

Trojans' squad battles to a draw with Dodge City

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The Colby Community College Trojans baseball team split a doubleheader with Dodge City on Saturday at the college diamond, coming from behind to win 9-6 in the first game, but falling to the Conquistadors 10-5 in the second.

Sophomore Terry Steiner got the win in game one. He gave up six runs on 10 hits, while striking out two in four and 1/3 innings.

Dodge City jumped out to a 4-0 lead in the top of the first inning. The Conquistadors' Mike Schnedar hit a sacrifice fly to left field, scoring Zach Adanoicz from third. Then Rudy Krist hit a ground-ball single between first and second, stretching the Conquistadors' lead to 2-0. Dodge City scored two more runs on consecutive singles to make it 4-0.

The Trojans battled back in the bottom of the inning, narrowing the gap to 4-3. Freshman Jon Cotter singled to right, scoring sophomore Ariz Garcia to from second. Later in the inning, sophomore Boston Langley hit a long drive over the head of Dodge City's left fielder, who had misjudged the ball, scoring Cotter to make it 4-2. Sophomore Jess Cooper scored on a sacrifice grounder by freshman Robert Glover, narrowing the gap to 4-3.

The Conquistadors scored a run in the top of the second, extending their lead to 5-3. Colby cut that back to one in the bottom of the

third when Cooper drove in Cotter with a single up the middle. Glover doubled down the right field line, scoring Cooper to tie the game at 5. Sophomore Ryan Beecroft hammered a line-drive single to centerfield, scoring Glover and giving Colby a 6-5 lead.

In the top of the third, the Conquistadors' Mitchell Corwin hit the ball into the left-center gap, scoring Cole Skriver and tying the game at 6.

Garcia smacked a double into the same gap early in the bottom of the fourth. Cotter and Garcia scored off an error by Dodge City's Mike Schnedar on a hit by Langley, putting Colby out in front 7-6.

Sophomore Griffin Campbell relieved Steiner at in the top of the fifth with one out and a runner on first. With two out, Garcia made a great play on a high chopper up the middle, fielding the ball perfectly and throwing out the batter before he reached first to end the inning.

Colby was unable to score in the bottom the of fifth. Campbell fielded a grounder near the mound with one out and a runner on first and threw it to Garcia at second, who whipped it to freshman Matt Edwards at first for a 1-6-3 double play. Edwards made a nice over-the-shoulder catch in foul territory to end the inning.

Cotter slammed a double over the centerfielder's head in the top of the sixth, but Edwards was tagged out trying to score. Cotter eventually scored on a sacrifice grounder to short by Langley, giv-



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby Community College first baseman Matt Edwards prepared for the next pitch as Dodge City's Seth Means took a lead during the front half of a doubleheader between the Trojans and the Conquistadors on Saturday at the college diamond.

ing the Trojans a 9-6 lead.

Sophomore Keith Carey relieved Campbell in the top of the seventh. He threw a scoreless inning to nail down the victory.

Cotter went four for four and Cooper went two for three in the game.

Sophomore Steff deDroog took the loss in the Trojans 10-6 loss in game two. He allowed four runs on five hits in three in and 1/3 innings.

DeDroog started the game strong, throwing three scoreless innings before giving up five runs in the fourth. Colby scored the first run of the game in the bottom of the second when Glover scored

off a single by freshman Nathan Wilson. DeDroog allowed no runs in the top of the third, but he ran into trouble in the fourth.

The Conquistadors' Mike Schnedar drove in two runs with a double in the top of the fourth, putting Dodge City out in front 2-1. Miguel Ortega of Dodge City followed with a two-run homer, extending the lead to 4-1. Campbell relieved deDroog, but Dodge City picked up another run before he got out of the inning.

Wilson drove in Glover with a sacrifice grounder to short, cutting Dodge City's lead to 5-2 in the bottom of the fourth, but the Conquistadors scored two more

in the top of the fifth, stretching their lead to 7-2. Freshman Cory Ridenour replaced Campbell on the mound and got the Trojans out of the inning without giving up a run.

The Conquistadors' Mitchell Corwin blasted a two-run homer in the top of the sixth to make it 9-2. Dodge City scored another run in the top of the seventh, stretching the lead to 10-2.

Garcia spanked a double past third in the bottom of the seventh. Colby picked up a run when Schnedar of Dodge City fumbled a grounder by Langley, cutting the lead to 10-3.

