

Colby baseball out of finals after 9-4 loss

By Kevin Bottrell

The Goodland Star-News
kbottrell@nwkansas.com

The Colby High School baseball team's season came to a close Monday evening with a 9-4 loss at home to the Goodland Cowboys in the first round of Class 4A regionals.

The Eagles end the season with a 7-3 record in the Great West Activities Conference and 10-10 record overall. The Cowboys will move on to face Hugoton today in the regional semi-finals.

Starting pitcher Zack Stones began the game for Colby with a pair of strikeouts. Goodland's Gunner Helton was left stranded when Taylen Smith struck out.

In the bottom of the first with Helton pitching, Colby's Josh Matchell was thrown out on a dropped strike three. Macen Shull was caught stealing, then Luke Cox hit a pop fly to end the inning.

Goodland's Kyler Amthor got a lead-off single in the top of the second. Kelby Smith hit a short ball to the infield but beat the throw to first. Tyler Gastineau got a double, scoring Amthor. Cy Paxton hit a follow up double, scoring Jones and Kelby Smith, making the score 3-0.

John Hendrich made a successful bunt, putting runners at the corners for Luke Avila, who hit the ball up the third baseline. The Colby left fielder bobbled it, allowing one run to score and runners to get safely to first and second. Hendrich scored Goodland's fifth run on an overthrown ball. Avila got thrown out at home plate, and Amthor, up for the second time in the inning, grounded out to second base to end the inning with the score 5-0.

The Eagles were unable to get anything going in the bottom of the second. Todd Kane grounded out to second, Marc Bremenkamp flied out and Stones struck out.

Stones caught a second wind in the top of the third, striking out Kelby Smith and Gastineau. Jones picked up a base hit, but Paxton grounded out to end the inning.

Colby broke the shutout in the bottom half of the inning. Caleb Mazanec was hit by a pitch, then

Matchell walked and Shull made a hit to left field, which was bobbled, allowing a runner to score. Cox struck out, but the Eagles had gotten on the board 5-1.

Hendrich beat a throw to first on a dropped strike three to open the top of the fourth. Avila hit a grounder to third base and was thrown out, advancing Hendrich to second. Helton hit a single to center field, scoring Hendrich. Helton stole second and third, then two batters walked to load the bases.

Cox came in to pitch, replacing Stones on the mound. The first batter he faced, Kelby Smith, brought two runs across the plate. With the score at 8-1 in favor of Goodland, Jones attempted a bunt but was thrown out at first, then Gastineau struck out to end the inning.

In the bottom of the fourth, Kane hit a double, then moved over to third on a base hit by Bremenkamp. Kane was tagged out at home plate when he attempted to score on a wild pitch. Stones walked, then Keck hit a double, scoring a run to make it 8-2. Mazanec grounded out to the pitcher, then Holzmeister struck out to retire the side.

Both sides went down in order in the fifth inning. In the top of the sixth, Helton got a base hit, then was driven home on a double by Taylen Smith to make it 9-2. Cox threw three straight strikeouts to end the inning.

The Eagles got the bases loaded with two outs in the bottom of the sixth, on a single from Mazanec and two errors by the Cowboys. But Ben Matchell grounded out to retire the side, leaving all three runners stranded.

Goodland was retired in order again in the top of the seventh, leaving the Eagles with one more half inning to tie the game or pull ahead. Josh Matchell struck out, then Shull got a base hit. Cox walked, then Kane hit a double, scoring Shull. Another run scored on a sacrifice fly to make it 9-4, but Stones struck out looking to end the rally and the game in a 9-4 win for Goodland.



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Colby softball players racked up the runs in the third inning (above) Monday afternoon here of the first round of the class 4A regionals against Ulysses to bury the Tigers 11-0. Goodland's Gunner Helton tagged Todd Kane out (right) as he slid home in the regional baseball game at the same time. The girls are going onto the regionals in Ulysses today against Goodland, but the boys fell to the Cowboys 9-4.

KEVIN BOTRELL/Goodland Star-News



Globetrotter to teach basketball

Former Harlem Globetrotter, Elbert "Tree" Gordon will be in Colby for a five day camp this summer.

The camp will run from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday, to Friday, June 10 to 14, at the Community Building.

It is meant for ages 7 to 17; cost

is \$110 per camper or \$180 for two family members. Participants will need to furnish their own lunch each day (there is a fridge at the Community Building.) All campers receive a Global Legends T-shirt.

The deadline register is Wednesday, June 5.

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David Browne III
Agent

550 N. Franklin Avenue
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114 N. 4th
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785-626-8011

DavidLBrowne.fbfs.com



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