

Colby boys come out on top in close game

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

McCOOK — Colby coach Derek Bissitt said the Eagles knew McCook wouldn't be a pushover after Colby downed the Bison 58-52 in a close game on Tuesday night in McCook. "We have a lot of respect for McCook and the success they've had in their program," he said. "We knew we were pretty evenly matched and would need to play great defense and shoot the ball well to beat them at their place."

In a game that went down to the wire, Colby outscored McCook 13-11 in the first and took that two-point lead into the locker room at the half.

The third quarter found the two teams battling for supremacy, ending with Colby still in the lead at 37-35.

Colby held on in the fourth, putting 21 points on the board versus 17 for the Bison. "I think the game really boiled down to us hitting shots when we needed to and playing pretty stingy defense," said Bissett.

Although Bissett credited McCook with solid effort, he said the Eagles stepped up when it counted. "We did the things it takes to in a big game down the stretch. I was really proud of the kids' effort!"

Corey Woofler led the Eagles with

24 points and 12 rebounds. He also had a steal and an assist.

Parker McKee had 19 points and led the team with four steals and four assists.

Ross Barnett went 2-for-2 from beyond the arc and added a couple of freethrows for 8 points. He also had two rebounds, a steal and two assists.

Justin Schwanke had three points, two rebounds and an assist. Brett Mariman and Zach Brown had two points each. Each had three rebounds also. Brown had a steal and an assist and Mariman had an assist.

Brian Williams had three rebounds and Jordan Harris had one for the Eagles.

Colby hosts the Hoxie Indians on Friday night at the high school gym. Varsity games start at 6:30 p.m.

McCook jayvee 56, Colby 32
The Eagle jayvee fell to 5-3 with a 56-32 loss to McCook. Brett Mariman led the junior varsity with 18 points, followed by Jordan Harris with seven, Clayton Kaiser with five and William Higerd with two.

Harris hit the Eagles' sole 3-point shot in the match and the Eagles shot 60 percent from the free throw line.

The junior varsity plays Hoxie at the Colby Elementary Gym on Friday night. Game time is 6 p.m.



Lady Eagles overcome shooting woes with win

By RALPH WOLF

Colby Free Press

McCOOK — The Colby High School Lady Eagles went on the road to defeat the McCook Lady Bison 42-36 on Tuesday night.

The Eagles struggled with their shooting, making only 11 of 24 freethrow attempts.

Colby held a 1-point lead at 9-8 after one period of play. In the second period, the Lady Eagles scored 12 points, but McCook scored 13 and the score at the break was tied at 21.

Andrea Stephens had a double double with 16 points and 10 rebounds, as well as rejecting three shots.

Ivy Ramsey finished the game with 12 points and seven rebounds. Summar Stephens had five points, 10 rebounds, a steal and an assist. Kala Mengel scored four points. Samantha Wolf and Dominique Palsler added two points apiece. Wolf was also credited with three rebounds and two assists.

Amanda Seemann came off the bench and produced one point, two boards and two assists.

The varsity squad improved to 4-4

on the season and will host the Hoxie Indians on Friday night. Varsity games start at 6:30 p.m. in the high school gym.

McCook JV 42, Colby 40
The Lady Eagles junior varsity lost a hard fought battle 42-40. Colby had a 12-10 lead after one period of play and a 23-19 lead at half-time.

Amanda Seemann led the way with 11 points, seven rebounds, two steals and two assists. Brianna Swafford scored eight points and four steals. Desiree Sharp and Bethanie Linden each contributed six points, two rebounds and one steal.

Lacey Miller added five points, four boards, two steals and had one assist. Courtney Albers and Breanna Hart both finished the game with two points apiece. Hart was credited with four rebounds and three assists, while Albers pulled down three rebounds. Lori Ziegelmeier had two rebounds and a steal.

The jayvee record stands at 5-3, and they will host Hoxie in the elementary gym after the boys' junior varsity game.

Tiger men perfect at 6-0 in conference, 11-1 overall

HAYS — The Fort Hays State University men's basketball Tigers completed a weekend Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference road trip to Colorado, bringing home big wins over both Western State College at Gunnison, 73-71 and Mesa State College at Grand Junction, 79-76.

The wins give the Tigers, coached by Colby native Chad Wintz, a 6-0 RMAC mark and 11-1 overall.

They entertain Colorado's Adams

State College at Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays in another conference game on Friday at 8 p.m.

The Tigers are the only conference team with a perfect record.

Meanwhile, the Tiger women lost both games in Colorado by razor-thin margins, 81-80 to Western State and 77-75 to Mesa State.

The ladies are 8-7 overall and 3-3 in the conference.

They take on Adams State College at 6 p.m. Friday in Gross Memorial Coliseum in Hays.



