



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Third baseman Keegan Morgan got ready for a throw at third base during game one of a double header between the Colby K-18 baseball team and Goodland on Thursday at the Colby Recreation Fields. The Eagles won both games 11-10, overcoming a two-point deficit in the bottom of the fifth in the second game.

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# Baseball team sweeps rival

By Andy Heintz

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It wasn't always pretty, but the Colby K-18 team managed to pull out two victories over Goodland on Thursday at the Colby Recreation Fields, winning both games 11-10.

In the K-18 league, the first half of a doubleheader lasts seven innings and the second game lasts only five. And the Eagles had to come from behind in the final frame — on runs scored on three wild pitches — to win the second match.

Luke Cox started the first game for Colby, which saw the lead change hands three times. The Cowboys picked up a run in the top of the first to go up 1-0. The Eagles battled back in the bottom half. Trek Keck ripped a single up the middle, scoring Macen Shull to tie the game. The boys picked up two more runs to lead 3-1.

Goodland scored a run in the top of the second on a wild pitch

by Cox. Colby scored a run on another wild pitch in the top of the third to make it 3-3.

Brady Rose hit a blooper that found a patch of grass in shallow right, driving in Cox and giving Colby a 4-3 lead in the bottom of the third. Quade Woofter smacked a two-run single up the middle, extending Colby's lead to 6-3.

Shull relieved Cox in the top of the fourth with runners on second and third and nobody out. Goodland scored two runs on a walk with the bases loaded and a wild pitch. They went on to score two more runs in the inning to go up 7-6.

Keck laid down a bunt with one runner on in the bottom of the fourth that the Cowboys' pitcher fielded. He fired it over the head of the Goodland first baseman, allowing Shull to score from first to make it 7-7. Keck advanced to third. He went on to score, putting Colby out in front 8-7.

Woofter punched single through the right side, driving in two runs and giving the Eagles a 10-7 lead.

Colby added another run in the bottom of the fifth when Keck drove in first baseman Daalan Organ with a double into the gap in left, expanding the lead to 11-7.

The Cowboys scored two runs in the top of the sixth, narrowing the gap to 11-9. Goodland scored a run and threatened to score again in the top of the seventh, but Organ caught a shallow fly ball in foul territory with two outs and runners on first and third. The Eagles prevailed 11-10.

Reed Stephens started game two for the Eagles. Goodland jumped out to an early lead with a four-run first. Stephens, Taylor, Organ and Cox all scored on wild pitches in the bottom of the first, tying the game. Colby scored three more in the bottom of the second and led 7-4.

Organ replaced Stephens at pitcher in the top of the third. Goodland picked up three runs in the inning, tying the game at 7. Colby regained the lead in the bottom of the fourth when Stephens scored on a wild pitch, slid-

ing safely into home a split second before the Cowboys' catcher laid down the tag.

The Cowboys battled back in the top of the fifth, scoring three runs to go up 10-8. Coach Russell Rodenbeck and coach Bruce Arberger made some changes in the batting order in the bottom of the fifth, adding Troy Quenzer, Keck, Shull and Woofter to the line up.

Quenzer belted a double to right center with one out. He eventually scored on a wild pitch to Woofter, narrowing the gap to 10-9. Then Colby got a break. Andrew Taylor struck out with two out in the bottom of the fifth, but the ball got past the Cowboys' catcher. The catcher had trouble locating the ball, allowing Woofter to score from third, tying the game at 10. Taylor made it safely to first, eventually got to third and scored on a wild pitch to Cox, giving the Eagles a 11-10 victory.

The boys play a doubleheader today at Quinter.

# K-State team squanders lead

FAYETTEVILLE, Ark. (AP) — For three games, Kansas State had trouble holding leads — and because of that, the Wildcats' season is over.

Derek Jones hit a three-run homer to cap a six-run sixth inning for Washington State, and the Cougars rallied to beat Kansas State 9-6 in an elimination game Sunday at the Fayetteville Regional.

Washington State trailed 6-1 before starting its comeback with two runs in the fifth. Garry Kuykendall eventually tied it at 6 with a two-run double in the sixth. Kuykendall was tagged out on the play when he tried for third, not realizing the baserunner ahead of him had stopped there, but Cody Bartlett followed with a walk, and Jones' 12th homer made it 9-6.

