



# Colby High tennis team has first meet at Cimarron

The Colby High School boys tennis team has some improving to do, and they know it.

Only one Eagle, freshman Michael Schiferl, picked up a win in Thursday's tournament at Cimarron. Schiferl beat Cimarron's Charles Shaughnessy 6-1 in No. 1 singles. He lost to players from Ulysses and Meade 6-4 and 6-0 and placed fourth overall.

"Michael did an excellent job during his matches," said coach Matt Ludwick. "I truly believe that the heat got to him in the final match, but he showed a great amount of integrity and skill."

In No. 2 singles, sophomore Aaron Higerd lost three matches against players from Ulysses and Southwestern Heights from Kismet. Ludwick said Higerd came into the tournament with no experience, but was becoming more comfortable by the final match. He placed sixth overall.

Sophomores Randy Colling and Dylan McLemore lost three matches at No. 1 doubles, placing sixth overall. The pair hung in against Alan Burl and Elgin Wespe of Cimarron,

losing 6-3.

"Randy and Dylan learned to cooperate and earn some points during their game," the coach said. "Once they improve their serves and net play, they should be a tough team to beat."

In No. 2 doubles, freshmen Kaden Staab and Billy Selley also lost three matches, finishing in sixth place. Ludwick said he enjoyed their aggression, which will prove useful.

"Overall, I am extremely proud of the team," Ludwick said. "All but one had never played in a tennis tournament and they are excited now not only to work on skills to be better, but also to know how these tennis tournaments are run."

"I asked them how they felt, and they said they knew what they need to work on. I know that once they get a few more tournaments under their belts, their game will improve dramatically. These guys are dedicated men and they have what it takes to be successful tennis player."

The Eagles play next at 3 p.m. Tuesday at Trego Community High in WaKeeney.

# Rockies shut down Pirates' late rally

PITTSBURGH (AP) – The Pirates' comeback ended when rookie Mike Crotta lost control.

Crotta walked three of the four batters he faced in the seventh, including a pass to Seth Smith with the bases loaded to force in the go-ahead run in the Colorado Rockies' 6-5 win over Pittsburgh on Sunday.

The loss capped a 1-3 opening home series for the Pirates, dropping them to 5-5 after beginning the season by winning four of six on the road – a start that had Pittsburgh fans hoping this squad could finally end a string of 18 straight losing seasons.

"Tough day," said Crotta (0-1), who was charged with the first run of his career. "I just didn't execute my pitches. That's my job. You come in and got to get outs, and it's tough to get outs when you walk people."

Starter James McDonald settled in after allowing six of the first eight batters to reach, allowing the Pirates to score five unanswered runs before they went hitless over the final five innings.

All four batters who faced Crotta reached base after he relieved McDon-

ald with two outs and a runner on with Pittsburgh clinging to a 5-4 lead in the seventh. Jason Giambi's RBI single tied the game.

Pittsburgh had only one baserunner after the end of the fourth – on a Jose Tabata seventh-inning walk. Tabata stole second, but cleanup hitter Lyle Overbay struck out looking to end the threat.

The Pirates scored 14 runs in the equivalent of 4 1/2 games – including a 14-inning victory Friday – on 28 hits in 41 innings.

"Can we improve on offense? Yes, we can," manager Clint Hurdle said.

Colorado's bullpen was nearly flawless and the Rockies improved to 6-2 – their second-best start in franchise history. If not for two extra-inning losses, they'd be unbeaten.

Jose Lopez hit a three-run homer and Smith had an RBI single in the first inning to give the Rockies a 4-0 lead. Colorado has been alone in first place in the NL West five straight days for the first time since 2006.

Last season, the Rockies were awful on the road, posting a 31-50 record.

"There were a lot of things we didn't do well on the road last year," manager Jim Tracy said. "So we went back to the drawing board in spring training and brought up bullet points as far as 31-50 – why did it happen? We have certainly addressed some things. We've done a better job of executing."


Jhoulys Chacin (2-0) allowed four earned runs and seven hits in six innings as Colorado's starters improved to 5-0 this season. But they wouldn't be unblemished if not for the Rockies' relievers. Felipe Paulino, Matt Reynolds, Matt Lindstrom and Street combined for three hitless, scoreless innings.

McDonald managed to stay around until the seventh after the rocky first. He has had nice success against Colorado, recording three of his nine career wins against the Rockies.

But whatever comfort the right-hander had against them wasn't evident in the first when he struggled with his control, and the Rockies pounced with Lopez's second homer, a shot into the left-field seats that dropped the Pirates into a 4-0 hole.




KEVIN BOTTRELL/Colby Free Press  
Colby High junior varsity pitcher Haley Mengel wound up for a pitch early in the Lady Eagle's 11-6 victory over Ulysses on Friday.



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*Pictured above from the left: Robert L. Bassett, MD - Alex F. DeCarvalho, MD  
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