

Trojans sweep Butler County

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The Colby Community College baseball team swept a four-game series at Butler County Community College in El Dorado on Sunday and Monday, which catapulted them into the conference lead.

Colby won the series 10-3, 11-1, 5-4 and 16-6. The Trojans are 16-10 overall and 9-3 in the Jayhawk Community College Conference Western Division. After starting the year 0-6, the Trojans have won 16 of their last 20 games.

Sophomore Matt Stevens won his third consecutive start, pitching a complete game in the 10-3 victory in game one Sunday. He allowed three runs on seven hits while striking out four.

Colby broke open a 3-3 tie with a seven-run seventh inning. The Trojans' first eight batters reached base by either a hit or a walk. Brandon Wilson was 2-for-3 with 4 runs batted in. Wilson drove in the first run with a single, scoring Austin Russell. Tyler Hayes was 3-for-4 with a run batted in.

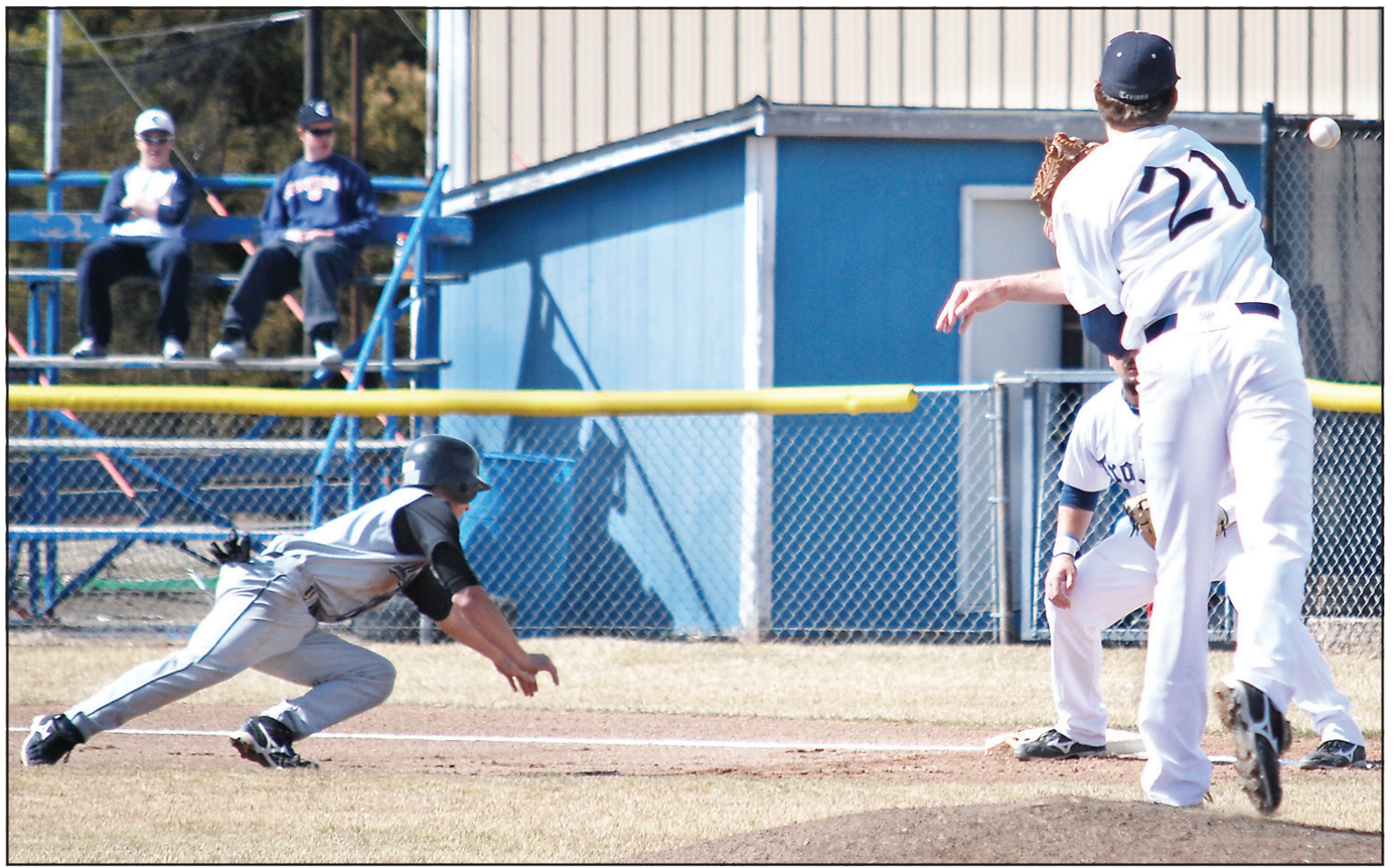
Colby won game two 11-1 be-

hind starter Marshall Dean's complete-game performance. Dean allowed just one earned run on five hits and struck out four. He dominated the Butler offense, not allowing any extra-base hits. Of the 24 outs he recorded, 12 were on ground balls.

