

# Colby batters ‘thunder’ past Lady Outlaws

The Lady Outlaws softball team had a tough time Wednesday afternoon at Centennial Park, as the Colby Sweet Thunder won both games of a doubleheader, 16-4 and 9-5.

As the visiting team, Colby got to bat first and took a 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning. Goodland responded with a run in the bottom of the inning to make it 3-1.

The Thunder scored another run in the top of the second to regain a three-run advantage, then held the Outlaws to a “three-and-out” series to maintain it. Neither team scored in the third or fourth innings.

Leading 4-1 going into the fifth, Colby doubled its run total to make the score 8-1 then held Goodland to another “three-and-out.” The Thunder picked up another run in the top of the sixth and their defense continued to be stubborn, keeping the Outlaws scoreless for the fifth straight inning.

In the seventh, Colby had its best turn at bat, driving seven runs home to take a 16-1 lead. Goodland found some holes in the Thunder’s defense in the bottom of the inning, scoring three runs, but the holes closed up and Colby won the first game 16-4.

The second game started out almost exactly as the first, with Colby scoring three runs in the first and Goodland responding with one. Again, the score was 4-1 after two innings.



Sammie Raymer (above) put some power behind one of her pitches during the Lady Outlaws' first game of a doubleheader against the Colby Sweet Thunder Wednesday afternoon. First baseman Danielle Pettibone (left) tossed the ball to the pitcher after forcing a Colby runner out a first during the same game.

Photos by Tom Betz/The Goodland Star-News



In the top of the third, though, Colby added a pair of runs to increase its lead to five. The Outlaws responded with four runs to close within one at 6-5.

The Thunder came back with three more in the top of the fourth to make it 9-5. The game was called two-thirds of the way through the bottom of the fourth due to weather,

giving Colby the second win.

The Lady Outlaws, now 3-9 for the season, will be in North Platte, Neb., Saturday for the Buffalo Bill Tournament which involves teams

from at least three states. Goodland will participate in pool play Saturday with the Torrington (Wyo.) Twisters, Kearney (Neb.) Dynamite and a team from North Platte.

The single-elimination championship round will be played Sunday.

Goodland will play a doubleheader Tuesday in Atwood and one Wednesday in Sharon Springs.

## And it's outa here!



American Legion baseball player Jacob Alander (right) hit a home run Wednesday as the first game's lead-off batter during Goodland's doubleheader at Scott City. Goodland lost both games 9-1 and 13-2 and is now 0-6 for the season.

Photo by Liz West/The Goodland Star-News

# It's sad when schools drop football for money

Now that I'm done with my preliminary research into the 2004 NCAA Division I-AA football season, I have another gripe I haven't talked about yet: schools that drop football.

To me it's always sad to see certain things end, like a long-time annual community celebration fold up, or a military base close, or as in this case, a school deciding to eliminate football. Endings such as these make me feel, especially when it involves something that lasted at least two generations, like a part of our heritage has died.

Granted, sometimes the practicality of the decision clearly outweighs the emotional loss, but still it's a loss that will greatly effect some people. I could come up with a “laundry list” of things that have ended that makes me sad, but the subject is Division I-AA college football.

The number of teams playing in I-AA rarely stays the same two years in a row. It seems there is always some school moving up from



## greg stover

- greg's gripes

Division II to Division I. It involves a four-year transition process, so each season there is usually at least one school at some point in the process.

If the school involved plays football, that usually means competing as a Division I-AA independent for a season or two. Some schools elect to stay at the I-AA level while others are looking to join “the big boys” in Division I-A. Right now, there are two schools in their second year and two in the first year of transition.

Another reason for change is a school that has played at the I-AA level for a long time decides they are ready to move up.

However, the saddest cases are

schools that decide to quit football. This season, two schools which played Division I-AA football in 2003 dropped their programs, St. Mary's College of California and East Tennessee State

University.

I already St. Mary's president, citing “competitive and financial realities,” held a press conference March 3 announcing the school was discontinuing football, effective immediately. He said resources will be used to enhance the Gaels' 14 remaining intercollegiate sports. St. Mary's football has been a tradition for about 75 years, but the Gaels finished 1-11 in 2003.

The decision by the school's trustees must have come after a relatively short debate, since the school hired a new offensive coordinator and signed 14 players in February. It forced the Gaels' 2004 opponents to revise their schedules.

The word that East Tennessee

State was dropping its football program came last spring. The university's president said the two main factors in the decision were a \$1.1 million deficit last season and the need for the school as a whole to save money in the face of statewide budget cuts.

The Buccaneers finished 5-7 last season. Although the decision to terminate football came early not to mess up other schools' seasons, it did require East Tennessee State to withdraw from the Southern Conference. The school will join the Atlantic Sun Conference, which does not sponsor football, in the 2005-2006 school year. Next year, the Buccaneers will continue to compete in the Southern Conference in all other sports.

Although I'm sure these decisions are in the best interests of the schools I can still feel a slight sense of loss and a little sadness when I think of the players, coaches and fans affected.

## softball

Boys Major games canceled due to the rainstorm Wednesday will be made up on Monday starting at 5:30 p.m. Canceled Coed games will be made up Thursday starting at 6:30 p.m.

June 7

### Girls Major

KLOE-KKCI-KWGB 3  
Finley Motors 19  
Kiwanis 16  
Helena Chemical 6  
Kiwanis 16  
Heartland Carriers 17

### Boys Rookie

American Family Insurance 6  
Basgall Construction 19  
Marshall's Team 5  
Hank's Café 7  
Snappy Snack 17  
Crazy R's 3

### Boys Major

Dairy Queen 12  
Dan Brenner Ford 10  
Bowladium Lanes 1  
Unruh Chiropractic 16  
Kiwanis 4  
VFW 11

### Topside Coed

Amanda's team 25  
Courtney's Team 12

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# Summer sports schedules

**Girls Rookie** Tuesday, Pi Eta Sorority vs. Goodland Yost 5:45 p.m.; Gambino's vs. Dinkel Law 7 p.m.; Gambino's vs KC Video 8:15 p.m.  
**Girls Major** Monday, Kiwanis vs. Finley Motors 5:30 p.m.; Helena vs. Heartland Carriers 7 p.m.; Helena vs. KLOE 8:30 p.m.  
**Boys Rookie** Thursday, Snappy Snack vs Marshall's Team 5:45 p.m.; Crazy R's vs Bagsall Construction 7 p.m.; Hank's Cafe vs American Family Insurance 8:15 p.m.  
**Boys Major** Wednesday, Dan Brenner Ford vs. Bowladium Lanes 5:30 p.m.; Unruh Family Chiropractic vs Kiwanis 7:15 p.m.; Veterns of Foreign Wars vs Dairy Queen 8:30 p.m.

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1016 College (Sold)	1317 Walnut	810 Beaver
904 W 16th	1509 Cherry	1528 Colorado
209 Grand	1311 Clark	516 E. 5th
1303 Arcade	802 E. 5th	Commercial
301 Willow	312 Washington	921 Main (New Listing)
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1019 Caldwell	301 Center	1609 Caldwell
210 E. 6th	121 W 12th	Toelkes and Broadway
1506 Center	411 Washington	524 W. 14th
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