

SPORTS



Amanda Snyder hits her first of two homeruns in Sunday's game (Photos by Mike Salbato)



Leah Hanson fields a fly ball as Nikole Morgan backs up the play

TSJC softball team splits with Seward

By MIKE SALBATO
Special to the Chronicle

The Trojan softball team won by the long ball and also lost to the long ball when they split a series with Seward Community College of Liberal, Kansas this past weekend. Trinidad won the first game 5-4 off homeruns from Leah Hanson and Julia Diehl and then lost the nightcap by the score of 9-6 when Seward hit a grand slam homerun in the fifth inning.

In the first game Trinidad trailed 3-0 when freshman Leah Hanson hit a three-run homerun. Seward answered with a homerun of their own in the top of the fourth to retake the lead but Trojan sophomore Julia Diehl answered with a solo shot to tie the game at four. The teams headed into the seventh inning tied. TSJC shut the Saints down in the top of the inning and brought the top of the lineup to the plate in the bottom half of the inning. Sophomore Sammi Butler led

off the inning with a double, advanced to third on a passed ball and then scored the winning run on a sacrifice fly from freshman Amanda Snyder to take the 5-4 victory. Diehl pitched the complete game for her fourth win of the season allowing four runs off of seven hits.

"This was a close game and I was pleased on how Julia kept her composure to go the distance for the win," TSJC coach Steve Swazo said. "Leah and Julia came through big with the long ball and then Sammi and Amanda came through in our final at bat. This was a good win for us."

In the second game, Trinidad trailed 2-0 when freshman Jessica Apodaca hit her first homerun of the season to tie the game in the second inning. Seward scored two more runs in the third for the 4-2 lead when Amanda Snyder hit her first of two homeruns of the game to cut the lead to one. Seward then added another run

for a 5-3 lead when Snyder came through big in the fourth inning with her second homerun of the game this time driving in three runs for the 6-5 lead. Seward answered with a grand slam homerun taking a 9-6 lead and eventually holding on for the victory. Kelsey Apodaca took the loss in relief allowing four runs off of three hits in two innings of work.

"I really thought we had this game, especially when we fought back to take the lead. Amanda and Jessica came up big with their homeruns," Swazo said. "You have to give credit to Seward for answering with their grand slam and then shutting down our hitters not allowing us to score in the final three innings."

Trinidad (8-7) now travels to La Junta on Wednesday, March 4 to take on Otero in a Region 9 contest with game time set for 1 and 3 p.m. They will then host Clarendon College on Saturday, March 7 for games at Southside Park at 2 and 4 p.m.

Trojans take series from Western

By MIKE SALBATO
Special to the Chronicle

The Trinidad State baseball team got conference play underway this past Saturday at Central Park taking a pair of Region IX games from Western Nebraska.

The Trojans wasted no time in the first game jumping out to an early 2-0 lead. They then managed to bring one run across in each of the third, fourth, and sixth innings to cruise to a 5-3 win. Ryan Salt picked up the win for the Trojans.

Game two saw Western take a 2-0 lead in the third. The Trojans came right back to tie the score in the bottom of the third on a two-run homerun by Ryan Salt. A huge five run sixth sealed the win as Trinidad topped the Cougars 7-2. Bo McLavey earned the win on the hill.

On Sunday the teams played a non-conference nine inning game. The Trojans continued to

Schedule:

- 3/3/09 - Baseball vs Luna College at Central Park (2) 12:30
- 3/7/09 - Baseball vs McCook CC at McCook, NE (2) 1:00
- 3/8/09 - Baseball vs Northeastern JC at Sterling, NE (2) 1:00

- 3/4/09 - Softball vs Otero JC at La Junta, CO 1:00 & 3:00
- 3/7/09 - Softball vs Clarendon College at Southside Park 2:00 & 4:00

- 3/7/09 - Basketball at the Region IX Tournament vs Western Wyoming at Sterling, CO time: 1pm

hit the ball hard but the Cougars made play-after-play in the field to hold Trinidad to just two runs. Western scored four late runs to finish on top by a 7-2 margin. The loss snapped TSJC's win streak at seven. Matt Mundfrom took the loss for TSJC.

