

Lady Eagles split games

Colby goes 1-1 at home

By Andy Heintz

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An excellent pitching performance by junior pitcher Skyler Mengel helped the Lady Eagles split a doubleheader with Garden City on Monday at the Colby Recreation Fields.

The Colby High softball team scored a huge 3-2 win over Garden City in game one, but they lost to the Lady Buffaloes 9-3 in the second game.

Mengel threw six straight shut-out innings after Garden City scored two unearned runs in the first inning. She had six strikeouts.

"She really battled," said coach Jack Elliot. "It was a good performance."

Garden City jumped out to an early 2-0 lead after scoring two unearned runs in the top of the first.

Junior shortstop Caitlyn Wark and junior second baseman Bailey Koerperich managed to get on base in the bottom of the first in game one, but the girls were unable to drive either one of them home.

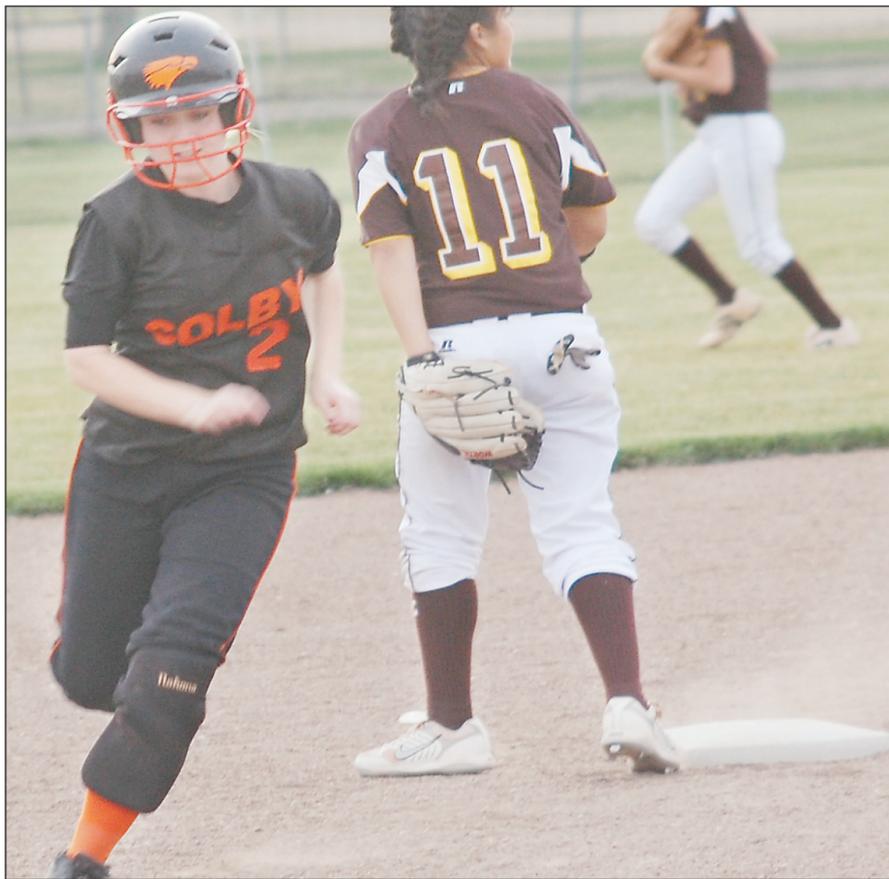
Later on in the top of the second, Mengel fielded a ground ball hit by the Lady Buffaloes' second baseman Syndi Hernandez and fired it to first base, but it deflected off the glove of senior first baseman and outfielder Keesa Wright, allowing Hernandez to reach first safely. Then Koerperich was unable to handle a grounder by Leslie Ford of Garden City, leaving the Lady Buffaloes with runners on first and second with one out. The Lady Buffaloes' MaKenzie DeSpain slammed a single between the shortstop and third base, loading the bases. Fortunately, Colby was able to get a double play to end the inning.

Mengel showed off her fielding skills in the top of the fourth, making a nice back-handed grab on a grounder left of the pitcher's mound and throwing it to first before the Lady Buffaloes' runner reached the bag.

The Lady Eagles once again stepped up defensively in the bottom of the fifth. Wark fielded a scorching ground ball and tossed a low throw to Wright who dug the ball out of the ground for an out. Garden City's next three batters managed to get on base, loading the bases with one out.

Mengel buckled down and got a huge strikeout on the next batter. Then she got the next batter to hit her a grounder that she fielded and fired home to senior catcher Dani Dietz for the force out, ending the inning.

Wark belted a line drive single to right field early in the bottom of the sixth. Later in the inning, freshman outfielder and pitcher Kenzie Curry walked, loading the bases. Then sophomore outfielder Madison Gawith ripped a ground ball that went through the legs of Hernandez, allowing Koerperich to score and cutting Garden City's lead to 2-1. Hernandez eventually recovered the ball and tried to throw out Gawith at first, but



Colby High junior Bailey Koerperich ran to third base during the Lady Eagles' game against Garden City on Monday at the Colby Recreation Fields.

ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

the throw was a little off the mark and it got past the Lady Buffaloes' Kim Bogner, giving Wark time to score to make it 2-2. Then Bange drove in Curry with a sacrifice ground ball to put Colby up 3-2.

Wark expertly fielded another sharply hit ground ball and threw out the Lady Buffaloes' batter in the top of the sixth. Then Hernandez of Garden City ripped a pitch to right field to Gawith who tried to throw her out at first. The throw was off the mark and it got past Wright, allowing Hernandez to advance to second. Gawith made up for her error later in the inning when she caught a fly ball with runners on first and third and fired it back to first before the Lady Buffaloes' runner could get back to the bag, ending the inning.

