing the Trojans' lead to 8-4. But Butler came storming back in the top of the sixth.

The Grizzlies' Bret Lentz homered early in the inning, cutting Colby's lead to 8-5. Butler's next run came off an error by Garcia at shortstop, bringing the Grizzlies within two. A double by Josh Dotson of Butler allowed Murphy to score, making the score 8-7. The Grizzlies scored two more runs in the inning and led 9-8.

Langley dropped a long fly ball to right field, allowing Butler to score a run and take a 10-8 lead in the top of the eighth. The Grizzlies picked up another run before sophomore Keith Carey was replaced by freshman Griffin Campbell with two outs. He managed to get the last out of the inning.

The Grizzlies scored four more runs in top of the ninth, extending their lead to 15-9. Colby was not ready to surrender the game, however.

Cotter slammed a double to the right field fence early in the bottom of the ninth inning. Garcia got an infield hit off a high chopper to the left side of the infield. A sacrifice fly ball to center field by sophomore Brendan Miller allowed Cotter to score from third, cutting the Grizzlies' lead to 15-9. Later in the inning, Glover ripped a double, allowing Garcia to score from third, bringing Colby within five. Then sophomore Mark Clausen bashed a three-run homer, cutting the Grizzlies' lead to 15-13. The Trojans were unable to get any more runs and Butler escaped with a 15-13 victory.

Coach Ryan Carter said he didn't think his team played as well as they could have.

"We booted two double plays and we didn't throw a lot of quality strikes," he said.

The coach said Butler was able to capitalize on the Trojans' mistakes, but Colby was unable to capitalize on the Grizzlies' mistakes.

With the losses, Colby dropped to 11-11 overall and 5-4 in the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference Western Division.

They play Barton Community College this weekend in two doubleheaders starting at 1 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday at the baseball diamond.

College softball team leads western division

The Lady Trojans' softball team sits atop the Community College Conference Kansas Jayhawk Western Division with a 4-0 league record and an 11-7 record overall.

On Wednesday, Colby got two wins in a doubleheader at Garden City. The Lady Trojans picked up a 3-0 win in game one and they slipped by the Lady Broncbusters 2-1 in the second game.

"I was very pleased with the way we played," said coach Ryan Sturdy. "Our defense and pitching led the way for us today. Garden City is a very good team and these were huge wins for us in conference."

Sophomore Holly Denny gave up no runs in seven innings, while striking out an impressive 12 batters in game one. Colby scored all three of their runs in the top of the sixth.

Freshman Casey Dirks went one of three with two runs batted in. Denny and sophomore Ashley Primm both went one for two. Colby was outthit seven to five in the game.

Primm's line-drive double down the left-field line with the bases loaded in top of the sixth in-

ning was enough to get the Lady Trojans the victory. Her hit - with two outs in the inning - allowed two runs to score, giving Colby a 2-1 lead.

"We've proved to ourselves we can win close ones," said Sturdy.

Sophomore Jaime Main turned in a solid performance at pitcher, allowing one run on six hits in seven innings. The Lady Broncbusters scored their only run in the bottom of the third.

The Lady Trojans were outthit 6-4 in the game; but once again managed to pull off a victory.

"We ended up stringing our hits together," said the coach. "From the plate we found a way to get a key hits to score runs."

Although Sturdy was happy his team picked up the victories, he said his team knows they have to improve their hitting.

Sturdy stressed how happy he was with his pitchers' performances.

"I can't say enough about our pitchers," the coach said. "They kept Garden City off-balance. They are averaging about six to seven runs a game."

The Lady Trojans play a conference game against No. 16 ranked Seward County Community College at 3 p.m. Saturday at Carl Adams Softball Field. The Lady Saints from Liberal are also ranked No. 2 in the Jayhawk Western Division.

Kansas State takes on Xavier

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Time is supposed to ease the pain of past embarrassments.

The way Kansas State guard Jacob Pullen sees it, though, there are some things you simply can't forget.

Locked in Pullen's memory is the way he felt on New Year's Eve 2007 — the night his team got blown out by Xavier, the same team the second-seeded Wildcats face Thursday night in the West Regional semifinals.

"They laughed on the court, played around," Pullen said. "You

don't forget things like that. So when you get the opportunity to play against a team like that, you always remember that, no matter if it's one person from that team or 10 people from that same team."

K-State got payback for the 26-point loss with a 15-point win this season in Manhattan.

Now, one of America's hidden little rivalries resumes, this time with the stakes ratcheted up a

few notches. Kansas State is two wins from its first Final Four since 1964. Xavier has never been.

"It rings a bell because they're Xavier," Martin said. "I know their program, firsthand. I understand the winning culture they have, the expectations they have. Then, we've played them. We got absolutely annihilated by them on national TV on Dec. 31."

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