

Championship caps amazing Colby season



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

The Colby fourth-sixth grade team showed amazing focus throughout their 24-1 season that finished with a Jayhawk League tournament championship Saturday afternoon in WaKeeney.

A one-run thriller started title quest

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Butterflies suddenly flew past poison ivy, toadstools and jumpy skunks on Colby's least favorite summer items list.

"We were definitely feeling some little butterflies in that first game. Everyone knew we were the team to beat," coach Jeff Krzycki said after his 20-0 league champion Colby fourth-sixth grade team found itself deadlocked 0-0 with heavy underdog Stockton in Saturday's Jayhawk tournament opener. "We were wearing some big targets on our backs."

Not too big for these Colby boys. Because when the Kyler-and-Tyler show finally found a rhythm, it was bye-bye silly butterflies and hello, one of Colby's finest baseball seasons ever.

Kyler Britt drilled a double and promptly motored home on teammate Tyler Zerr's base hit. Colby owned a 1-0 lead along with the determination to never let any tourney foe at WaKeeney draw even again.

Colby edged Stockton, 1-0; toppled Hill City, 13-3; and then trounced East division top seed

Ellis, 10-0, in a Saturday afternoon title game that was simply no contest.

The final piece of this delightful pie was a celebratory trip to WaKeeney's Pizza Hut. They finished a 24-1 season featuring 23 league victories without one defeat.

"This definitely is one of the best seasons ever for Colby 12-and-under baseball teams," Krzycki proclaimed. "They've won the league before, but it's been quite awhile. Everybody did a great job on this team. I was glad to see us get it done."

Colby's complete Jayhawk League champion team roster consists of Collin Geihler, Konner Griffin, Tucker Branum, Aaron Platt, Jason Krannawitter, Heath Bolyard, Gage Winger, Isaac Rosales, Carter Stanley, Tommy Cline, Seth Hutfles, Jakob Tubbs, Mason Wright, Britt, Zerr, Krzycki and assistant coach Cade Carter.

"Cade does a tremendous job working with these kids," Krzycki said. "He's a former Colby player himself, and he's helped them learn a lot."

The champs learned a lot about winning and losing close games last season. Colby also reached

last year's tournament final but fell one run short, 3-2, to Plainville.

So Saturday's opening white knuckler didn't shake up the Colby squad. They kept making all the defensive plays while pitchers Zerr and Winger each threw two scoreless innings against Stockton.

"The first game is often the toughest," Krzycki confirmed. "After that, our bats came alive."

Indeed, Colby crushed the ball often for a 9-0 lead over Hill City just two innings into their semifinal.

Stanley pitched all three innings, throwing strikes and holding Hill City to only a three-run third. The game was then called because of baseball's 10-run mercy rule.

Colby again showed no mercy in the final East-West showdown of division champs.

West champ Colby plated five first-inning runs and five more during the second to stomp out any remaining Ellis championship hopes.

Krannawitter pitched the complete-game shutout.

"It was a great team performance," Krzycki concluded.

Blind draw brings champs into focus

More than 100 golfers entered into three league events at Meadow Lake Golf Course last week.

Men's Night

Men were kings of the week again with a league-high 63 participants in the two-man scramble Wednesday evening. An interesting twist was the blind draw that matched golfers on all second teams.

Unfortunately, attempts to get first names on all these winning team members were not successful.

Flight one: 1. Sims-Schmitt and McLaughlin-McKee, 2. Bedore-Strutt and Kriss-Molstad, 3. Haas-Kern and Harrison-Mallory.

Flight two: 1. Rasmussen-Ostmeyer and Wilson-Armbarger, 2. Augustine-Denneler and White-Schwanke, 3. Highland-Redmond and Highland-Redmond.

Men's Night this week will feature a three-man scramble where golfers will play Meadow Lake course backwards.

Ladies' Night

The two-lady scramble attracted 13 loyal league participants Tuesday evening.

Only one flight was needed: 1. Susan Wark and Stephanie Daniels, 2. Audrey Hines and Kristy McCarty, 3. Hines and Rachel Wolf.

The ladies' next event will be a one-lady modified scramble this week.

Couples' Night

Unlimited mulligans highlighted a two-couple scramble which brought 42 golfers (21 teams) to Meadow Lake Friday evening.

They competed in two flights. First names were also not obtained.

Flight one: 1. Flanagan and Jasper, 2. Stanley and Tubbs. Flight two: 1. Kern and White, 2. Carroll and Strecker, 3. Sibatka and Loker.

Another two-couple scramble is set for this week with scramble format for even holes and scotch format on odd ones.

All league events are set to begin at 6 p.m.

Upcoming tournaments

Meadow Lake's next major tournament will be the three-day Buffalo Chip set for Thursday through Saturday, July 25 to 27.

Organizers have mentioned that any entry fees not paid by July 4 have been removed from the registration list and replaced with names on the waiting list.

The Seniors Tournament will take place on Thursday, Aug. 8. Tee time is 9 a.m.

