



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby High senior Preston Krzycki prepared to fire a pitch during the Eagles' game against Hoisington in the first round of regionals Monday at Young Memorial Field.

Eagles baseball squad beats Hoisington 8-5

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press
aheintz@nwks.com

The Colby High Eagles took their first step toward qualifying for the state baseball tournament for the second straight year Monday, defeating Hoisington 8-5 in the first round of regional play at Young Memorial Field.

The Colby squad are the No. 4 seed in the Class 4A regional tournament, while the Cardinals are No. 5.

Key hits and a gutsy pitching performance by senior Preston Krzycki proved to be too much for Hoisington. Coach Rick Williams said Krzycki started despite an injured pointer finger on his pitching hand. He hurt it when a ground ball took a bad hop during practice, and the coach said he was not even sure if Krzycki would be available.

"We had Braden Sager ready to pitch if his finger split open," Williams said.

Krzycki caught Hoisington's Tanner Klugg looking to start the game. He went on to retire the next two batters in the top of the first.

Senior Chaz Winger led off the bottom of the first with a line-drive single to left. Jordan Rasmussen laid down a bunt, advancing Winger to second. Senior Brandon Rasmussen, Jordan's older brother, slapped a single between the third baseman and shortstop, scoring Winger and giving the boys a 1-0 lead.

The Cardinals scored three to go up 3-1 in the top of the second, but the Eagles came storming back in the bottom of the inning.

Senior outfielder Sam Kendrick and freshman outfielder Todd Kane both drew walks to start the inning. Senior first baseman Garrett Rogers advanced both runners a base with a bunt. Moments later, senior designated hitter and outfielder Ethan Stickel drove in Kendrick with a single to right, cutting the Cardinals' lead in half.

Moments later, Winger hammered a scorching line-drive single to right that drove in Kane and tied the game at 3. Stickel and Winger both went on to score on wild pitches, giving the Eagles a 5-3 lead.

The boys upped their lead to 7-3 in the bottom of the fourth, thanks

to some clutch two-out hitting. Consecutive doubles by Winger and Jordan Rasmussen with two outs extended Colby's lead to 6-3. Then Brandon Rasmussen singled, scoring his brother and giving the Eagles a 7-3 lead. Krzycki ran into some trouble in the top of the sixth because of an error by Colby's defense.

Klug hit a grounder to Sager at third with one out and Hoisington's Ryan Bieberle on first. Sager fired the next batter to ground out, but Jordan Rasmussen dropped the ball, leaving runners on first and second with one out. Krzycki got the next batter to ground out, but the runners advanced to second and third. Then Mater singled, scoring Bieberle and Klug and cutting the Colby lead to 7-5. Krzycki walked the next batter, leaving runners on first and second, but he got the Cardinals' next batter to ground out to Brandon Rasmussen at short, ending the inning.

Winger gave his team an insurance run in the bottom of the sixth,

driving in Stickel with a ground ball between short and third to make it 8-5.

"Chaz has been solid all year," the coach said.

Sager relieved Krzycki in the top of the seventh to close the game for Colby. He got the first batter he faced to ground out before giving up a pair of singles. Then Bieberle smacked a grounder that hit Sager in the foot with runners on first and second.

Undeterred, Sager picked up the ball and threw out the runner who was trying to reach second. Then Klug popped out to Kendrick in right and Colby prevailed 8-5.

With the win, the Eagles improved to 11-8. Their second-round game against No. 1 seed Pratt, 15-3, scheduled for today, was postponed because of the forecast to 2 p.m. Thursday in Scott City. If the boys win, they will play the winner of a game between No. 2 seed Hugoton and No. 3 Scott City in the regional finals at 7 p.m.

Golf team makes state, takes second in region

The Colby High golf team earned a spot at the state tournament by taking second in the Class 4A regional at Russell on Friday with 336 strokes, three strokes behind Ulysses in first with 333.

The four lowest scores on a team are added to get a team score.

"We played well on the front nine, but we had a little trouble on the back nine," said coach Barry Lucas.

Senior sensation Ryley Haas shot the fourth-lowest score overall with a 78. Sophomore Tayte Query took seventh with an 83, senior Dylan Stithem finished with an 87 and sophomores Konner Kriss and Paul Schiferl both shot 88. Junior Rocque Russell

finished with a 94.

Other teams at the regional were Abilene, Concordia, Scott City, Pratt, Nickerson and Russell.

Lucas said his team performed better than it had last year at regionals. The Eagles only had two golfers make state last year, Haas and Colby graduate Cole Finley. Haas took third out of 103 golfers at state with a 75.

Coach Lucas said he thinks Haas can win the tournament this year if he plays at the top of his game. He said Haas needs to hit his woods and his irons well and he needs to putt well.

The state tournament will start at 9 a.m. on Monday at the Hesston Golf Course.

Colby track, field squads both finish first at league meet

The Colby High boys' and girls' track teams both took first at the Northwest Kansas League meet on Friday at Goodland, the boy's squad finishing with 90 points and the girls with an impressive 146.

