



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby High junior shortstop Caitlin Wark tried to tag out Great Bend's Kaitlee Spray at third base during the front half of a doubleheader between the Eagles and the Lady Panthers on Monday at the Colby Recreation Fields.

Colby softball squad splits with Great Bend

The Lady Eagles softball team split two games against Great Bend on Monday at the Colby Recreation Fields.

The Colby High varsity lost the first game 5-3, but the girls bounced back to win game two 1-0 thanks in part to a tremendous performance by freshman pitcher Kenzie Curry.

In the first game, junior pitcher Skyler Mengel gave up five runs, three of them earned, on seven hits and struck out six in seven innings.

Senior first baseman Keesa Wright had all three of Colby's hits, two singles and a double.

Mengel ran into trouble in the top of the first. She walked the Lady Panthers' Chelsey Gotchall with the bases loaded, allowing Emiley Seiwert of Great Bend to trot home from third to make the score 1-0. However, Mengel managed to get out of the inning without giving up another run.

Wright slapped a ground ball single to left side of the infield in the bottom of the second, driving in junior third baseman Brittany Bange and tying the game at 1. But the Lady Panthers recaptured their lead in the top of the third. Mengel fielded a bunt by Alexis Brack of Great Bend with a runner on base. She fired an errant throw that got past Wright at first, allowing the run to score. Great Bend scored three more in the top of the

fourth, stretching the lead to 5-1.

Curry smacked the line drive to center that got under the glove of the Lady Panthers' Brack in center in the bottom of the fourth, allowing her to reach second. The Lady Eagles were unable to drive her home.

Junior shortstop Caitlin Wark drew a walk and Curry reached first base on an error to start the bottom of the sixth, giving Colby two runners with no outs. Sophomore Madison Gawith hit a dribbler near home that Great Bend catcher Gotchall picked up and threw to first. The throw deflected off the glove of the first baseman, allowing Wark to score, narrowing the gap to 5-2. Then Wright ripped a line drive to left scoring Curry and bringing Colby within two. Great Bend was able to get the third out without giving up any more runs.

The Lady Eagles were held scoreless in the bottom of the seventh and the Lady Panthers pulled

out a 5-3 victory.

"We need to play well at the beginning of the game instead of waiting a few innings and getting behind," Wright said.

Curry's shutout pitching outing in game two led to Colby picking up a 1-0 victory. The Lady Eagles' freshman struck out 11, while giving up just three hits in seven innings.

Individual singles by junior Bailey Koerperich and Wright were Colby's only hits. Koerperich drove in the game's only run.

Colby dominated a triangular match against Scott City and Lakin on Thursday at Scott City.

The girls beat Scott City in game one and shut out Lakin 12-0 in the second game. Mengel was the winning pitcher in game one and Curry threw a one-hitter in game two.

The team's record now stands at 10-6. They will play at 4 p.m. Thursday in a doubleheader at Goodland.

Eagles' baseball team loses two tight games

The Colby High varsity baseball team dropped two close games to Liberal High School on Monday at Young Memorial Field, losing the first game 4-1 and the second 10-9.

Senior pitcher Brandon Rasmussen took the loss in game one despite turning in a solid performance.

"He deserved better," said coach Rick Williams.

Rasmussen allowed two unearned runs in the bottom of the first, and Liberal picked up two more runs later for the win.

Colby's only run was a solo homer by senior Preston Krzycki in the bottom of the second. Krzycki's shot was one of only two Colby hits; the other was a single by senior Chaz Winger.

Senior Garrett Rogers took the loss in the second game. He was relieved by Krzycki in the top of the third with two outs and the Eagles trailing 8-1.

Liberal's Toni Rodriguez scored on a wild pitch, giving Colby a 1-0 lead in the top of the first. Krzycki drove in Winger with a ground-ball fielder's choice - Rasmussen was forced out at second - in the bottom of the first, tying the game at 1.

The Redskins' Dalton Rutledge scored on a line drive up the middle by Rodriguez in the top of the second to make it 2-1.

Colby had the bases loaded with two outs in the bottom of the second, but Rasmussen grounded out to end the inning.

Liberal scored six in the top of the third, stretching their lead to 8-1. Krzycki relieved Rogers with one out and the team trailing 8-1. He got the final two outs without allowing the Redskins to score another run.

The boys picked up a run in the bottom of the third, cutting Liberal's lead to 8-2. Colby sophomore second basemen Jordan Rasmussen, Brandon's younger brother, made a nice catch in shallow right center while backpedaling in the top of the fourth. Krzycki struck out two batters and allowed no runs in the inning.

Winger reached base on an error in the bottom of the fourth. Moments later, he stole second. Then Jordan Rasmussen hit a line drive to the Redskins' center fielder that looked like a sure out, but he dropped the ball. Winger scored when Great Bend catcher Brandon Granger fired the ball over his teammates' head at second as Rasmussen tried to steal. Then Brandon Rasmussen drove in his brother with a liner up the middle to make it 8-4. He went on to score on a sacrifice ground ball by senior outfielder Sam Kendrick, bringing Colby within three.

Liberal picked up a run in the fifth and another in the sixth, stretching the lead to 10-5. Brandon Rasmussen belted a ground ball double up the third base line early in the bottom of the fifth. Then Krzycki drew a walk and sophomore infielder and pitcher Braden Sager poked a bloop sin-

gle, loading the bases.

Kendrick hit a grounder to Liberal pitcher Kyle Potts, who threw home. The ball bounced off Granger's glove, allowing Brandon Rasmussen to score and cutting the lead to 10-6.

Rogers slapped a line drive single to right, scoring Krzycki to make it 10-7. Freshman outfielder Todd Kane walked with the bases loaded, scoring senior outfielder Ethan Stickel - pinch running for Rogers - from the third and bringing the Eagles within two. Then Winger hit a ground ball to the Redskin's shortstop Bryan Morris, who fired a high throw to Liberal's first baseman, forcing him to come off the bag. That left Winger safe at first and allowed Kane to score, narrowing the gap to 10-9.

Krzycki threw a scoreless inning in the top of the seventh. Jordan Rasmussen made a nice backhanded catch for one of the outs.

Krzycki ripped a grounder to the Redskins third basemen Fred-eric Gomez, who fired an errant throw to first. That pulled the first baseman off the bag again.

Later, Sager hit a blistering line drive to left, leaving Colby with two runners on base with one out. But Kendrick flied out to right field and Rogers struck out, giving the Redskins a 10-9 victory.

"We did a good job of battling back," Williams said.

With the losses, the Eagles' dropped to 8-6. The boys will play in a tournament Thursday in Hays.

Los Angeles grinds out win over Jazz

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Less show. More business.

With a no-nonsense inside game that showcased their biggest advantages, the Los Angeles Lakers moved halfway to the Western Conference finals.

Kobe Bryant scored 30 points, Paul Gasol added

22 points and 15 rebounds, and the Lakers methodically pounded the ball down low in a 111-103 victory over the Utah Jazz on Tuesday night, taking a 2-0 lead in their second-round playoff series.

Andrew Bynum had 17 points and 14 rebounds for the defending NBA champions.

I would like to recognize Barry Kaaz, Gary, Dan, Mark, as well as, all of Colby Community College staff who made the 4th annual High Plains Pow-Wow a great event for all youth and adults from our council and the surrounding councils in Nebraska.

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Unit Commissioner
Colby

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