

Wrestlers sixth in Liberal tourney

By JAY KELLEY
Colby Free Press

LIBERAL — The Colby High School wrestling overcame a bad start Friday to finish sixth at the Liberal Invitational Tournament on Saturday.

Two Eagles, Eric Luedke and Eric Seemann, finished first in their divisions. Schuyler Sharpe finished second and both Rusty Raymo and Scottie Lindberg finished sixth.

"We came out really flat on Friday," said coach Mitch Beims. "We wrestled better on Saturday, but it was too late."

Beims added, "I didn't have the team ready to wrestle following the Christmas holiday. We will be back on track this week."

The top six teams were Goodland; Chaparral, Colo.; Ponderosa, Colo.; Moore, Okla.; Kapaun-Mt. Carmel (Wichita); and Colby.

Luedke was first in the 130 division with a 4-0 record.

He beat his first three opponents by fall, a 20-4 technical fall and an 8-0 major decision before beating Goodland's Bryce Bahe 5-2 in the final in a match between the no. 1 (Luedke) and no. 2 (Bahe) wrestlers in the state.

Seemann also went 4-0 winning three matches by fall at 275 for a first place finish.

Sharpe finished second at 145 with two wins by major decision, 8-0 and 12-3, and a fall, before losing 14-5 in the final round.

Raymo went 3-3, including one win by 13-4 major decision to take sixth at 152.

Lindberg was sixth with a 4-3 record at 125. His final match was a heart-breaking 2-0 loss in the fifth place match.

Here are the results by weight:

103 - Travis Powell, 1-2, did not place.
112 - open.
119 - Jesse Tibbles, 2-2, did not place.
125 - Scottie Lindberg, 4-3, 6th.
130 - Eric Luedke, 4-0, 1st.
135 - Justin Bell, 1-2, did not place.
140 - Drue Herl, 1-2, did not place.
145 - Schuyler Sharp, 3-1, 2nd.
152 - Rusty Raymo, 3-3, 6th.
160 - Tucker Olsen, 2-2, did not place.
171 - open.
189 - Brent Deibert, 1-2, did not place.
215 - open.
275 - Eric Seemann, 4-0, 1st.

First conference game Wednesday at home

Conference play begins Wednesday for the Trojans. We open up at home with Pratt Community College (8-6).

All tickets for the contest are just \$1 (children, of course are free).

The Jayhawk Conference is perhaps the best junior college basketball conferences in the nation. This season appears to be no different. Taking a closer look at the Jayhawk West there were three teams (Hutchinson, Seward County, Garden City) that posted 12-2 records in the non-conference.

Three teams (Colby, Barton, Butler) went 11-3 and three teams (Dodge, Pratt, Cloud) went 8-6.

Pratt enters Wednesday's game with an 8-6 record. This will be the conference opener for both the Beavers and Trojans. A season ago Pratt entered Jayhawk Conference play with a 12-2 mark. Last season the Trojans entered conference action with a 9-5 mark. Colby defeated Pratt both times last season by an average score of 83-68. The last meeting in Colby the Trojans won 89-60.

Colby enters the conference opener with an 11-3 record and has played their toughest non-league schedule in six years. Pratt is led by 6'9" sophomore Morrey Correa averaging 16 points and nine rebounds per game. Morrey is one of the best big men in the conference.

The Trojans are led by the leading scorer in the Jayhawk Conference, Keyon Williams with 26.1 points per game. Billy Williams, (Mr. Do-Whatever-It-Takes!) is second in the Jayhawk in field goal shooting percentage at 66 percent and averages 15 points and eight rebounds per game. The leading rebounder for Colby is 6'8" freshman Dedic Spooner who averages 11, along with 14 points.

The strength of the Trojans is the depth the team has on the bench. The in-state freshman class is perhaps the best ever in Colby history. Jason VenJohn (Ingalls, 6'7" 235 pounds,) Mike Wolters (St. Francis,) Joe Williams (Kansas City) and Stuart Keltner (Hays) have already made major contributions.

The quality depth is evident in the team's 11-3 record. There have been only four games this season when everyone was healthy and just four times have all six out of state players played in the same game. Two of the three



Brian Ostermann
●Power Sports

losses found the Trojans short-handed.

Last season the Trojans made major strides in building a Jayhawk West Conference contender. Colby had their best record in their five-year history since joining the Jayhawk Conference. Most wins in a season (15) and in conference play (6), including wins over Hutchinson and Barton County (who finished seventh in the nation).

The team qualified for the Region VI playoffs for the second straight season. The Trojans look to surpass last season's marks and are currently 11-3 in the 2001-2002 campaign. This includes the Trojans toughest non-conference schedule in many years.

Trojans win number 11

SALINA — The Colby Community College Trojans improved to 11-3 with a 98-73 win over the Kansas Wesleyan jayvee in Salina on Saturday.

Colby led 53-36 at half-time and extended their lead in the second half. Billy Williams had a double-double with 21 points and 11 rebounds.

