

Ready to smash it



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Megan Dougherty of Colby got ready to serve during a tennis lesson with instructor Ray Schindler on Sunday at Fike Park.

Colby baseball team remains undefeated

The Colby K-18 baseball team just keeps on winning. The Eagles maintained their unblemished record with two victories in a wooden bat tournament on Saturday at Ellis.

The team pulled out a comeback 8-7 victory over Phillipsburg and they crushed the Hays Renegades 10-0. The tourney games were scheduled to last five innings, but Colby's second game only lasted four due to the 10-run limit.

The boys led Phillipsburg 2-1 going into the bottom of the fourth, but the Panthers' offense had a huge six-run inning to make it 7-2. The Eagles mounted a six-run rally in the top of the sixth, giving them an 8-7 lead. Phillipsburg was unable to score in the bottom of the fifth and the Eagles picked up the win. Luke Cox started the game on the mound for Colby and Daalan Organ got the save.

Zach Stones pitched four shut-out innings against Hays in game two.

"He threw a lot of strikes," Coach Russell Rodenbeck said.

The boys' offense scored three runs in the first, two in the second, one in the third and four in the fourth. Rodenbeck said his team had improved a lot since the beginning of the year.

"They are starting to get more aggressive on the bases and make more plays in the field," he said. The coach said he and fellow coach Bruce Arnberger both wanted to see each of their players improve a little more each game.

The two games the Eagles were scheduled to play on Sunday were canceled due to rain. With the wins, the boys improved to 8-0. They play a doubleheader starting at 6:30 Thursday at Oakley.

United States and England tie

IRENE, South Africa (AP) – The day was sunny and bright, and so was the U.S. outlook.

Boosted by some super saves by Tim Howard and a gifted goal by England keeper Robert Green, the United States opened the World Cup with a 1-1 tie Saturday night. Having gotten what's known as "a result" in soccer parlance, the Americans started preparing for Friday's match against Slovenia with a booster shot on confidence.

"My Blackberry kind of blew up last night with friends and family sending me messages," defender Steve Cherundolo said

Sunday. "The overall feeling that I do get though is the general public is proud of our performance and that's something that this team can be proud about and build on. So, but at the end of the day, results matter more than anything."

The U.S. opened with a troublesome defensive performance, allowing Steven Gerrard's fourth-minute goal following defensive overcommitment on a throw-in that left holes. Green let Clint Dempsey's two-hopper skip through his arms and into the net in the 40th minute, a gaffe at least one British paper compared to the

Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

ABC's telecast was watched by 12,956,000 viewers in the United States, the most-viewed U.S. national team game in America since the 1-0 loss to Brazil in the 1994 World Cup at home.

"The mentality of the group is strong," U.S. coach Bob Bradley said. "We've been hardened along the way and we believe that we can play against tough teams, top teams."

Bradley chose Steve Cherundolo to play right back over Jonathan Spector, his starter at the Confederations Cup last June.

Local pitcher drafted

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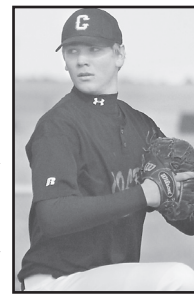
Former Colby High pitcher Levi Schlick became one of the 1,525 players selected for the 2010 Major League Baseball Draft when he was chosen by the Chicago White Sox in the 39th round on Wednesday.

"I was extremely excited when I heard my name get called," Schlick said. "It's a once in a lifetime opportunity."

Schlick said he would decide if he would forego college and go pro later this summer. He signed to pitch for Kansas State University on May 25 after playing a

year for Barton County Community College in Great Bend. He had an impressive first season with the Cougars. Schlick had a 2.11 earned run average and batted 378.

In his 2009 senior season at the high school Schlick was named Class 4A Player of the Year by the Kansas Association of Baseball Coaches. His pitching and hitting ability helped Colby go 24-2 and finish second in the Class 4A baseball



Schlick

tournament.

Schlick said the White Sox will have to offer him a substantial amount of money to get him to go pro. He said it will have to be enough money to pay for college and allow him start a business after his baseball career is over. Schlick said he expected to get drafted in the later rounds, but he was still excited when his name was called.

The White Sox were one of several teams who scouted Schlick this spring. Schlick said scouts from the Tampa Bay Devil Rays, Oakland Athletics, Kansas City Royals, Cleveland Indians, Detroit Tigers and Seattle Mariners all attended his games.

