

Eagle wrestlers open season with two big wins

By JAY KELLEY
Colby Free Press

ST. FRANCIS — The Colby High School wrestling team opened their season with a dual win Friday night against WaKeeney and first place finish on Saturday at the St. Francis Invitational tournament.

The Eagles finished at St. Francis with 159 points, 21 ahead of second place Goodland. Scott City was third with 133.5 points.

Danny Mainus and Brent Deibert won their divisions. Mainus beat his first two opponents by fall and won the championship with a 4-3 decision over Goodland's Blayze Bahe at 112-pounds.

Deibert won all three of his matches with pins at 215-pounds.

Three Colby wrestlers took second. Scottie Lindberg, 125-pounds; Eric Luedke, 130-pounds; and Drue Herl, 140-pounds.

Lindberg pinned his first opponent, then won a 3-2 overtime decision and lost 2-1 in the championship round.

Luedke lost a 1-0 decision to Goodland's Bryce Bahe, voted outstanding wrestler of the tournament, in the championship after winning two matches by fall.

Herl won a 9-8 decision to get into the championship, but fell 7-3 in the final match.

Travis Powell, Travis Button and Eric Seemann all took third.

Powell won his first match by fall, was pinned in the second and won, again by fall, in the consolation final at 103-pounds.

Button, at 119-pounds, opened with a 7-0 win, but lost 4-3 in round two and finished with a 4-0 decision over Goodland's Mathias Goodley in the consolation final.

Seemann won by pin in the opening round and in the consolation round. His only loss came on a 2-0 decision in round two.

Three Colby wrestlers finished fourth. Justin Bell won a 10-5 decision to open the tournament at 135-pounds, but fell in round two, 4-3 in two overtimes, then lost a 5-2 decision to Nick Gray, Goodland, in the consolation match.

Schuyler Sharpe pinned his opening opponent, but lost a 5-2 decision in round two and an 11-4 decision in the consolation.

Tucker Olsen, at 160-pounds, won in the first two rounds, 5-2 and 7-4, but fell in round three 3-2 and lost his consolation final 6-0.

Rusty Raymo took fifth at 171-pounds, losing his first match 7-6 in two overtimes, but following up with two wins by fall.

Both 189 and 152 were open.

Colby 51, WaKeeney 23, Friday night

The Eagles warmed up on WaKeeney Friday night with a dominating performance from the first eight weight classes receiving three forfeits and pinning five opponents.

The final six matches included some good wrestling and, although the Eagles were able to win only one, they had already put the match away.

Powell at 103; Button at 119; and Bell at 135 received forfeits.

Mainus pinned Wade Cook in 21 seconds at 112. Lindberg pinned Tyson

Flax with 30 seconds left in the third round and leading 6-0 at 125.

Luedke was leading C.J. Pfannenstiel 9-1 when he pinned him with 1:01 left in the third round.

Herl, at 140, pinned Kevin Schuster with 1:13 left in the third period and leading 10-1. Sharpe was leading 10-0 when he pinned Bret Conness 14 seconds into the third period at 145.

WaKeeney got their first points when Colby freshman Ross Wright, in for Raymo who failed to make weight, fell to Brett Hille in a 17-2 technical fall in the second round.

Tucker Olsen was 2-2 with WaKeeney's William Wynn going into the third period, but a late escape and takedown gave Wynn a 5-2 win and made the team score 48-8 Colby.

WaKeeney put another six points on their side when Brandon Hickel pinned Theo Kleinsorge with 40 seconds left in the match at 171.

