

Baseball squad loses three games

The Colby American Legion team struggled at a baseball tournament in Columbus, Neb., last weekend, losing all three of its games. The team's Colby faced were all from significantly bigger towns.

Coach Jeff Krzycki was not pleased with his team's performance.

"We didn't make the big plays," he said. "It was a poor effort on our part. Someone needs to step up and be a leader."

The Eagles lost to Columbus, Neb., 11-2 in their first game on Friday. Corey Sager started the game on the mound for Colby. He was relieved in the bottom of the fourth by shortstop Jordan Rasmussen with the bases loaded and no outs.

Colby's two runs came in the top of the fourth. Infielder Brandon Rasmussen drove in outfielder Sam Kendrick from second with a single and catcher Caleb Carter scored from third on a passed ball.

Columbus got off to a fast start, scoring five runs in the bottom of the first. The Eagles had trouble scoring early in the game, stranding eight runners and leaving the bases loaded twice in the first three innings.

Colby had some bad luck in the second game Saturday against Hastings, Neb. With the Eagles already trailing 4-0, third baseman Preston Krzycki, the coach's son, fielded a grounder and ran to touch third base with two outs and the bases loaded in the top of the third. The runner slid into the bag behind Krzycki and the umpire declared him safe. Coach Krzycki said he disagreed with the call. He said the runner was out and the umpire was not in a good position to see the play.

Hastings went on to score seven runs in the inning, giving them an 11-0 lead. They ended up winning 16-5. Colby's runs came two in the third and three in the fourth.

Braden Sager started for the Eagles. He gave up 13 runs, 11 of them unearned, in four innings before being replaced by Jordan Rasmussen in the fifth. Center fielder Chaz Winger had a tremendous game at the plate. He singled, doubled and blasted a home run. Jordan Rasmussen had two hits.

Later that night, Colby lost a 10-9 nail-biter to Norfolk, Neb. Brock James started the game on the mound for Colby. He threw four innings before being replaced by Jordan Rasmussen. Coach Krzycki said he was pretty happy with James' performance.

The Eagles trailed 1-0 after one inning. Norfolk scored two more in the top of the second. The boys picked up two runs in the bottom half of the second, narrowing the gap to 3-2. Norfolk scored three more in the top of the third, but Colby tacked on two in the bottom of the fourth. Norfolk put up two runs, extending its lead to 8-5. Then the Eagles had a four-run inning to go up 9-8 in the bottom of the sixth.

Norfolk picked up a run in the top of the seventh, sending the game into extra innings. They were able to get a runner across home in the top of the eighth, then hold Colby scoreless in the bottom half to secure a victory.

The Eagles had five hits overall. Corey Sager homered and Winger had two hits. Jordan Rasmussen and Krzycki each had a hit.

Coach Krzycki said he was pleased with the way Winger and Jordan Rasmussen performed in the tourney.

"Chaz hit really well and played good defense," he said. "Jordan did a good job pitching."

With the losses, Colby dropped to 5-4. The team will play a doubleheader against Ellis tonight at Young Memorial Field.

The team is holding a fund raiser today. Fans can buy tickets from any player or at the press box up until the end of the first half of the doubleheader today for \$5 each.

The winner of the raffle gets \$500 and second place gets a 19-inch television. Third and fourth-place winners each will get four tickets and a parking pass to a Kansas City Royals game and fifth gets a 12-inch Omaha baseball glove. The money will be used to pay for tournaments, umpires and equipment, coach Krzycki said.

Keep your eye on the ball



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

The pink and jade teams battled each other in a Bambino girl's league game on Tuesday at the recreational fields. The Colby Recreation Department league is for kids 9 to 12.

Money saves Big 12

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Looking for the savior of the Big 12? Follow the money.

Assurances that the big television money will soon be coming to the leaner Big 12 pulled the league back from the dead, school and league officials said Tuesday.

With Colorado leaving for the Pac-10 and Nebraska to the Big Ten in the next two years and the Pac-10 making a hard sell for Texas and four other schools, the promises — not guarantees — of bigger checks in the future finally persuaded the Longhorns and the others to stay put.

"This is a long-term and unequivocal commitment," Texas president William Powers Jr., said Tuesday. "We've decided the Big 12 provides the best long-term opportunity for our university."

According to IRS tax records examined by the Associated Press, the Big 12 paid out \$8.7 million to \$15.4 million per school in 2008-09, with Kansas State getting the smallest payout and Oklahoma the biggest. The Big 12's television deal with Fox expires in 2012, but a more lucrative contract with ESPN runs through the 2015-2016 academic year.

Big 12 Commissioner Dan Beebe said no new television deals have been struck, but he has "extremely strong verification, based on our analysis with our consultants and others, and media companies themselves, that we are in a tremendous position to execute future agreements that will put our member institutions on par with any in the country."

Lakers send series back home

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The trophy, the champagne, the hats, the T-shirts. Even Bill Russell and Kevin McHale. Everything was in place at Staples Center for the Boston Celtics to wrap up their 18th NBA championship.

And then the Lakers shoved everything back in its boxes and sent all the Celtics in sight back to their hotels for two more days.

With an emphatic, historic blow-out win in Game 6 Tuesday night, Los Angeles earned the right to

host the grand finale to both the NBA season and this scintillating chapter in the league's most glamorous rivalry.

Kobe Bryant scored 26 points.

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