Kansas teams look for homes

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) – So will Kansas and Kansas State crawl out of the wreckage of the Big 12 as sports orphans without a major conference to go home to?

Or will they remain big time, perhaps finding shelter in the far-away Big East Conference? Or maybe Kansas will join Texas, Oklahoma and most of their other South Division Big 12 rivals in a greatly expanded Pac-10.

From the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean to just about anything in-between seemed possible as the Big 12 lurched into the weekend teetering on the brink.

With Colorado and now Nebraska leaving the conference, the two Kansas schools, Missouri and Iowa State were hoping that Texas, Oklahoma and the other South Division members would decide to keep what's left of the league and go forward as a Big 12 with 10 members. But there are reports that those schools may join the Pac-10 or seek refuge in some other major league such as the Southeastern Conference.

If they do, that would leave Kansas, Kansas State and Missouri all alone, at least temporarily.

"Obviously, this is a critical moment in the history of K-State, but also one of great opportunity," Kansas president Kirk Schulz and athletic director John Currie said in a joint statement. "We are in constant communication with each other, and our sole focus remains on the process of maintaining K-State's significant and meaningful

place in intercollegiate athletics."

Kansas chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little termed the Nebraska decision "unfortunate because of the long history between our schools."

"I know the continued changes in college athletics are creating concern among Jayhawks," she said. "They should know that throughout the conference realignment process we have been aggressively pursuing the interests of the University of Kansas and its student-athletes. KU is a leader in higher education and intercollegiate athletics and the value we offer is clear. This is why I am confident that KU will emerge from this process in a position that enables our student-athletes to continue to compete at the highest level."

The collapse of the Big 12 would also mean severe economic loss to Kansas City. The Sprint Center just last week was granted the conference basketball tournament for three more years. The tournament's economic impact is estimated at between \$14 million and \$15 million each year.

"It will be a bad thing on the short run. But those teams are going to be playing basketball and they're going to be wanting to bring fans in," said Kansas City, Mo., Mayor Mark Funkhouser.

"However they reconfigure themselves, I think we've got the venue in the Sprint Center and we've got the fans to make it work for them financially. It may

not be the Big 12, but I'm pretty confident that we'll get past this bump in the road and we'll have big-time college basketball being played in the Sprint Center."

Kansas athletic director Lew Perkins, who refused to meet with reporters on Friday, is a former athletic director at UConn with strong ties to the Big East. In spite of obvious travel difficulties, Perkins could be talking to that conference about taking in the Jayhawks, Wildcats and Tigers.

At least that would enable Kansas and Kansas State to stay together. For several weeks as the demise of the Big 12 began looming, Currie and Perkins have been meeting to discuss a mutual strategy. While competing fiercely on the field, the two Kansas schools have been conference mates since the formation of the Missouri Valley Conference in 1908.

"When we played Texas (in the Big 12) that became a rivalry game within basketball," said Kansas basketball coach Bill Self. "If you ask our players, hey, the rivals are still K-State and Missouri. Those (Texas games) were good games, but still, yet, the 15 years that we played did not take the place of the 100 years that we played the other ones, or 90, or whatever it is."

In a perfect world, the Wildcats and Jayhawks would stick together, Self said.

"But you know we're not operating in a world that's perfect right now and a world that we pick to choose what path we take."

Rookie phenom picks up win

CLEVELAND (AP) – Stephen Strasburg simply shrugged.

Two starts, two wins, 22 strikeouts and millions of fascinated fans. One dazzling debut – and a pretty fair encore.

It's been quite a start for baseball's newest attraction. On Sunday, Washington's pitching powerhouse learned that life on the road isn't always smooth. Coming off a 14-strikeout opening act,

Strasburg had more trouble with Cleveland's mound than Indians hitters during his second major league start, leading the Nationals to a 9-4 win.

Strasburg (2-0) allowed just two hits, one a leadoff homer in the second inning by Travis Hafner. He struck out eight and walked five before leaving to a chorus of boos in the sixth as Washington ended Cleveland's four-game

winning streak.

The 21-year-old capped a whirlwind first few days in the majors. His dominating start against Pittsburgh was followed by an appearance on "The Late Show with David Letterman."

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