"If I had been offered two of three before the series with the only loss being the non-conference game, it would've been tough to turn down," commented Coach Scott Douglas. "We wanted the sweep of course, Western Nebraska has talent and it isn't very often you get a chance to take all three from them. I was proud of our guys, there was no let down. We had

our chances to get ahead; it didn't work out this time. We were prepared and went at it like we should and got two of three. It was a good series win for us but that is all it was, one series. Western will be ready for us at the end of the month. Our attention must now turn to a scrappy Luna group who will give us all we can handle."

The Trojans are now 12-6 and will finish out their 12 game home stand this Tuesday against Luna College. The doubleheader will start at 12:30 p.m. at Central Park. They will then head to McCook and Northeastern Junior College for four Empire Conference games this weekend.



Trojan outfielder Colin Bailey settles under a fly ball (Photos by Mike Salbato)



The Trojans hit the ball hard all weekend against Western

Broncos say Cutler won't be traded

By ARNIE STAPLETON
ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) - The Denver Broncos don't want to talk to anyone about Jay Cutler except for the quarterback himself.

The Broncos insisted Tuesday their Pro Bowl quarterback isn't on the trading block and said new coach Josh McDaniels and his star player are scheduled to meet next week to try to patch up their strained relationship.

Cutler was angered during the weekend when his name came up in talks involving a three-way trade that would have sent him to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and landed Matt Cassel in Denver. Instead, the Patriots traded Cassel to Kansas City.

McDaniels was the offensive coordinator last year in New England, where he tutored Cassel, a career backup who led the Patriots to an 11-5 season after Tom Brady was injured in the opener.

Cutler, who is preparing to learn the intricate Patriots-style offense after working in the West Coast system his first three years in the NFL, was miffed that McDaniels even entertained the notion of dealing him to another team. He also said he thought he was still going to get traded.

"The Denver Broncos are not trading Jay Cutler. Period," team spokesman Patrick Smyth said emphatically Tuesday.

Smyth said neither Cutler nor McDaniels would be made available to discuss the situation until after they meet to resolve their rift following

Cutler's return from Nashville, Tenn., where he maintains an offseason home.

A message left with Cutler's agent, Bus Cook, wasn't returned Tuesday. Earlier, he told The Associated Press that he doesn't think his client has ever asked the Broncos for a trade and he insisted Cutler was right to be upset because the Broncos even listening to offers was "a vote of no-confidence in him."

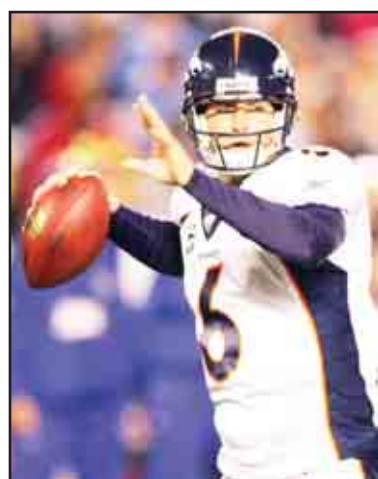
Cutler, who has three years left on the six-year deal he signed as a rookie, set numerous club records last season, including yards passing in a season (4,526), completions (384) and 300-yard games (eight).

However, Cutler and the Broncos squandered a three-game lead in the AFC West with three weeks to go, missing out on the playoffs for a third straight season and costing Mike Shanahan his job after 14 seasons in Denver.

Cutler is 17-20 with no playoff appearances since replacing Jake Plummer late in the 2006 season.

