

K-18 baseball team dominates at home

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Colby's K-18 league baseball team swept Quinter in a doubleheader Thursday at Young Memorial Field, pounding Quinter 12-2 in the first game and winning the second 11-5.

The first game ended in the bottom of the sixth because of the 10-run rule. If a team is winning by more than 10 after six innings, the game is called.

Macen Shull picked up a complete-game win in the first match, pitching all six innings.

Shull breezed through the first, retiring the Bulldogs in order. The Eagles scored the first run of the game when Treck Keck drove in Shull with a line-drive double to the left-field fence. Moments later, Luke Cox ripped a single to left center, scoring Keck from second.

Cox went on to score on a hard-hit single to right center by Daalan Organ to make it 3-0. David Brown drove in another run with a bloop single to right center before the Bulldogs switched pitchers.

Later, Reed Stephens reached out and slapped a double down the left-field line, scoring Organ and Marc Bremenkamp. Quinter got its first run in the top of the second, but they were unable to do any further damage.

Organ slapped a grounder that went through the legs of the Bulldogs' second baseman, allowing Cox to score and pushing the Eagles' lead to 7-1. Shull looked strong in the top of the third, once

again retiring the Bulldogs in order.

Stephens had a grounder get through his legs at second, allowing a run to score in the top of the fourth.

Later, in the bottom of the sixth with Colby firmly in control with an 8-2 lead, Cox drove in a run with a bloop single. The Eagles scored two more to go up 11-2 before Bremenkamp slapped a single that scored Quezner and gave Colby a 12-2 victory.

Zach Stones started the second game for Colby. He struggled with his control at times, but managed to get big outs at key points.

Stones struck out the first batter, but catcher Chance Hoeting dropped the ball and the batter was able to reach first safely. Stones struck out the next two, but the one after that hit a soft grounder in front of the mound. Stones fielded the ball and fired to Organ at first. The throw was off-target and got past Organ, allowing a run to score.

Stones walked three straight batters in the top of the second, loading the bases. He regained his control and struck out the next batter after throwing three straight balls. He got the next batter to pop up to shortstop Quade Woofter. It looked like Stones was going to escape the inning unscathed, but the Bulldogs' next hitter poked a fly ball that was misjudged by left fielder Josh Matchell. The ball sailed over his head, allowing one run to score to make it 2-0. The next batter drove in two runs with a line drive to left.

In the bottom of the second, Matchell hit a grounder that got past the Bulldogs' shortstop, scoring Woofter. Caleb Mazanec hit a ground ball that skipped over the glove of the shortstop, allowing Matchell and Chase Hartwell to score, narrowing the gap to 4-3.

Hoeting drove in a run with another grounder that got under the glove of the shortstop. Stones walked with the bases loaded, scoring David Bixenman to put Colby in front 5-4. The inning ended because of the 5-run limit. Teams can score a maximum of five runs an inning.

Quinter tied the game in the top of the third on an error by Hoeting. The catcher dropped a third strike — his third of the game — and fired a throw to the right of first baseman, Mazanec, who had to come off the bag. One run scored and the batter was safe at first.

The Eagles came back and ticked off three runs in the top of the fourth. Matchell slammed a double and Hartwell singled in the inning. Stones gave himself a hand by ripping a two-run single to make it 10-5. Quinter switched pitchers and Colby scored one more run before the inning ended.

Stones gave up a bloop single to start the top of the fifth, but the Bulldogs were unable to get anything else going. The game ended when Stones caught a batter looking on a called third strike.

With the wins, the Eagles improved to 11-2. They were set to play a doubleheader at 7 p.m. (Central Time) today at Goodland.

Beating the tag



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Jake Thompson slid back in to first base to avoid being picked off during the first game of a doubleheader between the Colby American Legion team and Scott City on Sunday at Young Memorial Field. The Eagles won 21-13, but lost the second match 17-9, and both games ended in the sixth inning under the eight-run rule.

Soccer coach will be evaluated

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — U.S. Soccer Federation president Sunil Gulati says the American team did not meet his expectations at the World Cup and he likely will meet with Bob Bradley after the tournament to discuss the coach's future.

Bradley was hired in December 2006 and has a contract running through the end of the year. The Americans were eliminated last weekend in the second round with a 2-1 overtime loss to Ghana.

"I think the team is capable of more," Gulati said Monday during a one-hour assessment. "I think the players know it. I think Bob knows it. And so at that level, we're disappointed we didn't get to play another 90 minutes at least."

Gulati described Bradley as being "very disappointed" with the outcome.

"The missed opportunity is partly a chance to get to the quarters and the matchup with Uruguay, but it's also a missed opportunity to stay in the American public's eyes for another four, five, six days, maybe 10 days, when interest is at an all-time high," Gulati said. "I have no doubt there will still be people at bars watching games at strange times, that the TV ratings will still be good. But what the ratings might have been for a quarterfinal game or dreaming beyond that, it's certainly a missed opportunity."

Gulati said there was a slight chance he would start discussions with Bradley later Monday before the coach returned to the United States, but that extensive talks probably will wait until Gulati traveled back after the World Cup final on July 11.

"I want to sit down with Bob. I think that's the appropriate thing," Gulati said. "I want to hear his

views, express some of mine and see what makes sense. I think he's done a very good job. I want to make that very clear. ...

"When we've had our 'A' team, the record is pretty darn good. ... The problem is that our expectations have risen pretty sharply and there have been some performances where we didn't play as well as we would have liked."

Gulati said a coach can do only so much.

"I think it ultimately comes down to players," he said. "The expectations have to be realistic. The players that are representing the U.S. are not players at Arsenal and Inter and Real Madrid and Barcelona and Chelsea and Manchester United and so on. The players we were playing against in some of these situations are."

Before Bradley was hired, Gulati held talks with former Germany coach Juergen Klinsmann, who lives in California. Klinsmann withdrew after Major League Soccer refused to guarantee access to players for the CONCACAF Gold Cup and the Copa America in 2007.

At the time, Klinsmann said he hoped Bradley kept the position for a long time.

For Gulati, domestic and foreign coaches both have advantages.

"Having someone who understands the mentality of Americans and American players is a plus. I don't think there's any doubt about that," he said. "On the other side of that, it's also a plus to have played in a World Cup final and coached in a World Cup final, and we don't have anyone that fits that in the United States."

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