

Colby team holds first baseball camp to coach area youth

By Kayla Cornett
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There is an expression that says "Those who cannot do, teach." The Colby High School baseball team proved it doesn't believe this expression Saturday, however, and it plans to prove it wrong each year from now on.

The team held its first baseball camp for boys between the ages of nine and 13, where coaches and players shared their knowledge of baseball all day.

The camp went from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The head coach of Colby's baseball team, Rick Williams, said the purpose of the camp was to teach the basics of the game.

"We worked on all facets of the game; we had base-running, pitching and catching, infield, outfield and hitting," Williams said. "We're introducing a lot of the mechanics that we do at the high school level that made us successful."

Williams said some of the players have experience while others do not, but they wanted to get

all of the boys ready for the next step.

"We kind of want to get that (mechanics) started at the younger age so the adjustment to the next level is a little easier," he said.

The first half of the camp consisted of stations for learning each area. In the second half, the boys played a game against one another and put what they learned into action.

Colby players stood in different parts of the field and provided help and encouragement to the boys. The coaches mainly stayed near the dugout, giving the players assistance when needed, but one coach was always on the pitcher's mound with the pitcher and would show him how to correct pitches when necessary.

After the camp was over, Williams talked to the players and their parents, letting the boys know they could always call him or the other coaches and players to ask questions. He also handed out a performance evaluation to each player.

"We just evaluated them on things we think they could work

on, their strengths and things they did well," Williams said. "Hopefully, they kind of take this and they'll kind of direct their summer on what they need to work on. That's the goal."

Williams said overall he was happy with the turnout he had for the camp.

"We had quite a few kids, so we were happy with the number," he said. "We'd like to get a few more next year. For the first time we've done it, we thought we had a pretty good number."

Williams also has more plans for next year's camp due to some late planning this year.

"We just kind of organized it a little bit late this year so next year we hope to have it a little earlier, maybe before school gets out," he said. "What we'd like to do next year is get a lot of kids from towns around us. We just kind of came up with the idea late."

Still, Williams said the camp went really well.

"They did a really good job," he said. "They worked hard and I think they learned a lot."



Kayla Cornett/Colby Free Press

A participant in the Colby High School baseball camp fielded a hit Saturday during a scrimmage at the Colby Recreation Fields.

Royals snap losing streak in extra innings

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — If reliever Marc Rzepczynski could have found the strike zone in the seventh, there might not have been any need for the Toronto Blue Jays to play extra innings.

Eric Hosmer hit a game-ending single in the 11th inning Monday night, helping the Kansas City Royals beat the Jays 3-2 to snap a four-game losing streak.

The Royals tied it in the bottom of the seventh when Rzepczynski walked three, including Hosmer with the bases loaded to tie it. He threw only one strike in 13 pitches before being replaced by Octavio Dotel.

"I just didn't throw strikes," Rzepczynski said. "You've got to let them hit the ball. I was fine in the bullpen. Usually when I miss it's to the arm side. Tonight it was down. It's just one of those days when I didn't throw strikes. No matter what pitch I threw, I missed."

He replaced Shawn Camp, who yielded a single to Matt Treanor, with two outs in the seventh and the Blue Jays up 2-1. Rzepczynski threw a first-pitch strike to Alex Gordon and then proceeded to throw 12 consecutive balls.

"The three walks was the turning point there to extend the game," Toronto manager John Farrell said. "It was a small strike zone that everybody was dealing with the whole night."

Hosmer had a hand in all three of Kansas City's runs with two RBIs and scored a run. Chris Getz led off the Royals 11th with a bunt single off Frank Francisco (1-3) and stopped at second on Brayan Pena's groundball single to left. Alcides Escobar moved the runners up with a sacrifice bunt. Alex Gordon was walked intentionally to load the bases with one out. After Melky Cabrera lined out to third, Hosmer delivered the game-winning hit.

Joakim Soria (4-3), who was removed from the closer's role May 30 after blowing three saves in a week, picked up the victory. He did not allow a hit in two innings.

Francisco, the seventh Toronto pitcher, gave up a run on three hits and a walk.

Felipe Paulino, who was making his second start for Royals and third appearance since being acquired May 26 from Colorado, held the Blue Jays hitless until Jayson Nix singled to lead off the sixth.

The Jays got an unearned run in the fourth when Yunel Escobar reached first on Mike Aviles' throwing error to lead off the inning. He advanced to second on a wild pitch, took third on a ground-out and scored on Jose Bautista's grounder.

The Royals answered with an unearned run in the bottom of the fourth when Hosmer was safe at first on Escobar's throwing error to start the inning. He scored on Aviles' two-out triple, the first hit Brandon Morrow allowed.

Morrow held the Royals to one unearned run and two hits over six innings, while striking out five and walking three.

Recreation department plans volleyball camp and fair

There is a three-day volleyball camp for grades 3-6 from June 20 to 22, Monday through Wednesday at the Community Building, Cost is \$25. For more information, contact the Colby Recreation Department at (785) 460-4440.

has been postponed until July. The Fire Cracker Fair will be on Wednesday, June 29, at the Community Building. There will be crafts and games from 10 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$10. Sign up by June 17 through the Colby Recreation Department at (785) 460-4440.

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