The \$30 per player fee includes lunch during this annual event.

K-18 barely misses weekend sweep

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Though visiting Oakley celebrated every late out like a championship on Sunday, Colby K-18's still No. 1 as region play arrives this weekend.

The 15-and-under team's now 15-3 in league play (24-9 overall) after sweeping Atwood 19-3, 18-4 Friday evening and splitting with Oakley Sunday afternoon.

Colby's opening-game win over Oakley was especially memorable. Both teams traded narrow leads until reaching a 7-7 tie through seven innings.

Oakley blooped a single to start the eighth, but K-18 pitcher Casey Quagliano retired the next three batters with only five pitchers.

"Quig" fired strike one, strike two and strike three while telling one Oakley-ite to grab some bench.

His next pitch resulted in a force play at second, and the final offering turned into an inning-ending pop fly.

Colby then showed how championship contenders capitalize on opportunity.

Tyler Schritter drew a leadoff walk and moved into scoring position when Brady Holzmeister was plunked by an inside pitch.

Scoring position soon became a score as Rex Branum grounded one perfectly-placed single past the Oakley shortstop. It marked Colby's third one-run over Oakley this season.



R.B. HEADLEY/Colby Free Press

Rex Branum brought home another Colby K-18 run much to the chagrin of Oakley's catcher during their league doubleheader on Sunday in Colby. Branum also singled the game-winning score during an 8-7, extra-inning opening win.

Leading the balanced K-18 attack were Branum (two singles), Holzmeister (single, double), Ben Matchell (two singles, two runs scored) and Quagliano (two singles).

Quagliano struck out six while throwing the eight-inning, complete-game win.

Oakley enjoyed some payback in Sunday's nightcap. The teams were again tied 7-7 into their seventh inning despite Colby moving in front 4-0 through three.

The visitors answered with seven consecutive runs to lead 7-4, but K-18 rallied again behind key hits from Matchell, Brooks Curry and Shevin Martin.

Holzmeister's RBI-single forced the second 7-7 deadlock of this Sunday.

However, a throwing error followed by two pitches helped Oak-

ley rebuild an 11-7 advantage.

K-18 nearly rallied one more time, scoring two runs with two outs to make it 11-9. Yet as the tying runs reached base, Oakley could finally celebrate victory at Colby thanks to one final strikeout.

One loss still can't knock Colby from the driver's seat in this regional title/state tournament quest. If K-18 can win the regular-season finales against visiting Norton Wednesday night, Colby will still have its No. 1 region seed.

The region tournament also is set to be played at Colby Saturday and Sunday. Watch for more details later this week.

Atwood would likely be K-18's opening region opening. Here are quick recaps from Colby's doubleheader sweep at Atwood Friday evening.

Colby 19, Atwood 3

Holzmeister ripped three hits and scored four runs while Martin also touched home four times.

Colby was consistent with a seven-run first, five-run second and six-run third before the game was called.

Parker Wright and Schritter added three runs apiece. Quagliano singled twice, Alex Vap scored two runs and winning pitcher Jonah Thompson delivered one base hit.

Colby 18, Atwood 4

Austin Hart homered and Holzmeister went three-for-three to finish his seven-hit night.

Brooks Curry tripled, singled twice and tallied two runs.

Matchell doubled twice, walked, singled and rounded those Atwood bases three times.

Curry was the winning pitcher.

Trojans set tourney in August

The Colby Community College Men's Basketball Golf Tournament is set for Friday, Aug. 16, at Meadow Lake Course with a 10 a.m. shotgun start.

Registration for this four-person scramble begins at 9 a.m.

The fee is \$280 per team and includes supper, or \$25 for the meal alone. Call and make arrangements ahead of time if only interested in the meal.

Teams can also register early by sending paid registrations to

Rusty Grafel, 1255 South Range Avenue in Colby, Kan., 67701.

Please make checks payable to Colby Community College men's basketball.

For information, contact Grafel at (785) 475-8360.

Cold in Cleveland, Royals must recover

CLEVELAND (AP) — A week ago, the Cleveland Indians were reeling amid serious questions about whether they could contend.

Five wins have put them back on track.

And back on Detroit's heels. The Kansas City Royals, not so much. They're eight games out of both the American League Central lead and wild card race entering the All-Star break.

Asdrubal Cabrera hit a two-run double to cap Cleveland's comeback in the sixth inning, and the Indians charged into the All-Star break with a 6-4 win over Kansas City on Sunday and three-game sweep of the Royals.

At 51-44, they stayed 1 1-2 games behind the first-place Tigers in the AL Central.

Last week, Detroit took three of four from Cleveland to widen its lead in the division. It seemed the Tigers were poised to run away and hide.

But with their fans fearing a collapse like last year, the Indians pulled together.

"We got the city of Cleveland to step back off the ledge after the Detroit series," said All-Star second baseman Jason Kipnis. "Billy Butler had three hits for the Royals (43-49), who dropped their fifth straight. Kansas City is third in the AL Central.

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