

Trojan baseball team beats Highland college, advances to round two of playoffs in Kansas

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The Colby Community College baseball team will advance to the second round of the regional playoffs after winning two of three games against Highland Community College here over the weekend.

On Saturday, the Trojans came away with a 16-14 win in the first game, but were buried by the Scotties in the second game, 16-2, in a game which was cut off at 7 innings because of a playoff mercy rule. They went to Highland one Sunday, however, and came home with a 4-2 win.

A press release from the college said the Trojans will play Crowley Community College Friday in round two of the National Junior College Athletic Association playoffs for Region 6, which covers the state of Kansas.

In the first game Saturday, Colby picked up 5 runs in the bottom of the first inning. Ryan Ihle hit a home run, but Filey Perez and Jacob Nath both struck out.

Ihle hit a pop fly deep into center field the next inning which was caught, but the sacrifice scored a run. A double play took a runner and batter Hunter Brown out to end the second.

Daniel Mackay, the Trojans' starting pitcher, allowed 4 runs in the second. Two Scotties ran home when Grant Buchanan, the shortstop, threw to third baseman Bolte and missed.

Mackay was replaced in the third inning, when the Scotties hit 6 runs home. Highland's Alex Head hit a homer and the Scotties loaded up the bases and got another RBI before Joshua Jones took over on the mound for the Trojans with no outs.

In a preview of what would happen in the next game, the Scotties moving around the diamond, picking up 4 more runs before the inning came to a close.

The Trojans managed to hang on in the third inning, getting 4 runs of their own. Bolte made it to first, and when Buchanan stepped up to the plate, the bases were loaded. He got two more RBIs before Brown's pop fly was caught to end the inning.

With Jones pitching, Highland was scoreless for the next three innings. In the fifth, they got a man on base when first baseman Perez jumped to catch a throw from Jones and didn't land on the bag in time.

Colby did not score in the bottom of the fourth inning, but defensive mistakes continued when two Scotties ran for Ihle's pop fly to center field and missed it — one of several errors that seemed to plague both teams on defense — allowing him to get on first. The inning ended when Duncan Izaaks hit into a double play with Drake Biggins on first. The Trojans got two runs in the bottom of the fifth.

Nath and Matt Benn both got RBI's and Nath almost made it to home plate, but was tagged out to end the inning.



Colby Community College pitcher Jorge Cruz stepped onto the mound in the bottom of the ninth inning to help seal a 16-14 win over Highland Community College in the Trojans' first game in Round 1 of the regional playoffs Saturday afternoon on campus.

The Scotties advanced in the sixth when Colby's catcher dropped a ball, but Highland's No. 7 got out when he hit a line drive straight to first base, and the inning ended.

In the bottom of the sixth, Izaaks hit a line drive straight at the first baseman, but it bounced off his glove and two Trojans ran home while Izaaks got on first. Colby picked up 5 runs in that inning.

Both teams were scoreless in the seventh, but the Scotties picked up their last three runs in

the eighth when Highland's Tyler Goldsberry hit a homer with 2 on. Andres Gimeno then took over on the mound for Jones.

Jorge Cruz took the mound in the ninth and helped end the game with a Trojans win.

Buchanan and Ihle each scored 3 runs in that game, and Nath, Perez and Izaaks made 2 each. Ihle had 4 RBI's, while Nath and Izaaks both batted 2 runners in. Jones struck out 5.

The second game was a different story for Colby. The Trojans picked up their only two runs in

the first inning, and the Scotties picking up run after run each time they were up.

Benn's pop fly hit the fence in left field, allowing Buchanan to run home in the bottom of the first, but Ihle was out at first to end the inning.

With Nick Silva pitching for the Trojans, Highland scored 5 runs in the second. Jordan Oddo hit a home run in, and after that Tyler Lane batted Coty McNutt in, then ran in himself when Andrew Standish hit a double. Highland's Justin Paul hit a foul into the

catcher's glove to finally end the inning, but he picked up an RBI in the top of the third after Gregg Gausden took over as pitcher.

The Scotties got two more runs in the third, but stayed scoreless in the fourth.

In the fifth, Paul got on first on an error by the third baseman, who dropped it, and did not throw to second in quite enough time to get Standish out. The Scotties scored 4 times that inning and twice in the sixth.

Both teams stayed scoreless in the seventh, when the mercy rule kicked in to end a painful game for the Trojans. Playoffs games are usually 9 innings, but will end if one team is up by 8 or more runs at the end of the seventh.

Buchanan and Bolte scored the 2 first inning runs for the Trojans. Silva struck out 3, but allowed 8 hits and 8 runs. Gausden had four strikeouts, but allowed 7 hits and 6 runs.

By Sunday, both teams were playing better defense, with total number of runs between them kept to 6. Colby scored once in the second inning and three times in the sixth; Nath, Brown, Benn and Ihle each picked up a run, and Perez batted in two.

