

Eagle wrestling comes out on top at Southwest Classic Tournament

By JAY KELLEY
Colby Free Press
The Colby High School wrestling team outperformed an 18-team field to win the Southwest Classic in Liberal this weekend.

The Eagles outscored the second place Liberal Redskins 244 1/2-240 1/2 with Goodland bringing up third place at 184 points.

Colby coach Mitch Beims said, "It was a great weekend of wrestling," after beating Goodland in a dual on Thursday and taking the Southwest Classic on Friday and Saturday.

The Eagles went up early, and never looked back. A challenge by the host Redskins made things a "little too close," said Beims, but the Eagles never lost the lead.

Colby wrestlers brought home 11 medals from Liberal, two first, two second, four third, a fourth, a fifth and a sixth place.

Eric Luedke went 4-0 for first place at 112. Luedke's wins included a fall over Shawnee Mission and a major decision of Kapaun-Mt. Carmel.

Matt Murray also took first, winning the 135 division with a 3-0 record. Murray's wins included a pin and a major decision, also.

Brooks Wederksi was second at 140.

Wederksi won three straight, including a major decision over Hays, before falling 11-2 to the Dodge City champion.

Bo Kleinsorge took second at 189



with wins that included pinning an Amarillo wrestler and beating Goodland's Thomas Tompkins for the second time in three days. He lost by fall to the champion from Liberal.

Danny Mainus took third at 119, going 5-1 including a pin, a technical fall and a major decision.

Schuyler Sharpe was third at 130 at 4-1, including two pins. His only loss was to Goodland's Bryce Bahe.

Tyler Hellmuth was third at 145, also going 4-1. Hellmuth's wins included a major decision in the first round.

Zach Luedke was third at 152. Luedke's four wins included a major

decision and two pins.

Damien Stephens took fourth at 171 after being forced to default in the third place match. Stephens twisted his knee against Garden City's Schiffner and Beims said they were concerned about aggravating an injury by continuing. Stephens is listed as day-to-day and will miss a couple of practices, but Beims said the injury wasn't believed to be as serious as they first thought.

Justin Finley took fifth at 215, winning his first two matches by pins. Finley went 3-2 overall.

Eric Seeman, starting at 275 for the second time this season after sitting out the pre-holiday stretch with a broken hand, went 1-3, winning the his first match with a pin. Seeman finished sixth.

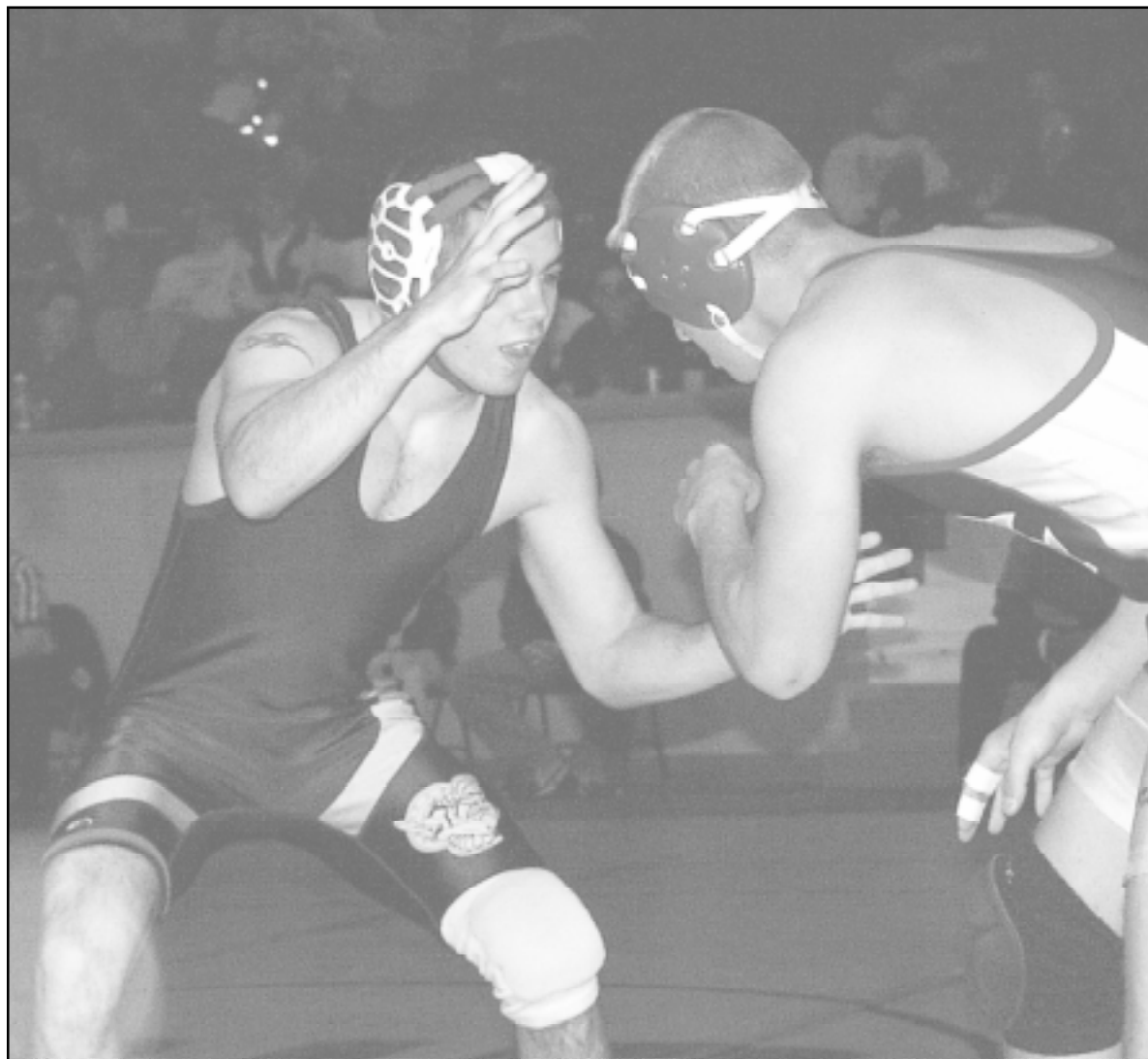
Doug Hurtt went 0-2 at 103, Drué Herl went 1-2 at 125 and Chris Erickson went 1-2 at 160 to round out the Eagles' performance.

