

Sluggers blast into Burlington title game

By R.B. Headley
Colby Free Press

Colby fathers had to be proud of how the Sluggers legion team delivered three big wins during last weekend's Burlington, Colo., Wood Bat Tournament.

Dominant pitching, daring base running and a dramatic last-at-bat rookie hero advanced Colby into the Sunday championship game. Only a select Wray, Colo., squad featuring top players from several area towns stopped the Sluggers' title quest.

"It was a great weekend for us," coach Jared Hamilton said. "Our kids have shown a lot of versatility with recent injuries and summer plans forcing some players into positions they are unfamiliar with. To go 3-1 in a tournament and play for (championship) hardware are impressive results."

The Sluggers are now 4-2 this season after splitting their opening contests against Burlington June 9. While those teams didn't meet again at the tournament, Colby conquered three other challenging foes starting with rival Goodland Friday evening.

Colby 5, Goodland 3

Braden Sager pitched a brilliant complete game, while 4A all-stater Todd Kane brought the lumber as he pounded opposing pitchers all weekend (seven hits in 15 at-bats).

Kane crushed two doubles, singled and scored twice to break open this first of four tough con-

tests. Colby continued tourney pool play against Bennett, Colo.

Colby 7, Bennett 0

Fans could feel the breeze on a warm Saturday afternoon thanks to Luke Cox striking out 12 batters. Just like Sager, Cox finished what he started by throwing a two-hit shutout.

"When we pitch down in the zone and ahead in the count, we will be a very tough team to beat," Hamilton observed.

Yet Bennett brought its own mighty mound workers who held Colby to a 1-0 lead entering the final inning. It promptly became 2-0 when Marc Bremenkamp crushed his first home run of the young season.

The breathing room created a second wind of momentum. Suddenly, Sluggers turned into speedsters as Colby plated two more runs without hitting a ball out of the infield.

"The speed of our club seemed to fluster them," Hamilton said. "We scored two runs when Bennett's defense was unable to make some pressure throws in the infield. We controlled the opponent's running game very well, and were able to exploit our opponents on the base paths creating advantages."

Matt Barnum's two hits and RBI led the victorious effort which earned Colby a first-round tournament bye. Extra rest would be welcome entering Sunday's semifinal thriller.

Colby 9, Alma 8



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Colby Sluggers pitcher Marc Bremenkamp pitched against Burlington, Colo., on June 9. He returned to Burlington and earned a tournament win last weekend.

An early 5-1 Colby advantage didn't just disappear; it turned into Alma leading 8-6 with only three outs remaining.

However, the Sluggers didn't

surrender and eventually caught Alma at 8-8.

That's when first-year legion player Keegan Morgan stepped up and delivered a game-winning,

dramatic-walk-off-celebrating single.

"Our younger players (like Morgan) really had some positive moments, and we were able to

grow which will be a key as we build up to the Zone tournament in July," Hamilton said. He didn't forget to mention new leadoff man Josh Matchell, who scored runs during all five tournament games.

Veterans Bremenkamp (three hits, two runs, RBI) and Kane (six strikeouts) also continued to lead the high-powered Colby team.

Kane pitched a solid 4 2/3 innings against Alma while Bremenkamp earned the win in relief.

The Sluggers advanced into a less-than-memorable tourney finale.

Wray-Northeast Colorado Select 16, Colby 1

"Defensively, our team was solid, but the bats for Wray presented too much challenge," Hamilton concluded.

Again, one loss didn't diminish a great Colby Sluggers weekend.

Now they can rest, regroup and get ready for another big weekend at the Levi Hayden Memorial Tournament in Goodland starting Friday.

The Sluggers took home this tourney title last summer.

They'll begin a repeat effort Friday morning with first pitch set for 11 a.m. and play another game immediately after that opener.

Meanwhile, remember the Colby K-18s will host their own tournament on Saturday and Sunday. Coach Brian Quagliano's team brings a 7-1 record into the week.

The 15-and-under team visits Norton tonight and hosts McCook, Neb., on Wednesday.

Dads rule Meadow Lake golf event

By R.B. Headley
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A Father's Day Son-Daughter tournament capped another great week of golf at Meadow Lake course.

Once an annual event, the Father's Day tourney has been revived during these past two years and drew 25 teams in four divisions Sunday morning.

Dad Alex Rosales was part of three dynamic high-placing duos as he teamed with sons Ian, Isaiah and Isaac Rosales.

Chris Koerperich nearly matched this achievement, though he played son during the 18-and-over competition.

Here are the top three teams from all four divisions of the nine-hole competition.

Age 8 and 9: 1) Alex and Ian Rosales; 2) Alex and Isaiah Rosales; 3) Chris and Eli Koerperich.

Age 10 to 13: 1) Lance and Jason Krannawitter; 2) Alex and Isaac Rosales; 3) Scott and Bracyl King.

Age 14 to 17: 1) Chris and Ian Koerperich; 2) Andy and Tanner Lee; 3) Chris and Adam Giersch.

Age 18 and over: 1) Rob and Dylan Stithem; 2) Tom Redmond and Cole Garcia; 3) Nick and Chris Koerperich.

Ladies' Night

Poker Hand probably didn't feature many poker faces as 14 participants had fun with this event Tuesday evening.

The top three places featured two deadlocks:

1) tie, Anita Beckman and Audrey Hines; 2) Stephanie Daniels, 3) tie, Cheryll Edmundson and Kristy McCarty.

Next event for ladies' night will be Least Putts starting at 6 p.m. on Tuesday.



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Golfers focus on a putt during Friday's Citizen Medical Center tournament at Meadow Lake.

Men's Night

The two-man scramble was Mr. Popularity with 68 golfers participating, more than other recent events. Here are top two teams from all three flights.

First flight: 1) Jim Stanley and Scott Focke; 2) Steve and Kyle Molstad.

Second flight: 1) Tom Redmond and Luther Augustine; 2) Cole Garcia and Jake Harper.

Third flight: 1) Donn and Preston Kersenbrock; 2) Strutt and Edmundson Hayes.

Next event will be another two-man scramble starting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday.

The weekend also brings two more events to Meadow Lake

Course.

On Saturday, the "Fat Ole Duffer" tees off with a 9 a.m. shotgun start.

The two-person scramble features a \$75 entry fee which includes lunch, refreshments and prizes.

Teams can sign up at Meadow Lake or call 460-9777 and ask for Debbie to obtain information.

Proceeds benefit the Colby Junior Golf League.

On Sunday, a two-man modified 27-hole tourney tees off at 10 a.m. with another shotgun start.

Fee is \$50 per player and includes a meal.

Contact Kevan Taylor at 460-6443 to register.

Swimmers reach new highs at Oakley

The Colby Swim Club team warmed up for their own home meet with a season-best 228 points at Saturday's Oakley Invitational.

Colby again placed second behind rival Goodland (305 points). Coach Sondra Finley's squad splashed past three Colorado and three Kansas foes.

Macy Catlin led the Colby team again as she captured two individual titles and swam on two first-place relays. Complete results will be featured in Wednesday and Thursday's editions of the *Free Press*.

Colby will hold its own invitational on Saturday at the Aquatic Park.

New Colby coach meeting for tonight

New Colby High School boys basketball coach Kevin Brown will meet with parents of prospective players tonight at 7 p.m. in Colby Elementary School.

Brown will be providing information on plans and goals for his team this summer.

The meeting leads into this week's Colby Basketball Team Camp for players entering ninth through 12th grades.

The camp takes place from 7:30 to 10 p.m. tonight through Thursday evening at Colby Elementary School.

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