

# Lady Trojans lose doubleheader

By Kevin Bottrell

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The Colby Community College softball team lost a pair of games to a boisterous squad from Otero Junior College on Saturday at the college ballfields.

Sophomore pitcher Kristi Sheets started the first game against the Lady Rattlers from La Junta, Colo. She pitched a full game and only allowed one run, but Colby couldn't put anything on the board.

Sophomore Courtney Bloski got into scoring position in the first inning. She walked, made it to second base on a wild pitch and to third on a ground out by freshman Dominique Padilla. However, Bloski was thrown out at home on an infield grounder by sophomore Casey Dirkes.

Freshman Odasia Wright hit a shallow double to left, just over the Otero shortstop's glove. She and Dirkes were left on base when sophomore Chelsea Kinnett grounded out.

Sophomore Kaitlin Wright got on base on an error by the Lady Rattlers' shortstop. She stole second and was initially called out, but the shortstop had dropped the ball and she was called safe. Wright was left at second after two strikeouts ended the inning.

Otero's only run came in the top of the third. With one out, a walk, an infield single and an error by Sheets loaded the bases. Sheets struck out the next batter but walked one home. A fly out ended the inning with no more damage.

Both team's defenses kept things tight the rest of the game. Kaitlin and Odasia Wright each picked up base hits in the fourth and fifth innings.

The Lady Trojans looked as if they might tie the game up in the bottom of the seventh. With two outs, sophomore Audrey Lorenz walked in her first at bat of the game. A single by freshman Ro-



KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

The Otero Junior College shortstop looked to the umpire for a call after Colby's Kaitlin Wright slid into second base in the first game of a doubleheader Saturday. Wright was called out, but the umpires reviewed the play and found the shortstop had dropped the ball and Wright was safe.

chelle Boyce put runners at first and second, but Bloski grounded out to second to end the game.

Freshman Lori Harschbarger started the second game on the mound for the Lady Trojans.

Otero got on the board early with a one-run homer in the top of the first. Dirkes made it on base in the bottom of the first on a tap that went just a few feet from home, but she was stranded when a hard-hit ball from Odasia Wright went right to Otero second baseman Laura Abellanida, who proved troublesome for the Lady Trojans throughout the game.

In the top of the second, an Otero double brought one runner home to make the score 2-0. A two-run homer in the top of the third made it 4-0.

Colby freshman Dakota Loader got a base hit in the bottom of the third. She made it to second on

a single by Bloski. Then Lorenz made an infield hit that went right to the Otero third baseman, who got Loader out at third. Dirkes grounded out to end the inning without any runs.

Kaitlin Wright hit a single to center field in the bottom of the fourth and got to second on a single from Padilla. Wright was driven home on a double to left field by Loader. Padilla then scored on a hit by sophomore Alyssa Mustard, making the score 4-2. Bloski grounded out to the pitcher to end the inning.

Otero brought a runner home in the top of the fifth to make it 5-2. Sheets came in to pitch for Harschbarger. Two fly balls got the Lady Trojans out of the inning with no more damage. With two runners on in the top of the sixth, Otero hit a single past the Colby second baseman to score a runner,

making it 6-2.

In the seventh and final inning, Otero opened up with a triple to right field. That runner was thrown out at home by Padilla. Later, with two runners on, Otero brought one home on a base hit, getting their last run of the game to make it 7-2.

The Lady Trojans tried to get a rally going in their half of the seventh, but couldn't make it happen. Mustard hit an infield grounder, but the throw went over the first baseman's head. Mustard had slid into first and when the throw went wild she picked herself up and tried to run to second, but couldn't beat the throw. Lorenz and Dirkes each hit singles, but were left on base when Odasia Wright grounded out to the shortstop to end the game.

# Dismaying finish for KU Jayhawks

By Jaime Aron

AP Sports Writer

SAN ANTONIO – In Bill Self's eight seasons at Kansas, the Jayhawks have had all sorts of disappointing finishes – back-to-back first-round departures and last year's second-round failure when they were the No. 1 overall seed.

This one might be the worst yet.

Staring down what would've been the easiest path to a national championship in NCAA tournament history, their status as favorites boosted further by being the lone No. 1 seed left, Kansas blew it again.

The Jayhawks got behind early and hardly threatened the rest of the way in a 71-61 loss to 11th-seeded Virginia Commonwealth in the finals of the Southwest regional on Sunday.

"We're crushed," Self said. "We tried real hard and just came up empty against a team that was better than us today."

A victory would've sent Kansas into a Final Four matchup against eighth-seeded Butler, then no better than a No. 3 seed in the finals. But instead of strolling into Houston next weekend as the heavy favorites, Kansas became the third No. 1 seed to lose to a No. 11, joining Connecticut in 2006 and Kentucky in 1986.

It's easy to figure out what went wrong. The Jayhawks made only 35.5 percent of their shots and 9.5 percent of 3-point tries, both season lows.

Their last lead was 10-9. They trailed by a season-high 14 at halftime. The deficit grew to 16 a few seconds later, then Kansas made its lone rally, getting within two points then fading

again.

Unlike the 2008 team that walked out of the Alamodome as national champions, the 2011 Jayhawks walked to the locker room blank-faced, hands on hips, occasionally peeking at the wild celebration around them. Marcus Morris tried holding off the tears, but had to pull his jersey over his face by the time he reached the edge of the court.

"We let them beat us," Markieff Morris said. "We missed a lot of shots we normally make. We missed a lot of free throws that we normally make."

Kansas reached the regional finals on an 11-game winning streak. In the tournament, the Jayhawks hadn't trailed by more than two points, and won by at least 14, in victories over teams seeded 16th, ninth and 12th.

The final minutes were a perfect example of what went wrong for Kansas (35-3).

Marcus Morris missed a short shot, got his own rebound, then missed again, only to see his brother grab the rebound. Just as quickly, VCU's Jamie Skeen snatched the ball from his hands.

Next time down, Tyrel Reed shot an airball on a baseline jumper. Then Marcus Morris threw up a 3-pointer that was way too hard; going for the rebound, he punched the ball out of bounds.

By the time Tyshawn Taylor made a layup with 24 seconds left, the Jayhawks were down eight.

As the final seconds ticked off, thousands of Jayhawks fans stood in stunned silence, arms crossed, while the small group of VCU supporters chanted "Hey, Hey, Goodbye."

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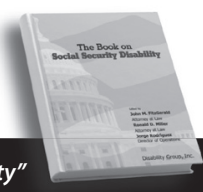
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