"It doesn't get any easier," said Beims, concerning Colby's upcoming schedule.

The Eagles face Hoxie, the second ranked team in 3-2-1A in a double dual on Friday and travel to the Scott City tournament on Saturday.

Friday's matches start at 6:30 p.m. in the Hoxie High School gym.

Head to head



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Brandon Lehman goes heads up at 141 in the second round of the Colby Community College Classic held at the Community Building this weekend. Lehman won the match and advanced to the championship round. Complete results will be printed when they are available.

Middle school downed in post-season game

The eighth grade Colby Middle School boys' basketball team lost their first game 43-35 to Goodland in a post-season Winter Tournament held in Goodland on Dec. 21. The Eagles bounced back to annihilate Quinter 80-39.

Goodland handed Colby their first loss as eighth graders. Leading scorer for Colby was Jared Dinkel with nine, followed by Christopher Finley with eight, Matt Augustine, Jordan Cranston and Jordan Sharp with four apiece, and Derek Elliott, Omar Fercha and Dustin Quenzer rounded out the scoring with two each.

Coach Wayne Wiens commented "In our first game we learned a great lesson. you have to be mentally ready to play every game and if you're not, there is a good chance you may lose." "We had beat Goodland by 30 points earlier in the season. Goodland has a good team and played a great game. We just weren't ready to play."

A fired-up Colby team faced Quinter in the consolation round. The Eagles, bolstered by Augustine and Sharp's 3-pointers from the outside, led at the end

of the first quarter 22-6. Half-time found the Eagles leading 38-9 and at the end of the third quarter, Colby had increased its lead to 57-19.

Augustine led the Eagles in scoring with 14, followed by Sharp with 13, Fercha and Finley with 10 each, Dinkel with nine, Quenzer with eight, Nic Rohr with six, Cranston with five, Trent Mazanec with three, and Travis Powell with two. Derek Elliot and Sean Mengel also had court time.

Wiens commented "I was worried how they would handle their first loss. After the game we talked about why we lost and the kids knew why. They understood it was because they weren't mentally ready which attributed to a poor effort."

"I was anxious to see how we would rebound against Quinter, a good team we had narrowly beaten twice in the season. This game we came ready to play, which says a lot about these kids to be able to pick themselves up after a tough loss."

"It was a big win and a good way to end the season. The game really showed how much character these kids

have."

"Overall, it was a great season. . . These were the easiest kids to coach I have ever had and were fun to watch. I would like to thank all the players, our managers, and Justin Lane."

"I would also like to thank the parents for their outstanding support. It was fun being a part of it. If these guys keep working hard, the next four years will be a lot of fun for Eagle basketball."

NET THE BIG BARGAINS
462-3963
GO CLASSIFIED!!

POP CORN
JAN. 4 - JAN. 11

COLBY TWIN THEATRES
TICKET PRICES: \$6.00, 13 & up \$4.00, 12 & under

Vertical Limit
Friday & Saturday: 7:00 & 9:15
Sunday thru Thursday: 7:30
PG-13

THE EMPEROR'S NEW GROOVE
"One of the funniest films of the year!"
Friday & Saturday: 7:15 & 9:00
Sunday thru Thursday: 7:30
G

THIS SUBSCRIBER RECEIVES 2 FREE PASSES (must be used within 15 days).....
JEFF TERRELL

DO YOU HAVE EPILEPSY?
Or love someone who does?

If so, you are invited to participate in a **FREE EDUCATIONAL SYMPOSIUM** for people with epilepsy and their families.

Come learn about the FDA-approved, non-pharmacological therapy, Vagus Nerve Stimulation (VNS), for the treatment of partial onset seizures.

Wednesday, January 10th
12:00 noon
CITIZENS MEDICAL CENTER
Education Room • 100 E. College Drive - Colby
Please call to reserve your space.
Shannon Ross - 1-800-332-1375, Ext. 248

Cell One, New Years 100% GDN Ran Friday 6x9