

## Colby wins alumni matchup

JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

The battle between Brewster and Colby champions saw Colby come out on top Sunday. Former members of the 1999 Colby High School Class 4A State Champion boys basketball team won 59-52 over a team consisting of former Brewster High School Bulldogs from both the 2000 and 2001 Class 1A State Champions at the Colby Community Building.

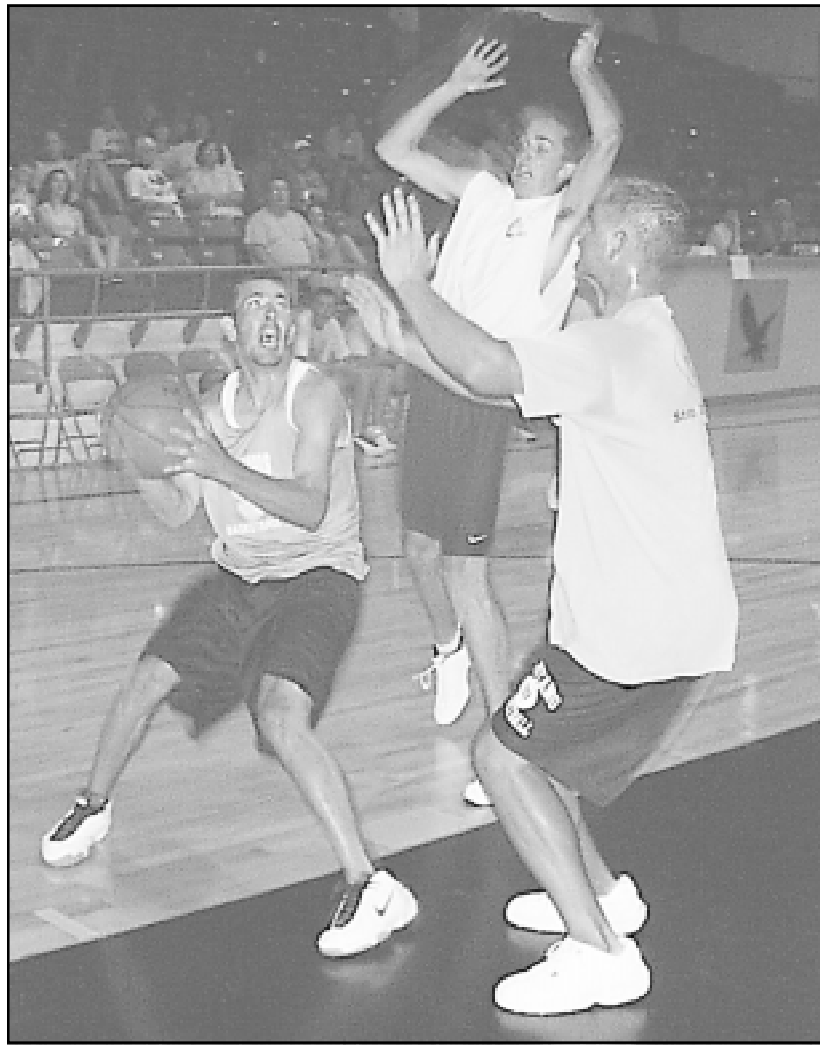
Both teams had advanced to the semi-finals, so the game was all or nothing. The winner earned the right to play for another championship, the loser went home.

The win wasn't easy. The lead went back and forth as both teams struggled to put the other away.

With two minutes left, the score was tied before a Colby run finally put the "Dawgs away."

"It was a great game, good basketball on both sides," said event organizer Tom Stephens.

The Brewster team included Cody Rush, Jay Ried, Jordan Ried, Jon McKee, Eric Brown, Brett Aramberger, Luke Johns and Chris Hudson.



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Former Colby High School Eagle Justin Lane drove for the basket against a former teammate, Josh Lee, in the Tom Stephens/Colby Recreation 5-on-5 men's tournament. Lane and Lee were just two members of the 1999 state championship team playing in the tournament.

## State champions winners again

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

Members of the 1999 Colby High School Class 4A State Champion boys basketball team showed they have the heart, going 3-0 and winning the Tom Stephens/Colby Recreation 5-on-5 men's basketball tournament on Sunday at the Colby Community Building.

The former Eagles beat Hays 66-63 in overtime in the championship after downing Brewster 59-52 in the semi-finals and dominating Norton 75-61 in the first round.

### Sports Briefs

#### Golf

LYTHAM ST. ANNES, England (AP)—David Duval refused to let the British Open turn into the shootout everyone expected, seizing control with a rock-solid game that carried him to a 4-under 67 at Royal Lytham & St. Annes and gave him his first major championship.

