

Colby softball heading to Regionals



SAM DIETER/Colby Free Press

Kenzie Curry was all business as she took the mound for the lady Eagles softball team Monday afternoon at the first regional

game. She helped keep Ulysses scoreless, allowing Colby to advance to the semifinals this afternoon against Goodland.

By Sam Dieter

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Colby High School's varsity softball team is going to the regional semifinals today in Ulysses after stomping Ulysses 11-0 Monday.

The lady Eagles won their first regional game Monday afternoon in five innings. Sophomore Darby Sager took over on first base for senior Karly Kriss, who is out for the season with a knee injury.

They took the lead early in the game, scoring 3 runs in the first inning. Brooklyn Bange got on base, then walked home after three more batters for Colby were walked. Jenessa William and Sager both stole home when one of the lady Tigers tried to catch McKenna Ortner's foul ball.

Kenzie Curry took the mound for the lady Eagles all game and got 6 strikeouts to help keep the other team scoreless. The lady Tigers were three up, three out in the second inning, and got only one runner on base in the first, third and fifth innings.

A double play ended the second inning for the lady Eagles, with Tessa Krzycki out at first and Curry out at second. But they picked

up six runs in the third inning.

Colby loaded the bases early in the inning, when Sager was walked. Then Ulysses pitcher Carolina Gallegos hit Colby's Andrea Barton and Haileigh Shull walked home. Ortner batted Williams in with a pop fly to right field and got on first, keeping the bases loaded. Curry was the hero of the inning; she hit a home run the next play to put the lady Eagles ahead with nine unanswered points.

The lady Tigers only got two runners on base in the fourth, but nothing came of it. The closest they came to scoring all game was in the first when Kayley Neitherrlin was tagged out on her way to home.

Colby picked up 2 runs in the fourth inning, and a league "mercy rule" ended the game in the fifth, when Ulysses could not score in the top of the inning.

Curry batted in 4 runners total and got 2 hits. Sager and Bange also got two hits, and Barton and Sager batted two runners in. Schull, Williams and Sager were each walked twice.

The lady Eagles were to play Goodland at 3 p.m. today at Ulysses in the semifinals, with a change for the finals at 6:30 this evening.

College team out after second round

The Colby Community College baseball team finished their season with a 6-5 extra inning loss to the Kansas City, Kan., Community College in the National Junior College Athletic Association Region VI Super Regional in Wichita on Sunday.

"We finished with the second-best record in school history, behind our 2011 season, with a 40-20 record," Head Coach Ryan Carter said. "We also had several players who received recognition in the Jayhawk

West Conference." Jake Nath was named Jayhawk West MVP, first team All Jayhawk West and first team All-Region VI. Daniel Bolte was selected to the first team All Jayhawk West.

Grant Buchanan, Duncan Izaaks, and Nick Silva were selected second team All Jayhawk West.

David Johnson and Drake Biggens received Honorable Mention Jayhawk West.

Colby riders earn ribbons at Nationals

Colby Community College qualified two riders this year to compete in the 40th annual National Intercollegiate Horse Show Association Horse Show in Harrisburg, Pa.

Chelsea Brady, Parker, Colo., and Amanda Barnum, Colby, competed for the college in the event May 4 and 5. Over 8,000 riders representing 370 U.S. and Canadian colleges and universities competed this year in the association's competitions. Colby is one of a limited number of two-year colleges that competes in this association.

Brady qualified in open equitation on the flat and earned sixth place in the class of 16 riders. The top 10 earn a ribbon. To qualify for the National competition she

placed in the top two at the Regional and Zone shows.

Barnum qualified in walk-trot-canter equitation on the flat. She placed eighth in the class of 16 riders, 10 of which received ribbons. She also placed in the top two at the Regional and Zone shows.

"Qualifying two riders for Nationals is superb considering we are a two-year college and the majority of schools and riders there are part of a four-year program," said Head Coach Shanda Mattix. "Only 400 riders are skilled enough to make the National Championships and two of those riders represented Colby Community College."

Mattix is assisted by coach Katie Crone.



Amanda Barnum was one of two riders from Colby to qualify this year at the National Intercollegiate Horse Show Association Horse Show.

Royals beat Angels 11-4 Monday in away game

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — So much for Billy Butler's offensive drought.

Butler broke out of a severe slump with five hits and five RBIs, and the Kansas City Royals kept Joe Blanton winless in eight starts this season with an 11-4 victory over the Los Angeles Angels on Monday night.

"I knew I had been getting closer, but it's just one game," Butler said. "You've got to come out and do it consistently. Hopefully I'm on that upward streak now."

Butler's hit total tied his career high, established on July 27, 2009, at Baltimore. The designated hitter has three games with five or more RBIs in the majors — including a franchise record-tying seven on

April 7 at Philadelphia, when he hit his first career grand slam. He began the day in a 4-for-35 rut with a .228 average and one RBI in 23 at-bats over his previous six games.

"Billy's one of the best hitters I've ever seen," Royals manager Ned Yost said. "I've seen a lot of really good hitters go into little slumps, and Billy's slumps are usually 0 for 9 or 0 for 10. But you also know that any day he's capable of breaking out and really carrying the team for a period of time. Billy's like a light switch. All of a sudden he can walk in, flip it, and there he goes."

Luis Mendoza (1-2) allowed three runs and six hits over six innings, striking out six and walking none.

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