Kansas State (37-22) played three hard-fought games at the regional, but the Wildcats weren't at their best in the late innings. They led 6-3 against Washington State on Friday night before losing 8-6, then nearly blew a 9-1 lead against Grambling State on Saturday before holding on for a 9-8 victory.

"When you're at this level, you're going to have teams that are here for a reason," Kansas State coach Brad Hill said. "They're going to be tough. They're going to be teams that don't quit, that fight until the end."

Nick Martini hit a three-run homer in the third for the Wildcats, who knocked out Washington State starter James Wise that inning. With his team on the verge of elimination, Richie Ochoa (2-2) came out of the bullpen and threw 4 1-3 scoreless innings. Ochoa, a freshman who entered with a 7.30 ERA, allowed two hits, struck out four and walked none.

"As a freshman, it's very tough to come into an environment like this and perform well," Washington State reliever Seth Harvey

said. "Richie just dug down deep, and this is what we needed."

Even after the win, Washington State still needed to beat Arkansas twice in a row to win the regional. The first game with the Razorbacks was Sunday night.

After Ochoa came out, Washington State committed two errors in the eighth, enabling Carter Jurica — who had hit his 13th homer of the season earlier in the game — to come up with the bases loaded and two out. Harvey came on and got Jurica on a grounder to second, with first baseman Ryan Peterson digging out Bartlett's poor throw on a very close play that was disputed by the Kansas State coaching staff.

Harvey then pitched the ninth for his third save.

Kansas State starter Justin Lindsey (4-4) pitched five-plus innings, allowing seven runs on eight hits and a walk with six strikeouts.

"I think we knew when we were up 6-1 that Washington State's never going to quit," Martini said. "They didn't quit the first time we played them, so we just needed to keep going after it, but it just didn't happen."

Jones hit his decisive homer off reliever Thomas Rooke. Evan Marshall then came in and helped the Wildcats stay in the game, shutting out Washington State for the final 3 1-3 innings — but the Kansas State bats had quieted down by then.

Wise pitched 2 2-3 innings, allowing six runs on seven hits and two walks with four strikeouts. The Washington State bullpen allowed only four hits the rest of the way.

"Richie Ochoa was great, obviously, especially how he extended out there," Washington State coach Donnie Marbut said. "They're a really, really good offensive club."

# Boston Celtics guards lead team to gritty win

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When Pau Gasol swatted Kendrick Perkins' hook shot right back where it came from, Rajon Rondo scooped it up. Boston's slick point guard leaped to the rim and scored before Gasol even knew what hadn't hit him, giving the Celtics a fourth-quarter lead they didn't relinquish in Game 2 of the NBA finals.

While Ray Allen's finals-record eight 3-pointers gave the Celtics some glitz, Rondo's triple-double exemplified much of the grit in their 103-94 victory Sunday night, evening the series before the teams headed to Boston.

The Celtics' starting guards somehow held together a choppy,

foul-plagued game in which their big men were roundly outplayed by the Lakers, who blocked a finals-record 14 shots and scored relentlessly down low in another foul-choked finals game.

But Gasol and Andrew Bynum couldn't block any of the shots that mattered most: Those 3-pointers by Allen, who scored 27 of his 32 points in the first half, and 10 fourth-quarter points from Rondo, whose 19 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists somehow still didn't cover his impact on this equalizer.

"They both were terrific," Boston coach Doc Rivers said. "We needed points, and Ray gave them to us."

# Kansas City may select catcher in draft

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Most experts agree there are three can't-miss prospects in Monday night's baseball draft. So guess who picks fourth?

It's the Kansas City Royals, of course. With 65 wins a year ago, the Royals will wait for Washington, Pittsburgh and Baltimore and then make their first round selection.

The consensus seems to be that KC is leaning toward Miami university catcher Yasmani Grandal and may even have reached a conditional agreement with the Hurricanes star. But the Royals also have been looking at several pitchers, one of the few position groups that may be abundant in the 2010 draft.

Selecting Grandal makes sense. The Roy-

als will soon have to replace the aging Jason Kendall. Grandal, who moved to Florida from Cuba when he was 11, has solid defensive skills and this year hit .418 with 14 home runs and 56 RBIs. He would be the first collegiate position player to go to the Royals in the first round since 2005 when Nebraska third baseman Alex Gordon went overall No. 2.

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