

College goes 1-3 at home

Women struggle on offense

By Andy Heintz
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The Lady Trojans' softball team split a competitive doubleheader against Otero Junior College on Saturday at Carl Adams Field, but lack of offense led to them being swept by Butler County Community College on Sunday.

The Colby College team beat Otero 2-1 in the bottom of the 10th in game one Saturday, but the Lady Rattlers from La Junta, Colo., got the better of the Lady Trojans in game two, defeating them 4-3.

Colby and Otero were tied at 1 going into the fifth inning. Sophomore catcher Ashley Primm threw out a Lady Rattlers' runner trying to steal second to end the top of the fifth.

The Lady Trojans threatened to score in the bottom of the sixth. Sophomore center fielder Peggie Nichols ripped a double to the left-field fence with two out. Sophomore shortstop Kali Brester followed her with an infield hit that advanced Nichols to third. But freshman infielder Courtney Bloski grounded out to first to end the inning.

Freshman starting pitcher Holly Denny continued to look sharp, defanging the Lady Rattlers' offense. Primm hit a scorching ground ball that ate up Otero's third baseman for a single in the top of the seventh. Once again, the Lady Trojans were unable to get her around the bases and the game went into extra innings.

In overtime, the offensive team starts an inning with a runner on second. Neither team was able to score until Colby picked up a run in the bottom of the 10th.

Nichols started the inning at second. Brester hit a dribbler that rolled a few inches from the plate, but she used her speed to make it to first and Nichols advanced to third. Bloski hit a ground ball to second, but the second baseman threw home to prevent Nichols from scoring, leaving the bases loaded with no outs. Then Denny slapped a single past second, scoring Nichols and giving Colby a



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
Colby College sophomore Kali Brester slammed the ball during the Lady Trojans' doubleheader against Butler County Community College on Sunday at Carl Adams Field.

2-1 victory.

Sophomore Jamie Main started the second game for Colby, giving up three runs to the Lady Rattlers in the top of the first.

Brester showed off her defensive skills in the top of the second, fielding a ball deep in the hole and throwing out Otero's batter. The Lady Rattlers' Marilyn Montoya hit a line-drive double to left during the inning, but was unable to get her around the bases.

Freshman Casey Dirks belted a single into left field in the bottom of the second. Later in the inning, Bloski singled between shortstop and third, loading the bases with one out. But the Lady Rattlers' pitcher got two ground outs, escaping from the inning with her shutout intact.

Otero picked up another run in the top of the third to go up 4-0. The Lady Trojans continued to struggle on offense, although their defensive play remained solid. Nichols made a nice over-the-head catch near the center-field fence in the top of the fourth.

Colby finally got on the scoreboard in the bottom of the fourth when Kinnett drove Primm in with a single up the middle, cutting Otero's lead to 4-1. The score remained 4-1 until the bottom of the seventh.

Nichols started the inning with an infield hit. Brester followed with an infield hit of her own. Later, Denny drove Nichols home with a single to right center, narrowing the gap to 4-2. Primm hit a hard grounder that the Lady Rattlers shortstop couldn't handle, allowing Brester to score and cutting Otero's lead to 4-3. But Colby couldn't score another run and the Lady Rattlers prevailed 4-3.

The Lady Trojans' offense struggled on Sunday, suffering two shutout losses to Butler. The Lady Grizzlies won the games 8-0 and 3-0.

Main pitched the first game for the Colby, and Denny started the second.

Butler got two runners on base in the top of the first in game 2, but they were unable to score. The

Lady Grizzlies' starting pitcher, Courtney Kasson, and Denny both looked strong. Neither team was able to score until the sixth, when the Lady Grizzlies got three runs.

Butler got runners on first and second with two outs. Otero's Morgan Herrig hit a grounder that Brester fielded at short, but she overthrew Kinnett at third, allowing one run to score. Then Magellan De La Torre smacked a double down the left-field line, driving in two runs to make it 3-0.