Scott Jones was 2-for-4 at the plate with 5 runs batted in. Jones hit his team-leading fifth home run in the fourth inning, a two-run blast that capped off a four-run inning for the Trojans. Jon Cotter was 4-for-5 with 2 runs batted in and Matt Balogh was 3-for-5 with 2 runs scored.

The Trojans held on for a 5-4 victory in game three Monday. The team led 4-0 after 3 1/2 innings, but Butler County scored three runs in the bottom of the fourth. Two of the three runs in the inning came on Trojan errors. Colby got an insurance run in the top of the seventh on a two-out single by Jon Cotter.

The run proved to be key, as Butler loaded the bases in the seventh with one out. R-Jay Joe, relieving for starter Cory Ridenour, balked in a run to make it a 5-4 game. Joe then struck out Butler



Colby sophomore pitcher Matt Stevens, seen here firing one to first base against Lamar Community College, won his third

consecutive game Sunday in the first game of the Trojans' four-game sweep of Butler County Community College in El Dorado.

KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press

clean-up hitter Michael Patman before walking Nick Cocking to load the bases again with two outs. Joe was able to bear down and strike out Ross Cunningham to end the game.

Ridenour earned the win by allowed three runs – one earned – in six innings. Joe earned a save despite loading the bases in the seventh. Cotter was 2-for-3 in the victory with 2 runs batted in. Zach

Wilson was 2-for-3 with 2 runs scored and Nick Bata had two hits including a home run.

The Colby offense pounded out 17 hits in the finale Monday, leading to a 16-6 victory. Drew Pose-

gate earned his fifth victory of the season despite allowing six runs in seven innings. Bata, Jones and Hayes each had 3 hits. Hayes was 3-for-5 with a double and 6 runs batted in.

Royals head to regular season with six-game winning streak

SURPRISE, Ariz. (AP) – The Kansas City Royals are ready to see what Alex Gordon can do with his revamped swing during the regular season.

Gordon went 0 for 2 in Kansas City's 3-2 victory over the Chicago White Sox on Tuesday, but hit .343 with six homers and 23 RBIs during spring training. The outfielder changed his swing over the winter under the guidance of hitting coach Kevin Seitzer and the Royals were so pleased with the results that manager Ned Yost moved Gordon to the third slot in the batting order.

Gordon has not hit third since 2008, when he batted .221 with 10 homers and 36 RBIs batting in that slot. Gordon, the second player selected in the 2005 draft, is a career .244 hitter in 408 games.

Yost's adjusted lineup has Billy Butler, a right-handed hitter, batting cleanup between Gordon and Kila Ka'aihue, two lefty batters.

"I'm trying to split the lefties between Kila and Gordon and put some speed in the order above Billy, trying to keep him out of some double play situations," Yost said.

The Royals break camp with six straight victories and a 20-10-1 record.

"Your whole goal is to play .500 and play consistent and we've gone way above that," Yost said. "We've had a great spring. You look back over the spring and we've really played one bad game. So consistency has been there in all phases of our game, and I'm very, very pleased with the way we're finishing up spring training."

The Royals hit .308 and led the majors with 220 runs.

Bruce Chen picked up the victory in the finale, holding the White Sox to Adam Dunn's homer in the first and four hits in five innings. The veteran left-hander, who won 12 games for Kansas City last season, walked four and struck out four.

Chen finished the spring with a 3-1 record and a 3.96 ERA in six games.

The Royals scored all their runs in the third. Jeff Francoeur's sacrifice fly drove in Butler, who led off with a double. Brayan Pena homered with Alcides Escobar aboard.

The White Sox also scored in the sixth when rookie reliever Jeremy Jeffress walked three, including one with the bases loaded, and had a wild pitch.

Mariners defeat Rockies 7-2

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz. (AP) – Doug Fister picked the perfect time for his first scoreless outing of the spring.

Fister pitched four solid innings, Ryan Langerhans delivered a bases-loaded triple and the Seattle Mariners ended their stay in Arizona with a 7-2 victory over the Colorado Rockies on Tuesday.

Jack Cust hit a two-run homer and Miguel Olivo added two hits for the Mariners, who play a final exhibition game at Dodger Stadium before opening the season in Oakland on Friday.

Fister called his start "a struggle," despite allowing just two hits. The right-hander walked three and struck out two.

"There were quite a few pitches that were not where I wanted," said Fister, who makes his next start Sunday in Oakland. "Olivo and I are on the same page and he's doing a terrific job. I had to try and make adjustments from pitch to pitch."

Fister gave up 25 hits, walked 10 and struck out 10 in 23 1-3 innings this spring.

He insists there are better days ahead.

"I feel like I'm right there with my delivery," he said. "I have to focus, make it a priority. I keep fighting myself until I can get it mentally. I have to let myself go. Luckily that's why we have spring training, to work on those things."

Troy Tulowitzki hit a two-run homer for the Rockies, who play in Tulsa before returning home for the season opener.

Rockies starter Jhoulys Chacin yielded four runs and five hits over five innings. He walked three and struck out six.

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