Former Masters champion Ian Woosnam, after nearly making an ace on the opening hole, realized he had an extra club in his bag and was assessed a two-stroke penalty. Woosnam finished with a 71 and was four strokes back.

Tiger Woods (71) took triple bogey on the par-3 12th and wound up nine strokes behind, his worst finish in a major in nearly four years.

#### Cycling

LUZ-ARDIDEN, France (AP)—Lance Armstrong held the leader's yellow jersey in the final mountain stage of the Tour de France, bolstering his chances for a third straight title.

Armstrong was fourth in the 14th stage, crossing the finish line just behind main rival Jan Ullrich of Germany.

team included Spencer McKee, Justin Lane, Jonalan Smith, Parker McKee and Jerad Johnson. Josh Miller, former Golden Plains standout was also on the team, along with Colby Community College Trojan baseball player Andy Wernke and former Weskan star Landon Steele.

Other Eagles from the 1999 team in the tournament included Josh Lee, playing for Poe, who fell to Hays in the semi-finals and Justin Schwanke, playing for Starkey, who fell to Poe in round one.

Event organizer Tom Stephens said he was impressed by the intensity and level of play of all of the teams. "We had some great basketball out there," he said.

He also thanked Mike Hake, Ike Donn and Shaun Kidder for organizing the officiating. "That was the key to a successful tournament."

Proceeds from entrance fees for the tournament went to support the women's basketball program at Colby Community College

## Former Packer hasn't forgotten his hometown

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

Nelson Toburen said the Colby Grade School gym, formerly the high school gym, brought back a lot of memories.

The former Colby Eagle, Wichita State Shocker and Green Bay Packer was in Colby on Thursday to talk about the old gym with Brian Stuckey, from Goessel, who is writing a book on old gyms in Kansas.

Stuckey is writing about gyms built before 1950. He has been to Rexford and Herndon in northwestern Kansas. He said he tries to interview a local sports figure in conjunction with the gym.

"I interviewed Dean Smith in Topeka and Ralph Miller, before he passed away, in Chanute," he said.

He decided to interview Toburen as a former Green Bay Packer, the only professional athlete to come out of Colby High School.

Toburen graduated from Colby in 1957 and was in a rarefied atmosphere as a 12-letter athlete, meaning he had lettered in three sports all four years of high school.

He got a scholarship to Wichita State University, where he played tight end and defensive end.

"We were terrible the first couple of years," he said. "But we won the valley conference in 1960."

Cessna Stadium was known as Soldier Field in those days and it wasn't

nearly as big. Toburen said college football was more like a job than in high school.

Players like Toburen had to struggle to keep grades and football because they needed the scholarships to stay in school.

"I quit college football so many times," he said. "But I really enjoyed Saturdays!"

Toburen got into the professional ranks almost by blind luck. Bill Austin, a line coach for Wichita State, went to Green Bay to be an assistant for the legendary Vince Lombardi.

Austin talked Lombardi into taking Toburen in the last round of the 1961 draft.

"I had never seen a professional game before," he said.

Toburen played outside linebacker in the 1961 World Championship, beating the New York Giants 37-0 in Yankee Stadium.

The Packers played the Giants in the championship again the next year, but Toburen didn't play in the game.

He was in traction after fracturing the fifth cervical vertebrae in a game against the Baltimore Colts on Nov. 18, 1962.

"I can still remember that day," he

said. Toburen said the team doctor, an orthopedic surgeon kept his neck from moving and credits him with saving him from being paralyzed.

"I tackled Johnny Unitas," Toburen remembered. He joked that he was "lucky to have broken his neck" after seeing the pain that many of the older players endure.

He talked about Vince Lombardi crying in his hospital room after the game. "He was a very emotional man," Toburen said, adding that Lombardi would sometimes tear up during pregame talks.

Lombardi also picked up Toburen's contract for the next year, ensuring at least some income until he was able to recover from his injuries.

"I spent a year in a body cast," he said.

Toburen also talked about the difference in sports today and in yesteryear. "Athletes are faster and stronger than ever," he said. Toburen told of being benched for shooting a hook shot in the 1950s.

"We played football at the fairgrounds (at Thomas County Speedway) my freshman and sophomore year," he said. He said Dennen Field was "heaven" after playing at the track.

"We practiced in ski masks in Green Bay," he said, "but it got pretty cold in Colby, Kansas, too."

Money is also a big change. Toburen got \$7,500, plus a \$500 signing bonus for his rookie year.



N. Toburen

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