Colby didn't score for the rest of the game, and Butler picked up a 3-0 win.

Coach Ryan Sturdy said his team needed to be more productive at the plate.

"We've got to do a better job of scoring when we have runners in scoring position," the coach said. "It doesn't matter if you have Jennie Finch on the mound, if you don't score runs, your not going to win the game."

Colby's record now stands at 21-15 and 6-6 in the Kansas Jayhawk Conference West Division.

Lady Eagles hammer rivals

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Two incredible pitching performances by junior Skylar Mengel and freshman Kenzie Curry helped the Lady Eagles' softball team sweep rival Goodland on Thursday at the Colby Recreation Fields.

Mengel's three hitter in game one propelled the Colby High softball team to a 7-3 win and Currie's one hitter led to a 10-0 victory in game two. Curry threw 11 strikeouts in the second game.

Both pitchers got solid run support, although they didn't need it. The Lady Eagles had seven hits in game one and nine in game two. Junior Bailey Koperperich went a combined four for seven with two runs batted in for the two games. Senior Keesa Wright went two for four with two runs batted in.

Goodland's first three batters all scored in the top of the first in game one, giving the Cowgirls a 3-0 lead. They wouldn't score another run for the rest of the day.

The Lady Eagles scored three in the bottom of the fourth, tying the game. They scored four more in the bottom of the sixth

to go up 7-3. Colby ended the game in the top of the seventh with a double play. After catching a fly ball with one out and a runner at first, freshman right fielder Karly Kriss fired to first before the runner could get back, ending the game.

Colby led 2-0 in the second game going into the bottom of the fifth. They further distanced themselves from the Cowgirls in the inning, scoring five runs to go up 7-0. The Eagles scored three more runs in the bottom of the sixth to make it 10-0. The game ended in the sixth due to the 10-run limit.

The second game also ended with a double play. Third baseman Brittany Bange dove and caught a bunt with one out and a runner on first, then threw to Mengel at first before the runner could get back.

"I was disappointed with the way we came out of the gates in the first game, but we did a lot of positive things after that," said coach Jack Elliot.

With the wins, Colby improved to 4-2. The girls were play Garden City in a doubleheader today at the Colby Recreation Field. The team will play again at 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 20, at Hays.

Colby Winter athletes shine in the classroom

The Colby High winter sports teams didn't allow their athletic activities get in the way of their academic responsibilities.

The Eagles had several athletes make the Northwest Kansas League All Academic team.

The Colby High boy's basketball team tied Oakley for first in grade average in the league at 3.52.

"They were a hard-working bunch," coach Jon McKee said. "They were good to work with."

The Lady Eagles basketball squad tied for second with Oak-

ley with a grade average of 3.68. Hoxie came in first with a 3.70 average.

"I think it reflects the way the kids approach everything," said coach Parker McKee. "They take pride in what they do. This lets me know how high their priorities are."

Colby's wrestling team came in first in the league with a 3.2 average.

Activities Director Larry Gabel said the teams' grade averages include the grades of the athletes and managers in each sports.

Hays University to hold annual rodeo on Friday

HAYS – Saddle-up for Fort Hays State University's 44th annual National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association rodeo beginning at 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 16, and continuing through Sunday, April 18.

The "Greatest Show on Dirt"

will take place at the Doug Phillip Arena on Golf Course Road, off the U.S. 183 bypass in Hays.

The rodeo features nine events: bareback riding, tie-down roping, break-away roping, saddle-bronc riding, steer wrestling, goat tying, barrel racing, team roping and bull

riding. More than 450 competitors will represent 23 schools, colleges and universities from Kansas, Oklahoma and Missouri in 600 contests throughout the three days.

Sunday's championship round begins at 1:30 p.m.

Tickets, \$5 for adults and free for children under the age of 13, are available at the Memorial Union on campus, Orscheln's, 2900 Broadway Ave. in Hays, and Vanderbilts, 2900 Vine St. For information, call Dr. Garry Brower at (785) 628-4366.

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