

Colby boys win two at home

By Kayla Cornett
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The Colby High varsity baseball team swept two games Tuesday against Russell, winning the first 4-3 and the second 7-2 at the city ball fields.

The Eagles did well on the field in game one, committing only one error and keeping all hits to singles. Pitcher Zack Stones threw 7 strikeouts and allowed 3 runs, 6 hits and 1 walk.

"Zack turned in as good a pitching performance as I have seen," Coach Rick Williams said. "He did a great job of working ahead and struck out seven and only walked one guy. The guy they threw was their ace, and he beat us last year, so it was nice to win that one."

Williams said this was Stones' first varsity win.

The boys mirrored Russell's struggles at bat, finishing the game with 5 hits, all singles, but were able to score 4 runs off of them. They left 9 runners on base. Jordan Rasmussen, Luke Cox, Braden Sager and Todd Kane (2) all had hits.

"Todd Kane came through in the clutch to get the walk-off single in the bottom of the seventh," Williams said. "Todd has been swinging it well this year, and he was the perfect guy to have up in that situation."

"I was really impressed with our toughness as a team and our ability to grind out a win."

Game two was much better for the Eagles. Russell was able to score its 2 runs early on, but Colby shut them down from the third inning on.

Austin Boehme was on the mound, throwing 2 strikeouts and allowing 2 runs, 7 hits and 2 walks. The boys made 4 errors in



KAYLA CORNETT/Colby Free Press
Braden Sager prepared to tag a Russell runner at first Tuesday during a Colby High baseball game at the city ball fields. The Eagles won two games against Russell, the first 4-3 and the second 7-2.

the game.

Williams said Boehme was making his first varsity start at any position and it was actually the first time he had seen the varsity field.

"Austin was a little nervous early and struggled a bit, but then settled in great," he said. "He got out of a big jam in the first and then another in the second, but then settled in and cruised in the

last five innings.

"It was a great outing for Austin and we learned that we have some pitching depth on this team."

"Russell pitched their No. 2 in this game, so it was great to beat their No. 1 and 2 pitchers with the No. 3 and 4 guys in our rotation."

Colby had 5 hits again in this game, but Russell's pitcher helped them out with 7 walks. Only two players struck out, but once again

9 runners were left on base.

Rasmussen, Cox and Kane each hit a double (Rasmussen's off an error) and Macen Shull and Troy Quenzer had singles for the Eagles.

"We did a great job in this game of taking advantage of Russell's mistakes," Williams said.

The varsity will play its next games in Goodland at 4 p.m. Tuesday.

Wrestling club places 13 kids

The Colby Kids Wrestling Club had 13 wrestlers place at the Kansas Kids State Wrestling Tournament in Topeka on March 24 and 25 and the team took 12th out of 161 teams.

In the high school division, Konnor Kriss took first place, Dustin Reed first and Beau Brown fifth.

In the other divisions, Declan Ryan, Hagan Booi and Tyler Voss finished third, Rathe Aschenbrenner and Tucker Brannum sixth and Braiden Lynn fourth.

Tate Carney came in third, Ernie Leija sixth, Ben Matchell fifth and Ethan Jay second.

Middle school girls win first track meet

By Russ Aumiller
Golden Plains Middle School

The Golden Plains Middle School track teams opened their season at the Cheylin Invitational in Bird City.

The weather cooperated, giving us a beautiful day March 30 for the meet. Nine teams competed: Wallace County, Brewster, Triplains, Grinnell-Wheatland, Weskan, Idalia, Colo., Heartland Christian, Cheylin and Golden Plains.

Kyndra Rush took first in all three of her events, the triple jump at 28'11"; the 100 meters, 14.21 seconds; and the 800 meters 2:58.8.

Kami Miller did the same, winning the 75-meter hurdles in 12.77; the long jump with 14'11.5"; and the 200 meters in 30.8 seconds.

The eighth-grade girls finished in first place with 109 points, just one point ahead of Grinnell-Wheatland. Other events scoring

points for the team included:

Taylor Petersen: first, discus 62 feet, 3 inches; second, shot put 31'9".

Kaycie Clapp: fourth, triple jump, 26'3.5".

Madison Walz: fifth, 400 meters 1:21.24.

4 x 100 relay: second, 1:06, Brianna Stoll, Walz, Petersen, Josie Franz.

4 x 200 relay: first, 2:13.95, Miller, Clapp, Brianna Stoll, Rush.

Medley relay: third, 2:29.28, Petersen, Walz, Clapp, Stoll.

The eighth grade boys scored 14 points for seventh place. Points were scored by:

Cole Ziegelmeier: second, 800 meters, 2:37.4; fifth, 75-meter hurdles, 14.66.

Koi Wessel: fourth, discus, 84'6".

Nuggets win crucial game 101-86

By Arnie Stapleton
AP Sports Writer

DENVER — Once the Denver Nuggets started making stops and running the Houston Rockets ragged, it seemed nothing went wrong for them.

A telling sequence came at the start of the fourth quarter when JaVale McGee blocked Chase Budinger's shot, Arron Afflalo saved the ball in front of the Nuggets' bench to Andre Miller, who took one step and threw a three-quarter court alley-oop pass to Corey Brewer for a slam dunk.

That put an exclamation on the Nuggets' 101-86 win Sunday night in the opener of a crucial home-and-home set between playoff hopefuls.

"He's a pretty amazing dude, where he throws the ball, I don't think many people in basketball ever think about doing that," Nuggets coach George Karl said. "And to throw it as far as he throws it on the mark, it's pretty amazing to me."

"He's the best," Brewer concurred. "If you run, Andre's going to get you the ball in the perfect position. All you have to do is go up and dunk..."

Or slam it down. The Nuggets did plenty of both in the second half as they erased a 49-43 halftime deficit thanks to a 37-19 third-quarter spurt.

Afflalo scored 18 of his 20 points in the second half and Ty Lawson also scored 20 with Brewer chipping in 14 points, most on fast breaks that changed the tenor of this game.

The teams play again in Houston on Monday night, and now the pressure is squarely on the Rockets, who have lost three straight and saw their four-game road win-

ning streak snapped.

"They're going to play with an anger and an urgency that their season is in trouble in they lose tomorrow," Karl said.

The teams are clinging to the final two playoff spots in the West, trying to fend off fast-charging Phoenix and Utah.

With their season-best fifth straight home win, the Nuggets took sole possession of seventh place in the Western Conference, a half game behind Dallas, which lost in overtime to the Los Angeles Lakers earlier Sunday.

Budinger and Luis Scola each scored 19 to lead the Rockets, who lost to the Suns and Jazz at home in the last week.

The Nuggets opened the fourth quarter with the amazing play in which Miller threw the ball three-quarters of the court for Brewer's

slam, one of his season-high 11 assists.

The Nuggets outscored Houston 29-10 on the fastbreak, including 17-3 in the second half, when Houston shot just 32 percent to Denver's 54.

Budinger said the Rockets know exactly what has to change for them to reverse both team's fortunes Monday night.

"We just need to get back," Budinger said. "This was a good learning lesson for us just because they got so many fastbreak points on us..."

Karl said his team had to treat its final seven games like a playoff series, suggesting they had to win four games at minimum to reach the playoffs for a ninth consecutive season. All but one of their remaining opponents are playoff-caliber teams.

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