Mengel threw another scoreless inning in the top of the seventh and Colby picked up a 3-2 victory.

"We played really well in the first game," said Wark.

Curry was the losing pitcher in Colby's 9-3 loss in the second game.

The game went back and forth and both the teams were tied at 3 going into the top of the sixth. But the Lady Buffaloes scored two in the sixth, tacked on four more in the seventh won the game 9-3.

The Lady Buffaloes managed to get runners on first and second with only one out in the top of the first, but Curry struck out the next two batters.

Koerperich jumpstarted her team in the bottom of the first by shooting a single between the shortstop and third baseman. Wark followed her with a line drive triple past the center fielder, scoring Koerperich and giving Colby a 1-0 lead. Then Curry slapped a single that went under the glove of Garden City third baseman Casey Curraan, allowing Wark to score and extending Colby's lead to 2-0.

The Lady Buffaloes' Vanessa Garcia drove in Bogner with a looping line drive down the left field line to make it 2-1. Mo-

ments later, Hernandez nailed a liner down the left field line past Wright. Wright recovered the ball and relayed it to Bange who fired it home to Dietz who tagged out the runner trying to score.

The Lady Buffaloes took the lead in the fourth when DeSpain bashed a double into right field, scoring two runs and giving her team a 3-2 lead. Colby picked up a run in the bottom of the fifth, tying the game at 3.

The Lady Buffaloes' DeSpain nailed a double down the middle in the bottom of the sixth to put Garden City up 5-3. DeSpain was

tagged out trying to stretch the double into a triple, but the two runs counted because both batters had crossed the plate before DeSpain was called out. Garden City scored four more runs in the top of the seventh and took home a 9-3 victory.

"We played great the first game and we played well for three quarters of the second game, but we fell apart in the last two innings," said Koerperich.

Colby's record now stands at 6-3. They play again starting at 4 p.m. in a doubleheader at Hays High School.

Colby track teams take second place

Both the Colby High girls and boys track team took second at their meet Friday at Norton. Sophomore Emilea Finley snared first in two events.

Finley snared first in the 1,600-meter run with a time of 5 minutes and 36.9 seconds and the 800-meter run with 2:32.8.

Junior Katrina Kaus, sophomore Morgan Bell and freshman Alexa Haas took first in their respective events in the girls meet. The Lady Eagles' 4-by-400 team finished first as well.

On the boys side, junior Andrew Flanagin came in first in the 100-meter hurdles with 15.69 and sophomore Jared Nally finished first in the 1,600 with 5:06.5. The boys 4-by-800 relay team of Nally, seniors Torey Taylor and Kalen Rasmussen and junior Christain Wilson took first with 8:59.4.

On the boy's side, senior Adam Weber finished second in the shot put with a heave of 43 feet, 4 inches. Flanagin came in second in the 300-meter hurdles with 42.34 and freshman Beau Brown snared second in the 100 meters with 11:15. The 4 x 400 team of Nally, Taylor, Rasmussen and Arberger came in second with 3:41.9. Arberger also took third in the 400 with 55:28, Nally placed third in the 800 meters with 2:11.9 and Brown claimed third in the 200 meters with 24.01.

On the girls side, Kaus took first in the 3,200-meter run with 12:56, Bell finished first in the 300-meter hurdles with 51.38 and Haas snared first in the 400 meters with 1:01.7. The 4 x 100 relay team of Bell, Hockersmith, Finley and Haas came in first with 4:19.3.

Kaus claimed second in the 1,600 with 5:52 and junior Kayla Hockersmith snared second in the 200 meters with 27.9 and the long jump with a leap of 16 feet and 2.25 inches. Freshman

Kaitlyn Flanagin claimed second in the 300-meter hurdles with 52.87.

The 4-by-100 relay team of sophomore Julia Hutfles, Kaitlyn Flanagin, Bell and Hockersmith finished with 53.6, taking second. Senior Rachel Lamm finished third in the 300-meter hurdles with 53.34, junior Kaylee Marston claimed third in the discus with a throw of 90' 1" and sophomore Paige Roopchan came in third in the long jump with 15' 8" and the triple jump with 31' 11.5".

On the boys side, senior Ryan Parker placed fourth in the long jump with 5' 4", freshman Dustin Reed claimed fourth in the 1,600 meters with 5:21, senior Braden McKee took and freshman Ryan Moore took fourth in the triple jump with 37' 11". The 4 x 100 team of Adam Weber, junior Troy Koon, freshman Wiatt Binder and Brown finished fourth with 46.15.

Senior Braden McKee came in fifth in the triple jump with 37' 11" and the high jump with 5' 2", junior Bryan Schiedeman finished fifth in the 400 meters and freshman John Faber placed fifth in the 3200 meters with 11:31. Reed took sixth in the 1,600 meters with 5:21.3, Moore snared sixth in the long jump with 17' 8.5" and Binder came in sixth in the 100 meters with 11.89.

On the girls side, Bell took fourth in the high jump with 4' 8", Haas came in fourth in the long jump with 15' and Lamm placed fourth in the 100-meter hurdles with 17.64. Freshman Shelby Gardner finished fifth in the shot put with 30' 7", junior Lauren Shoaff came in sixth in the triple jump with 27' 9.5" and Finley took sixth in the pole vault with a vault of 7'.

The boy's and girl's squad's next meet starts at 9:30 a.m. at Scott City.

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