



Colby loses some, wins one this week

By Kayla Cornett

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The Colby K-18 baseball team didn't have much going for them Wednesday night, and they fell in both games to McCook at the Colby Recreation Fields.

Colby was lacking offense throughout both games, and it was only able to score one run the whole night. Even then, it came in the first game in the bottom of the second inning off of a wild pitch.

McCook, however, had no problem capitalizing on Colby's pitchers. It scored 15 runs in the first game and an additional 5 in the second.

Colby's first pitcher, Casey Quagliano, had 1 strikeout, 5 walks and 2 wild pitches that allowed 1 run each. He was pulled in the top of the third inning and Caleb Mazenec replaced him, but that didn't help much. In a single inning, he walked 4 batters and the rest of the batters combined for 4 runs batted in. The game was called at the end of the third with a score of 15-1 when Colby failed to produce any more runs.

The second game faired better for Colby in the beginning, as both teams remained scoreless until the top of the third. The first score, however, was a fly out to center that brought in 1 run for McCook. Then, the next batter hit a one-bounce ball to center for another run batted in.

Once again, Colby struggled with batting and couldn't get any runners home. In the bottom of the second, Colby had the bases loaded with only 1 out, but a strikeout and a ground out ended the inning.

There was another chance in the bottom of the fourth when Josh Matchell ran home on a base hit, but the throw beat him to the plate and he was called out. After five innings, the game was called with a score of 5-0.

Colby had more games to look forward to Thursday night when it played another double header, this time against Goodland, at the Colby Recreation Fields.

The second game of the night brought Colby a much-needed win. Goodland started with a 3-run lead in the top of the first inning, but Colby came right back and led 4-3 by the end of the inning.

Both teams kept battling it out each inning, and Colby only had a slight lead of 8-6 by the bottom of the fourth inning. That's when they broke loose. Mazenec scored on a wild pitch while Ben Matchell was up to bat. Matchell then slammed a triple to deep right field which brought in another run. The next batter up, Quagliano, brought in another run with a base hit to right field, bringing the score to 11-6.

Josh Matchell grounded the ball to second base, but beat the throw. It brought 1 runner home and loaded the bases. Mazenec was

walked, giving Colby an automatic run, and the umpire decided to end the inning.

Goodland only brought in 1 run in the top of the fifth inning, so the game was called after Ben Matchell dove for a fly ball and caught it for the third out. The final score was 13-7.

The first game had been a frustrating one for Colby. Goodland was leading 1-0 for three innings, but the top of the fourth gave it a much larger lead.

Brady Holzmeister had been pitching well the first three innings, and his teammates were making plays. In the fourth, Holzmeister had 4 walks, 2 of which came while the bases were loaded so Goodland received automatic runs, and that is when Goodland got its bats started.

Another 3 runs were brought in when Holzmeister was replaced by Austin Hart. A couple of errors in the field brought in another 3 runs and the score was 9-0.

Goodland scored another 6 runs in the top of the fifth, and Colby had to score in the bottom of the inning to keep the game going. Chase Hartwell hit to the shortstop with Hart on base. Hartwell beat the throw and Hart made it home, scoring the only run of the game. A strikeout ended the inning and the game, with a score of 15-1.

Colby goes on the road tonight to McCook for two games, and then Oakley tomorrow for two more.



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press

Casey Quagliano (above) threw a pitch in the first game against McCook Wednesday at the Colby Recreation Fields. Colby went on to lose 15-1. Caleb Mazenec (right) waited for a throw to first base. The runner was called safe.



Texas Rangers fan dies after falling from grandstands

By Stephen Hawkins

AP Sports Writer

ARLINGTON, Texas — A Texas Rangers fan died after falling about 20 feet onto concrete reaching out for a baseball tossed his way by All-Star outfielder Josh Hamilton during a game.

Shannon Stone, a 39-year-old firefighter from Brownwood, died at a hospital Thursday night, the Tarrant County Medical Examiner's Office said.