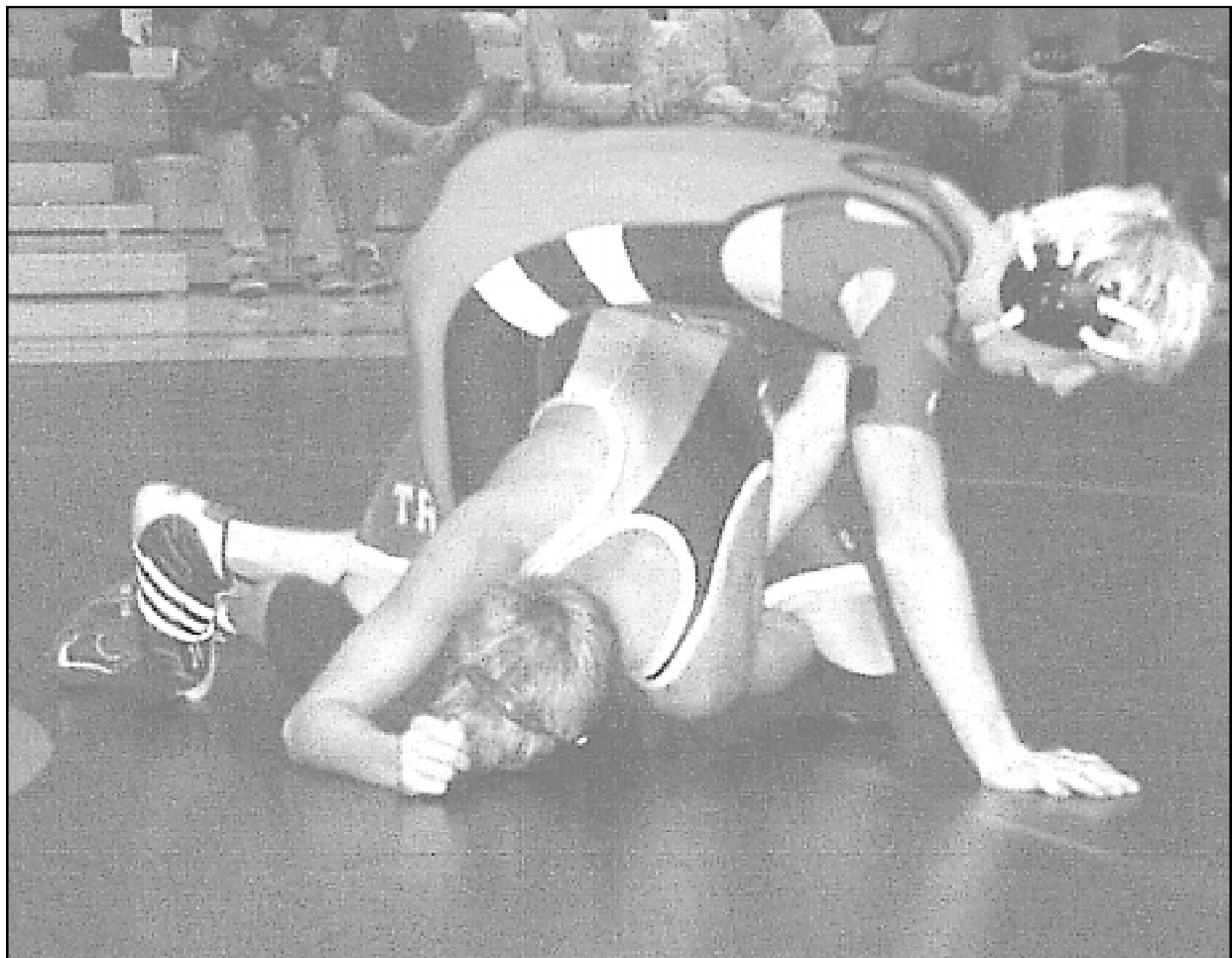
Colby's Zeth Thompson was trailing Randy Hilgers 4-0 when he was pinned 12 seconds into the second round.

Deibert was tied at one point with Adam Frohling at the end of three. A takedown 30 seconds into the overtime gave Colby another three points on a 3-1 win at 215.

The final match also went down to the wire. Eric Seemann, at 275, wrestled Jason Malay to a 2-2 tie, even after the first overtime. As the clock ticked down on the second, Malay managed to break free for an escape and a 3-2 win.

In jayvee action Friday, Tanner McClure was disqualified at 145 when trainers couldn't stop a bloody nose and Simon Roesch, 171 and Jason Erickson, 189 both lost by fall.

The Eagles are at home again this weekend, with a dual against St. Francis in the Community Building Thursday and the Eagle Invitational Tournament, also at the Community Building, on Friday and Saturday.



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Colby High School wrestler Scottie Lindberg worked his WaKeeney opponent into a pin at the Colby-WaKeeney dual in the Colby High School gym Friday night. The Eagles went on to win the St. Francis Invitational on Saturday.

Championship banner hung

Colby High School wrestlers hung their 2001 championship banner to start the new season. The Eagles have won four state wrestling titles, in 1936, 1951, 1958 and 2001.

Bruce Flipse, a member of the 1958 team, presented the banner to members of last season's team in a ceremony before the varsity match against WaKeeney at the Colby High School

gym Friday night.

The Eagles qualified 12 out of 14 weights and place nine wrestlers in the top six in coach Mitch Beims inaugural year.

Trojans 1-1 in Jayhawk tourney

COFFEYVILLE — The Colby Community College Trojans are now 9-2 after a 1-1 performance at the Jayhawk Shoot-out in Coffeyville this weekend.

The Trojans finished strong with a 91-61 win over Labette County. Detric Spooner had a double-double with 18 points and 16 rebounds. He also had five blocks. Brent Brooks had 17, Stuart Keltner had 16 points and five rebounds. Joe Williams had 14 points and six rebounds. Billy Williams had 11 points, eight rebounds and a team leading seven assists. Mike Wolters had 10 points, four rebounds and three assists. Pierre Tucker had three points

and Jason VenJohn had two.

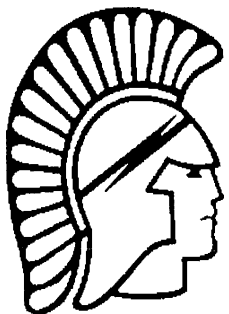
Eric Fowlkes played just seven minutes before spraining his ankle. The Trojans were also without Keyon Williams and Donte Hammond for the weekend.

Johnson County 91, Colby 67
Colby started with a 91-67 loss to

Johnson County on Friday morning. Forwards Spooner and Billy Williams were in foul trouble in the second half. Both eventually fouled out.