The girls took first in seven events:

- Sophomore Emilea Finley in the 1,600 meter-run with 5 minutes, 39.6 seconds and the 800 meters with 2:26.5.

- Freshman Alexa Haas in the 100 meters with 13.53 and the 400 meters with 60.42.

- Junior Katrina Kaus in the 3,200 meters with 12:38.

- Senior Rachel Lamm in the 100-meter hurdles with 17.26.

- Junior Kayla Hockersmith in the long jump with a leap of 15 feet and 7 inches.

- The 4-by-100 relay team of junior Morgan Bell, Hockersmith, Finley and Kaus with 4:13.

On the boys' side:

- Sophomore Beau Brown came in first in the 100 meters with 11.63.

- Senior Braden McKee was first in the triple jump with 38' 10.5".

Junior Andrew Flanagan took second in the 300-meter hurdles with 43.42 and junior Josh Middleton took second in the shot put with 43' 8.5". Senior Adam We-

ber finished third in the shot put with 43' 2.5" and freshman Dustin Reed came in third in the 3,200 meters with 10:55.2. The 4-by-800 relay team of seniors Torey Taylor and Kalen Rasmussen and juniors Christian Wilson and Kale Amberger took third with 8:55.

Amberger came in fourth in the 400 with 53.78, McKee took fourth in the long jump with 18' 5", sophomore Jared Nally snared fourth in the 1,600 meters with 5:10.9 and Flanagan took fourth in the 100-meter hurdles with 16.45. Amberger, Wilson, Rasmussen and Flanagan came in fourth in the 4-by-400 relay with 3:38.9.

Junior Troy Koon took fifth in the long jump, leaping 17' 11". Brown finished fifth in the 200 meters with 24.53 and McKee snared fifth in the high jump with 5' 4". Junior Logan Middleton came in fifth in discus with a 145' 7" throw and Nally took fifth in the 3,200 with 11:27.5.

Reed finished sixth in the 1,600 with 5:10.9 and freshman John Faber took sixth in the 3,200 with 11:33.4. Freshman Ryan Moore came in sixth in the triple jump, leaping 36' 9"; Josh Middleton finished sixth in the discus with a 118' 8.5" throw; and Wilson took sixth in the 800 with 2:12.8.

For the girls, Kaus took second

in the 1,600 with 5:44.9, sophomore Morgan Bell finished second in the high jump with 4' 10" and Finley took second in the triple jump, leaping 33' 10".

Hockersmith ran the 400 in 63.88, taking third, and Morgan Bell came in third in the 100-meter hurdles with 17.26 and the 300-meter hurdles with 50.53. Freshman Shelby Gardner took fourth in the shot put with 29' 7.5", junior Kaylee Marston finished fourth in the discus with a 90' 9.5" throw and Haas finished fourth in the 200 with 28.58.

Sophomore Paige Roopchan came in fifth in the 100-meter hurdles with 18.53 and junior Sara Martin took fifth in the javelin with a 86' 4" throw. The 4-by-800 relay team of sophomore Amber Bond, Martin, junior Kelsey Voss and freshman Lauren Bell finished fifth with 4:13.

Lauren Bell took sixth in the high jump with 4' 6", Hockersmith finished the 200 in 28.25, Gardner threw the discus 87' 7.5", finishing sixth, and junior Anna Taylor snared sixth in the 100 meters with 13.53.

The team will compete in the Class 4A regionals at 3 p.m. Friday in Abilene.

Lady Eagles softball team wins 10-0

The Lady Eagles softball team lived up to their No. 1 seed Monday, crushing No. 8 Hoisington 10-0 in the first round of the regional tournament on Monday at the Colby Recreational Fields.

The game ended after five innings because of the 10-run limit. If a team is winning by 10 after

five innings, the game is called.

Freshman Kenzie Curry pitched five shut-out innings for Colby. The Lady Eagles had 10 hits and scored in every inning for the first time this season, said coach Jack Elliot.

"I thought we did a good job," he said. "Pitching was really solid

again."

The girls were to play No. 4 seed Russell today in the regional semifinals at Ulysses. If they win, they will play the winner of a game between No. 2 seed Hugoton and No. 3 Pratt in the finals at 6:30 p.m. tonight.

**NEED EXTRA MONEY?
BE A NEWSPAPER CARRIER!**

Check out all these GREAT incentives!

Sign on bonus after 3 months
Bonus for new subscribers
Various sized routes
1-2 hours, 4 times a week
Weekends always off
Friendly customers

Contact Kathryn at the
Colby Free Press for more
information on available
carrier and motor routes.

 **COLBY
FREE PRESS**

155 W. 5th Street - 785-462-3963



**THE BIG ONES WON'T GET AWAY
WHEN YOU "HUNT" WITH A
CLASSIFIED AD!!**

*Bag your limit
in values - buy
and sell in the
classifieds!!*

785-462-3963