Stone was a lieutenant and had been with the Brownwood Fire Department nearly 18 years, said City Manager Bobby Rountree. Brownwood is about 150 miles southwest of Arlington.

Stone was at the game with his young son, who watched as his dad tumbled over the outfield railing after catching the ball.

Arlington Fire Department officials said Stone, who witnesses said was conscious after the fall, "went into full arrest" while being transported by ambulance. He was pronounced dead at a Fort Worth hospital less than an hour after he fell.

"We had a very tragic accident tonight and one of our fans lost their life reaching over the rail trying to get a ball," team president Nolan Ryan said somberly after the Rangers' 6-0 victory over Oakland. "As an organization, and as our team members and our staff, we're very heavy-hearted about this, and our thoughts and prayers go out to the family."

Ronnie Hargis was sitting next to Stone in the first row of seats in left field. The men had been talking before the accident. Hargis reached out to try to grab Stone, who fell headfirst through a gap of several feet that is between the seats and the 14-foot-high outfield wall.

"He went straight down. I tried to grab him, but I couldn't," Hargis said. "I tried to slow him down a little bit."

The area where Stone landed was out of sight from the field.

It is the second fatal fall at a major league stadium this season. In May, a 27-year-old man died after he fell about 20 feet and struck his head on concrete during a Colorado Rockies game. Witnesses told police that the man had been trying to slide down a staircase railing at Coors Field and lost his balance during a game against Arizona.

There was an audible gasp in the stands at Rangers Ballpark when Stone tumbled over the rail, eerily similar to an accident there almost exactly a year earlier. Another firefighter fell about 30 feet from the second-deck of seats down the right-field line while trying to catch a foul ball on July 6, 2010.

Tyler Morris, a firefighter from the Lake Cities Fire Department near Dallas, sustained a fractured skull and sprained ankle last year when he dropped onto seats where other fans were sitting.

The latest accident happened in the second inning after Oakland's

Conor Jackson hit a foul ball that ricocheted into left field. Hamilton, the reigning AL MVP elected by fans to start his fourth consecutive All-Star game next week, retrieved the ball and tossed it into the stands as players routinely do.

Safawna Dunn, who was sitting nearby, said Stone was calling for Hamilton to throw him the ball. Dunn said the victim was conscious when he was taken away on a stretcher.

Ryan described Hamilton as being "very distraught over this, as the entire team is."

The Rangers' clubhouse was closed to reporters after the game.

Rangers starter Derek Holland, who pitched a four-hit shutout, turned and glanced briefly at people looking down where Stone had land behind the outfield wall that supports a video board for replays and scores. Catcher Mike Napoli had motioned toward the outfield and Jackson looked that way as well before play resumed.

Between innings, Rangers

manager Ron Washington spoke briefly with one of the umpires. Texas designated hitter Michael Young could be seen talking to A's catcher Kurt Suzuki and pointing toward where last year's fall happened.

"We knew about it, we didn't know exactly what happened," Washington said. "It's sad, it's very sad."

Oakland reliever Brad Ziegler was in the visitor's bullpen in left-center field, which can be accessed through the area where Stone fell.

Ziegler was in tears after the game when he found out about the death. The pitcher said when Stone was put on a stretcher, he told people tending to him that his son was "up there by himself" and asked them to check on the boy.

"He had his arms swinging. He talked and was conscious. We assumed he was OK," Ziegler said. "But when you find out he's not, it's just tough."

Former President George W. Bush, who used to be the team's

Track star dies at 81

LAWRENCE (AP) — Former University of Kansas cross-country and track star Herb Semper has died. He was 81.

The university said in a statement Tuesday that Semper, a member of the Kansas Athletics Hall of Fame, died June 26.

Semper was a member of the Kansas cross-country program under head coach Bill Easton from 1949-52.

Semper became the first Jayhawk to win an NCAA championship, winning in 1950 and 1951. The university said Semper remains the only runner in KU history to win two cross-country individual national championships.

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