Garcia was hit by a pitch with

the bases loaded in the bottom of the eighth, scoring sophomore Ryan Beecroft to make it 10-4. Then a sacrifice fly by Cotter allowed Wilson to score from third, cutting Dodge City's lead to 10-5. Colby scored another run in the bottom of the ninth, but the Conquistadors won 10-6.

Freshman Kurtis Baker went two for four at the plate.

The Trojans' record is now 16-13 overall and 9-5 in the Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference West Division. They were to play another doubleheader today against Dodge City, and will play a doubleheader starting at 1 p.m. Saturday in Garden City.

Championship teams have plenty in common as finalé nears

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Duke is going for its fourth national title. Butler has never been here before.

Duke could field an entire NBA team with its lottery picks. Butler is still waiting for its first.

Duke's Mike Krzyzewski writes books about coaching. Butler's Brad Stevens reads them.

Yes, the teams playing for the national title tonight would seem to be polar opposites.

Dig a little deeper, though, and basketball fans might see two programs that come from almost the same place. Though one hails from Tobacco Road and the other from the Hoosier heartland, hoops is their common language.

Academics, too. Both are private colleges that don't let just anyone in the door.

As is the case at Duke, Butler graduates about 90 percent of its players. As is the case at Duke, there's more than mere lip service paid to the classroom at Butler — no need to roll your eyes when the over-

used term "student-athlete" gets busted out this time of year by the NCAA.

"If they're a student that wants to compete in the classroom, that's a critical, critical component of our recruiting," Stevens said. "Then there's a minimum level of athletic ability and basketball ability that you have to have to be considered for a scholarship at this level."

Sound familiar? Stevens is 33 — the same age as Krzyzewski when he took over at Duke 30 years ago, back when both he and his school were something less than what they've become.

"I thought at the time Duke was one of the respected schools in the South," Krzyzewski said. "Over the last three decades, we've become one of the most respected schools in the world."

Coach K credits at least some of that to the exposure the basketball program has brought to the campus in Durham, N.C., over the years. It's not impossible to think that might happen to Butler if the team stays on the course it's on.

Stevens followed a formula set up by his predecessors, Thad Matta and Todd Lickliter: Recruit team-oriented players with a sense of tradition who, maybe most importantly, want to get a degree.

"We always say that whatever happens on the basketball court, we don't want it to be the highlight of your life," the coach said.

Sounds good, but let's get real.

Win or lose Monday, Butler has made itself the center of a once-in-a-generation sports story, where the overlooked team keeps knocking off giants — Syracuse, Kansas State, Michigan State — and now finds itself on the verge of capping off a "Hoosiers" rewrite.

The Bulldogs' home, Hinkle Fieldhouse, a mere 5.6 miles away from Lucas Oil Stadium in Indy, has long been as much a tourist attraction to the hoops blue blood as Duke's Cameron Indoor Stadium is on Tobacco Road.

The rafters at Cameron, however, are covered with names such as Battier, Hill and Laettner, while the ceilings at Hinkle

are layered with a thin coat of dust, along with the memories of tiny Milan High School, the 1954 state high school champions featuring Bobby Plump, whose character became Jimmy Chitwood in the movie.

"I think we embrace it," Butler forward Gordon Hayward said. "If that's what the story is going to be, we'll accept that. We're up for the challenge.... Once the ball goes up in the air, all that's going to disappear, and it's just 5-on-5. We view them as another opponent, someone we're going to play and try to beat."

In a sign of how far Butler has come, the Bulldogs (33-4) might have the best NBA prospect on the floor Monday night in Hayward, a 6-foot-9 forward who can shoot the 3, guard on the perimeter and play in the middle if he has to.

Giving him a run for his money is Duke's Kyle Singler, who along with Jon Scheyer and Nolan Smith, make up the "Big Three" for the Blue Devils (34-5) — three players who will play at the next level, but not before sticking around col-

lege for a while.

Though Duke has produced many before, there are no lottery picks, no "one-and-dones," on either of these squads, both of whom emphasize "team" over the individual.

"I think the bottom line is, with 'The Butler Way,' it's more a concept of how to act, how to be a great teammate," Stevens said.

For whatever it's worth, no team playing Butler under these circumstances would be able to shake the label of being the bad guy.

As it so happens, Duke already has a pretty good head start there.

Back in 1990 and 1991, when the Blue Devil dynasty was still taking shape, Coach K faced Jerry Tarkanian and UNLV twice in the Final Four. That was when the Rebels really were Rebels and Duke came off as the good guy.

Led by Larry Johnson and Stacey Augmon, UNLV ran Duke out of the arena, 103-73, in the 1990 final. But the next year, behind Christian Laettner and Grant

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