Keyon Williams also had 21 points, with nine rebounds. Pierre Tucker had 13 points and nine rebounds. Eric Fowlkes had 12 points. Donte Hammond had 10 points, five rebounds and five assists.

Joe Williams had six points. Brent Brooks had four. Dedic Spooner had four. Mike Wolters had three. Corey Brown had two and Stuart Keltner had two.

"We have reeled the most wins of any Trojan team prior to Jayhawk play," said head coach Brian Ostermann, pleased with his team's performance.

The Trojans open conference play on Wednesday when they host Pratt at the Colby Community Building. It's dollar night and the men play at 8 p.m.

Jottings

- Little Cagers continue the next three Saturdays in January. Grades 1-3 from 9:30-11 a.m., grades 4-6 from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. for boys and girls. The Trojan coaching staff and players will work with the youngsters and the kids will also perform at half time of a Lady Trojan game. Cost is just \$30 for the final three sessions and it's not too late to sign up. Each participant receives a free T-shirt. Call the Colby Recreation Department at 462-4440 to sign up.
- Our game at Cloud County will be played Saturday at 8 p.m. Rich Epp will have the broadcast on 100.3 FM.
- We host nationally ranked Seward County on Monday Jan. 14. The women play at 6 and we play at 8 p.m.
- This is the sixth season in Colby basketball history as a member of the Jayhawk Conference. We call it the "new era of Trojan basketball." The record for non-conference wins for a season is now 11 set this season!
- I want to thank Gambino's, Taco John's, Subway, and Thomas County Feeders for donating food to feed the guys!

Jayhawk Western Division men's basketball standings as of Jan. 7:

1. Hutchinson, 12-2
2. Seward County, 12-2
3. Garden City, 12-2
4. Colby, 11-3
5. #2 Barton County, 11-3
6. Butler County, 11-3
7. Dodge City, 8-6
8. Pratt, 8-6
9. Cloud County, 8-6.

SMU hires former Wildcats

DALLAS (AP) — New Southern Methodist football coach Phil Bennett rounded out his staff by hiring former Kansas State colleagues Bob Fello and Jim Gush as high-ranking assistants.

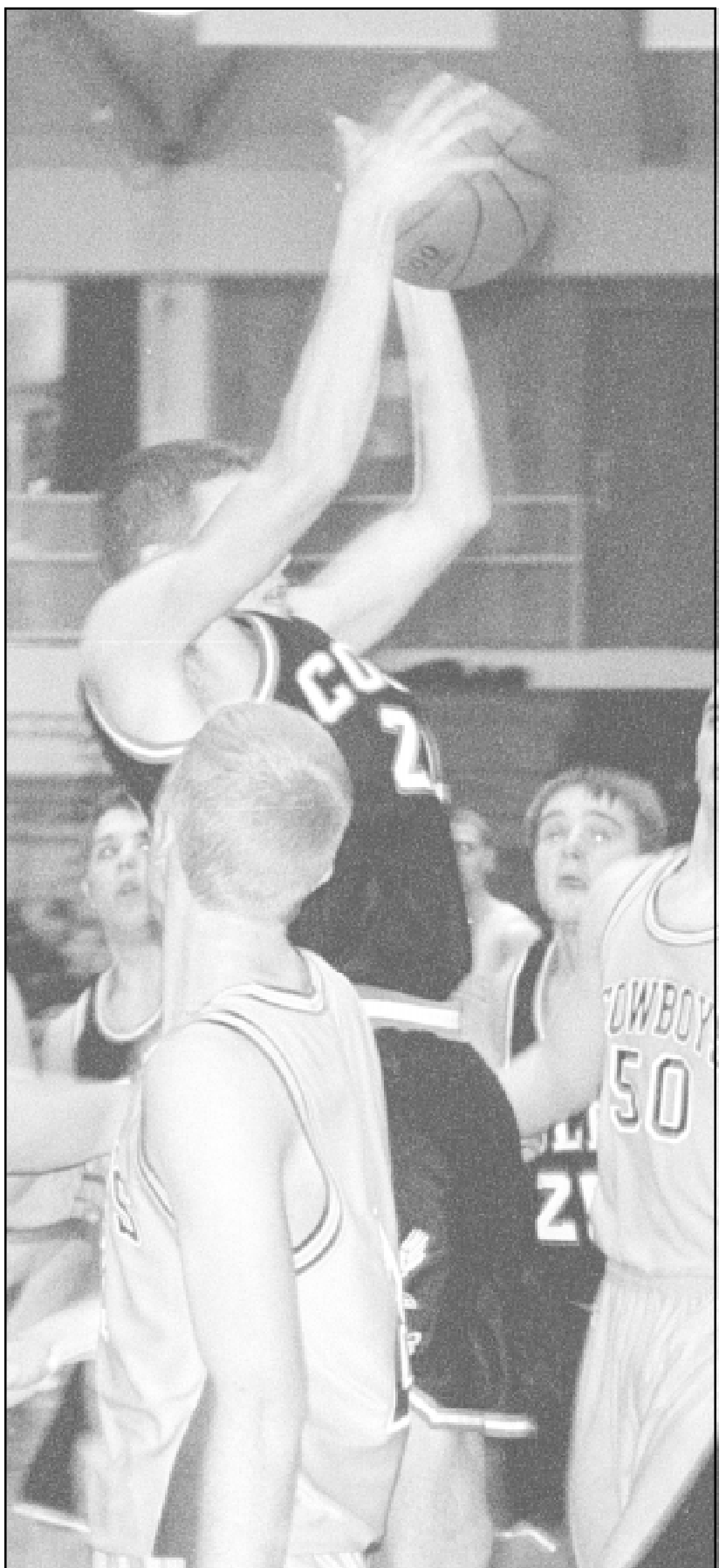
Fello was named assistant head coach and interior defensive line coach. Gush was named defensive coordinator and linebackers coach.