David Johnson pitched most the game for Colby, allowing 6 hits but only one run. He struck out 8 batters. Cruz allowed the other one, though no Scotties got a hit in the inning he pitched. Reliever Jay Joe pitched part of an inning, allowing one hit but no runs.

High School golf team lost at meet in Ulysses

The Colby High golf team came in last at a golf tournament in Ulysses, but did better at two events earlier last week.

"It's good regional experience," said Coach Matt Sims said of the Ulysses tournament. "I think our guys walked away thinking they could have played a little better."

David Browne shot a 97 at the regional meet, Ian Koerperich 101, Jaden Morrison 113, Gage James 123, Brennon Overton 130 and Bryce Arnberger 135.

At the Oakley Varsity Tournament on Tuesday, the Eagles came in fifth out of 10 schools, with a team total of 393 strokes.

Plainville took first with a team score of 340, Rawlins County was second with 341, Oakley third with 374 and Hill City fourth with 387. Wallace County was sixth, Hoxie seventh and Wheatland/Grinnell, Triplains and Goodland also had golfers at the tournament.

Individually, Browne shot an 81 and took the third-place medal. James had a 103, Jaden Morrison 104, Carter Morrison 105 and Arnberger 106.

Colby then came in fifth out of six teams at home Friday, with a team score of 382.

There were 35 individual med-



KEVIN BOTRELL/Goodland-Star News
Gage James prepared to shoot Friday at the Colby Invitational golf tournament at Meadow Lake Golf Course. He shot a 98 and took 19th place out of 35 individually-recognized players.

alists at the tournament. Browne took 11th place with a score of 88, Morrison was 16th with 96, James 19th with 98, Ian, 20th with 100, Tanner Lee 23rd with 105, Arnberger 28th with 110, Tucker Gerstner 34th, 125, and Overton 35th with 126.

Placings for the other teams: Goodland was first, with a team score of 324; Oberlin second, with 343; Rawlins County third, 355; Scott City fourth, 370; and Norton sixth, 439.

Vote almost unanimous on MVP for Miami Heat star LeBron James

MIAMI (AP) — LeBron James was at his best this season, and the voters tasked with selecting the NBA's Most Valuable Player took notice.

Every voter except one, that is.

The NBA still does not have a unanimous MVP, though no one has come closer than James did this season. The Miami Heat star was presented with the Maurice Podoloff Trophy for the fourth time in his career on Sunday after collecting 120 of the 121 first-place votes, with Carmelo Anthony of the New York Knicks picking up the lone remaining top choice.

"It was probably a writer out of New York that didn't give me that vote," James said. "And we know the history between the Heat and the Knicks, so I get it."

A panel of 120 sports writers and broadcasters cast ballots in the NBA MVP voting, with a combined online fan vote also being taken into account.

Shaquille O'Neal got every first-place vote but one in the 1999-2000 season, when one person cast his ballot for Allen Iverson — who finished seventh that year. This season, Kevin Durant of the Oklahoma City Thunder finished second, well ahead of Anthony, who was third and didn't even appear on nine of the ballots cast. James was the only player listed on all 121 ballots; Durant was omitted from two, according

to the results released by the NBA.

"I'll take that vote," Anthony said, adding that James was a deserving winner.

For months, there really had only been two questions about this season's MVP race: When will James get the award, and would the results be unanimous? The first of those answers became known Friday, the other on Sunday, and even as he was on the dais to pick up the award the now-four-time MVP quickly started steering all of his attention back to the goal of helping the Heat win a second straight title.

Miami hosts Chicago in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals on Monday night, when NBA Commissioner David Stern will present James with the trophy, largely just for the benefit of giving Heat fans a pregame reason to cheer.

"My ultimate goal is to win an NBA championship," James said. "That's what I was brought here

for. That's why I signed here as a free agent in 2010. It wasn't to win MVP trophies. It was to win a championship — and win multiple championships — and that's still my No. 1 priority."

James averaged 26.8 points, 8.0 rebounds and 7.3 assists this season, leading Miami to a league-best 66-16 record while shooting a career-high 56 percent. Only Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (six), Michael Jordan (five), Bill Russell (five) and Wilt Chamberlain (four) have as many MVP awards, only Russell won four in a five-year span, and only Abdul-Jabbar went back-to-back twice, like James did with trophies in 2009 and 2010 and now again in 2012 and 2013.

Sunday's ceremony was filled with tributes and even some laughs, like when James' younger son Bryce posed for photographers on stage while his father was speaking and older brother LeBron Jr. looked on.

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• 1 out of every 5 homes will experience a break-in or home invasion.²
• A home without a security system is 3 times more likely to be burglarized.³
• 85% of Police Officials surveyed believe home alarms deter burglary attempts.⁴
1. Federal Bureau of Investigation, 2008 National Crime Report http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2009/june/ucr_stats060109 2. <http://bjs.ojp.usdoj.gov/content/pub/press/vdhbr.cfm> 3. FBI, 2008 National Crime Report http://www.fbi.gov/news/stories/2009/june/ucr_stats060109 4. <http://www.beyond911.com>
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