Football commissioner set to rule on dispute over coaches

NEW YORK (AP) — Commissioner Paul Tagliabue could have a ruling in a day or two on whether former St. Louis Rams coach Dick Vermeil can take the same job with the Kansas City Chiefs.

Tagliabue conducted a two-hour hearing at NFL headquarters Tuesday, listening to arguments by the Rams, who claim Vermeil has a year remaining on his contract with them, and the Chiefs, who say the coach has no further obligation to his old team and should be able to work elsewhere.

At issue is whether the coach, who took the Rams to a Super Bowl championship last January, should be free to

join Kansas City, which fired coach Gunther Cunningham after two seasons last week.

Vermeil announced his retirement from St. Louis last February with two years remaining on his contract, turning the head coaching job over to offensive coordinator Mike Martz.

The Rams then went 10-6 and lost in the first round of the playoffs to New Orleans.

Rams president John Shaw said when Vermeil left, the team gave him a \$2 million bonus as a thank-you for the Super Bowl championship but did not intend that as a payoff for the remainder of his contract.



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Alicia Collett disputed a basket during a fast break in the second half of Brewster's loss to Grinnell during first-round action at the Western Kansas Liberty League Tournament in Brewster on Tuesday. Despite a big comeback in the fourth period, Brewster couldn't overcome the deficit and fell 56-53. The Lady 'Dawgs are in pool play and will play on Saturday. The time and opponent will be announced.

Tourney update

Here are the results of Tuesday's games in the Western Kansas Liberty League Tournament in Brewster.

Boys
Greeley County 72, Wallace County, 50

Grinnell 62, Golden Plains 44
Cheylin 65, Triplains 36
Weskan 91, Utica/Healy 75

Girls
Wallace County 68, Cheylin 20
Greeley County 74, Triplains 55
Utica/Healy 56, Weskan 44
Grinnell 56, Brewster 53

Friday's games (All games will be in the Colby Community Building)

Boys
Cheylin vs. Weskan at 4:30 p.m.
Greeley County vs. Grinnell at 7:30 p.m.

Girls
Wallace County vs. Greeley County at 3 p.m.
Utica/Healy vs. Grinnell at 6 p.m.

Prep Scores

Results of games Tuesday night:

Boys
Dighton 58, Oakley 35
Hays 48, Great Bend 42
Hoxie 70, Oberlin 60
Scott City 58, Ulysses 43
TMP-Marion 83, Minneapolis 68

Girls
Atwood 73, Republican Valley, Neb. 53

Great Bend 52, Hays 44
Grinnell 56, Brewster 53
Lakin 65, Goodland 57
Oakley 57, Dighton 35
Otis-Bison 45, Ransom 40
Scott City 59, Ulysses 43

Area Schedule

Thursday, Jan. 11
Colby Middle School girls basketball at St. Francis and wrestling at 5:30 p.m.

Western Kansas Liberty League tournament at the Community Building in Colby. Times and teams to be announced.

Friday, Jan. 12
Colby High School basketball with Hoxie. C-team starts at 4:45 p.m. in the elementary gym followed by jayvee boys and girls. Varsity girls at 6:30 p.m. in the high school gym followed by varsity boys.

Western Kansas Liberty League tournament continues in Colby at 3:30 p.m.

Atwood High School C-team, jayvee and varsity basketball hosts Goodland at 3:45 p.m.

Brewster girls fall in opener

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

BREWSTER — The Lady Bulldogs from Brewster High School lost a tough 56-53 match to Grinnell in the first round of Western Kansas Liberty League action on Tuesday night.



Things look grim for the Lady 'Dawgs after the loss of leading scorer Sara Luckert early in the game. Luckert went out with a knee injury and coach Laura Rush said she didn't know the extent of Luckert's injury.

Brewster was down 19-14 at the end of the first quarter and hung in with Grinnell in the second, trailing 37-31 at the half.

Grinnell ran away from the Lady 'Dawgs in the third, leading 49-37 at the break.

Brewster came back in the fourth, outscoring Grinnell 16-7 and trailed by three with almost a minute left, but the Brewster girls were unable to put the plays together for a lead at the end.

Ashley Carpenter and Alicia Collett each had 13 points to lead in the effort. Carpenter also had three rebounds and a steal.

Collett continued her dominance of the boards with 11 rebounds. She also had a team leading three steals along with four assists.

Jill Beiser had nine points, two steals and a team leading five assists. Tara Fulwider had seven points, three rebound and an assist. Miranda Starns had five points, along with a rebounds, a steal and an assist. Erin Carney had four points, six rebounds and an assist.

Amber Fulwider had two rebounds in the effort, and Luckert had two points before leaving the game.

Brewster's next game will be Saturday at the Community Building. Time and opponent will be announced.

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