McDaniels, 32, was hired in January, and the Broncos promoted Brian Xanders, 37, to general manager last month. Both of them report directly to owner Pat Bowlen, who hasn't publicly addressed the rift between his new coach and his temperamental quarterback.

The Broncos are also dealing with another major headache following Pro Bowl receiver Brandon Marshall's fourth arrest in three years. Marshall was arrested Sunday after getting into a fight with his new



In this Dec. 28, 2008 file photo, Denver Broncos quarterback Jay Cutler throws against the San Diego Chargers during the first quarter in an NFL football game in San Diego. Trade talks that briefly involved Jay Cutler over the weekend have strained the budding relationship between the Denver Broncos' franchise quarterback and its new coach, Josh McDaniels. (AP Photo/Chris Park, File)

fiance.

The disorderly conduct charge was quickly dropped in Atlanta court when he and his fiance refused to testify against each other, but Marshall still faces discipline from the NFL for repeated violations of the league's personal conduct code.

Cutler and Marshall, fellow members of the Broncos' dazzling 2006 draft class, are the faces of the franchise and the two biggest talents McDaniels inherited.

Nuggets' Karl says Anthony 'crossed the line'

By LARRY LAGE
AP Sports Writer

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) - Carmelo Anthony's checkered reputation took another hit.

The two-time Olympian served a one-game suspension Tuesday night handed down by the Denver Nuggets because coach George Karl tried to put him on the bench and he refused.

"In my mind, that crossed the line," Karl said.

Anthony wasn't with the Nuggets when they played on the road against the Detroit Pistons.

"I saw him yesterday I didn't see him today," Karl said Tuesday night. "I'll spend some time with him tomorrow. I think he's traveling with the team. I heard he was going to be on the plane."

Denver's next game is Thursday night at home against the Portland Trail Blazers.

The Nuggets had said they suspended Anthony for an "in-game transgression" Sunday against Indiana, declining to provide details of what he did.

During a timeout against the Pacers, though, Karl said Anthony became the first player in his two-plus decades as a coach to stay on the court after being told he was being taken out of the game.

"There's a thin line between passion and an aggressive want to be on the court and emotional immaturity," Karl said. "It happens all the time. Coaches snap and act like an idiot on the sideline because of the emotional stress of the game."

"Our mantra and mission statement from the beginning of the season to be more discipline, to be more professional and to do things the right way."

Karl, though, wishes Anthony didn't merit a suspension.

"It's not what I want," Karl said.

An e-mail seeking comment was sent to Anthony's agent,



Denver Nuggets forward Carmelo Anthony, right, drives around Indiana Pacers guard Marquis Daniels in the first half of an NBA basketball game in Indianapolis, Sunday, March 1, 2009. Anthony was fouled on the play. (AP Photo/AJ Mast)

Calvin Andrews.

As productive as Anthony has been since the Nuggets drafted him No. 3 overall in 2003, his behavior has often been a problem.

Nearly five years ago, he apologized to his teammates for refusing to play in the final minutes of a loss on the road against the Pistons.

The Nuggets suspended him for the first two games of this season, punishing him for getting arrested for drunken driving last spring while they were pushing for a playoff berth.

He was suspended for 15 games in the 2006-07 season for his involvement in the Nuggets' brawl with the New York Knicks when he landed a punch and ran away.

Earlier in his career, Anthony's name kept showing

up in the headlines for all the wrong reasons: A bar fight in New York City; a bag of marijuana found in his backpack at the airport; showing up on a bootleg DVD in Baltimore in which a man threatened to kill drug snitches.

Anthony, who helped the Americans win the gold medal at the Beijing Olympics last summer, is averaging a team-high 21.6 points and 7.4 rebounds. He's missed 15 games previously this season, likely costing him a third straight All-Star selection, with a broken bone in his right hand, an injured right elbow and the season-opening suspension.

The Baltimore native has averaged 24.1 points, 6.2 rebounds and 3.1 assists in the NBA since lifting Syracuse to a national championship in his one college season.