Also on Monday Clarence James, who worked with Bennett at Oklahoma, was named wide receivers coach.

Bennett was defensive coordinator at Kansas State before being hired by SMU last month.

Fello, who coached defensive ends at Kansas State, also has worked at Kansas. Gush coached linebackers at Kansas State after working at Garden City Community College.

James, the receivers coach at Kansas, held the same job at Oklahoma from 1992-98.



Wyatt Rundel grabbed a rebound in a 47-45 Colby High School loss to the Goodland Cowboys Friday night. The Eagles are at home tonight, playing McCook, Neb. at the Community Building. Varsity action starts at 6 p.m.

SKILAR BOLAND/Goodland Daily News

Eagles lose to rivals in January opener

By JAY KELLEY
Colby Free Press

The Colby High School Eagle boys basketball team suffered a disappointing 47-45 defeat at the hands of their hosts, the Goodland Cowboys on Friday night.

Both teams started slowly, with a lot of turnovers. The score at the end of one period was 7-4 Goodland. The Eagles trailed 17-15 at the half-time, but came out in the third and took a two point lead. Both teams seemed to find their pace in the fourth, but Goodland outscored the Eagles 20-16.

Jordan Harris was the scoring leader, with 13 points. He also had five rebounds and two steals. Clayton Kaiser had 10 points and led the team with seven rebounds.

Landon Stover had eight points, a board, two steals and team-leading three assists.

Shane Stover and Carson McKee had four points each. Shane had six boards, an assist and a team-leading three steals. McKee had four boards, a steal and two assists.

Will Higerd and Tucker Stover had two points each. Higerd had three boards and Stover had one.

Jeff Williams had one rebound. Wyatt Rundell had a rebound and an assist.

The Eagles are now 2-5 and will be in Colby tonight, facing McCook, Neb. Varsity action at the Community Building starts at 6 p.m.



Sports Briefs

Free throw contest
The Colby Knights of Columbus will hold a free-throw contest on Sunday for boys and girls ages 10-14 in the Colby Elementary Gym at 1 p.m. For more information, call Miles Ladenburger at 462-7687.

January baseball clinic.
The University of Kansas is holding its annual winter baseball clinics on Saturdays, Jan. 12, 19 and 26 at Anschutz Pavilion on campus from 2-4 p.m. for hitting and 4-6 p.m. for pitchers and catchers for 3-8th grade athletes. Cost for all three Saturdays is \$80 for individual sessions or \$140 for combination. Call 785-864-7907.

January tournaments
Mid-America Youth Basketball is holding tournaments for girls and boys grades 3-8 in Park City and Olathe on Jan. 12-13. Call 316-284-0354.

Junior varsity 46, Goodland 42
Jeff Reavis had 17 points and Josh Houtz had 15 points to lead the jayvee to a 46-42 win.

Matt Augustine and Christopher Finley had three points each. Ryan Arensdorf, Brian Sulzman, Chris Gordon and Jordan Sharp had two points each.

Jared Cranston and Bruce Arnberger also saw action.

The jayvee will play McCook, Neb. tonight after the C-team game in the elementary school gym.

C-team 55, Goodland 27
The C-team boys used a stiff defense to get off to a 12-0 start and cruised to a 55-27 win. Matt Augustine had 14 points, four rebounds and three assists. Christopher Finley had 10 points, shared the lead with five rebounds and had one assist.

Deke Elliott and Jared Dinkel had nine points each. Elliott had two boards and two assists. Dinkel also had five rebounds, along with three assists.

Omar Fercha had six points and four rebounds. Nic Rohr had four points and two rebounds, as did Tony Brown.

Sean Mengel had a point, a board and led with five assists. Jordan Sharp had four rebounds and four assists.

Patrick Toth had two assists. Justin Helin had two rebounds. Luke Rogers had one. Joey Melnyk had a rebound.

The C-team boys are playing against McCook, Neb. at 4:30 p.m. in the Colby Elementary School gym.

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