Stuart Keltner scored 16 points and led with five rebounds. Eric Fowlkes had 12 points. Billy Williams and Spooner had nine points each. Spooner also led with six rebounds. Mike Wolters had eight points and three assists. Pierre Tucker and Joe Williams had five points each. Brent Brooks had two and Jason VenJohn had one.

Colby will face McCook in the Colby Community Building on Wednesday at 8 p.m.



Buffaloes knock off Longhorns

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Just call the Colorado Buffaloes the Rose Bowl elimination squad. One week after erasing Nebraska's road to the national title game, they knocked Texas out of the way, too.

Chris Brown ran for three touchdowns as the No. 9 Buffs turned Texas quarterback Chris Simms' four first-half turnovers into 26 points, then held off a rally to beat the No. 3 Longhorns 39-37 Saturday night for their first Big 12 championship.

Colorado (10-2) fulfilled the vision coach Gary Barnett had for the Buffs this summer when no one else expected much from them after a 3-8 season. Their stunning turnaround will continue in a Bowl Championship Series game, likely the Fiesta Bowl. Representatives from the bowl were in the locker room right after the win.

"When we left the hotel today, I told them we are a team of destiny," Barnett said. "No one is playing with more heart right now. Whoever we play next, they're going to face one heck of a football team."

Simms' meltdown prevented Texas (10-2) from its own storybook season. Texas knew before kickoff that if it won, it would be in position to move up to No. 2 in the second-to-last BCS standings because Florida lost to Tennessee. Early arriving Longhorns fans cheered wildly when that result was announced and several waved red roses.

Instead, the Longhorns are likely headed to the Holiday Bowl for the second straight year, this time against No. 19 Washington.

"The Rose Bowl was right there," said receiver B.J. Johnson, who scored the first and last touchdowns in Texas' comeback bid. "All we had to do was beat Colorado and we didn't get it done."

Simms threw two early intercep-

tions, letting Colorado turn a 7-0 deficit into a 16-7 lead. After the Longhorns regained some momentum, Simms blew it again with a fumble and another interception that helped put the Buffs up 29-10.

"I was stunned with what happened to me," said Simms, who threw four



interceptions in Texas' only other loss — to Oklahoma. "We had a chance to go to the Rose Bowl. I don't know what happened."

Simms dislocated a finger on his throwing hand on his next play after his fourth turnover and the Longhorns turned to forgotten fan favorite Major Applewhite.

The senior quarterback went in to cheers of "May-jor! May-jor!" and nearly pulled them out of their biggest hole of the season.

Applewhite threw a 79-yard touchdown pass on his second play and led two more drives that ended in field goals. Then Roderick Babers intercepted a fake punt and returned it 54 yards for a touchdown and the Buffs' lead was down to 36-30 with 9:10 left.

Barnett later joked that the gamble nearly cost him. He was saved from the criticism when Colorado answered by taking 7:12 to move 51 yards for a 43-yard field goal by Jeremy Flores with 1:58 left.

That drive was kept alive with a fourth-and-1 dive by quarterback Bobby Pesavento and a roughing-the-punter penalty against Texas. The

Buff added to the drama by taking a delay of game penalty when Flores was set up for a 38-yarder.

Applewhite threw a 1-yard touchdown pass to Johnson with 31 seconds left, but Colorado recovered an onside kick and was soon celebrating with its small cluster of fans.

"We always thought we were a great team," said Buffs' linebacker Aaron Killion, who caught Simms' first interception and returned it 72 yards. "I believe we wanted it more."

Colorado avenged a 41-7 loss to the Longhorns in Austin six weeks ago. The Buffs had won four straight since that game, which they gave away with three first-half turnovers and a touchdown they allowed just before halftime that put them behind by 17.

Sound familiar?

In returning the favor, the Longhorns lived up to a lot of bad precedents.

They lost a championship game rematch of a regular-season victory, just like they did to Nebraska in 1999. Simms mirrored his pratfall in Texas' only other big game this season, a 14-3 loss to Oklahoma in which he threw four interceptions. He'd thrown 16 touchdowns and two interceptions in the six games since, all victories.

And, Longhorns coach Mack Brown once again will hear about losing the big one. Since beating the Cornhuskers in '99, his teams have lost two Big 12 title games, two bowls games and two games against the Sooners. Although he's among the highest-paid coaches in the country, he remains without a conference title in 18 years as a head coach.

Chris Brown, who had six touchdowns in Colorado's 62-36 victory over Nebraska, ran 33 times for 182 yards. He alone had more yards rushing than any team did this season against Texas, which came in allowing the second-fewest total yards in the country.

Area Schedule

Tuesday, Dec. 4
The Sagebrush Shootout high school basketball tournament starts in Brewster. Here are the schedules for Brewster and Golden Plains.

Boys' schedule:
Golden Plains vs. Atwood at 6 p.m. in the north gym.
Brewster vs. Stratton, Colo. at 8 p.m. in the south gym.

Girls' schedule:
Golden Plains vs. St. Francis at 3 p.m. in the north gym.
Brewster vs. Stratton at 6 p.m. in the south gym.

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