

Eagles defeat Smith Center Redmen, 36-30

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

The mighty Smith Center Redmen came to Colby Friday night with a 4-1 record and a stingy defense that hasn't been scored on a lot this year. The Colby Eagle football team was 1-4, and prone to giving up big plays early.

Some people can't be blamed for not coming out to the game. It could have been ugly.

But it wasn't, and that's why they play the games, folks. Because sometimes, the underdog will stand up and shout, "We will not be defeated!"

The Eagles found a way to balance a running game, a passing clinic, and a new 5-3 defense to stop the Smith Center Redmen 36-30. Jared Cranston threw three touchdown passes, one to Brian Sulzman for 33 yards; two to Jordan Harris, back after a leg injury, for 34 and 48 yards. Ryan Arensdorf ran for two touchdowns.

"They play in a 6-1 defense," head coach Brad Wildeman said. "So we mixed it up and attacked their flats. They didn't have anybody out there."

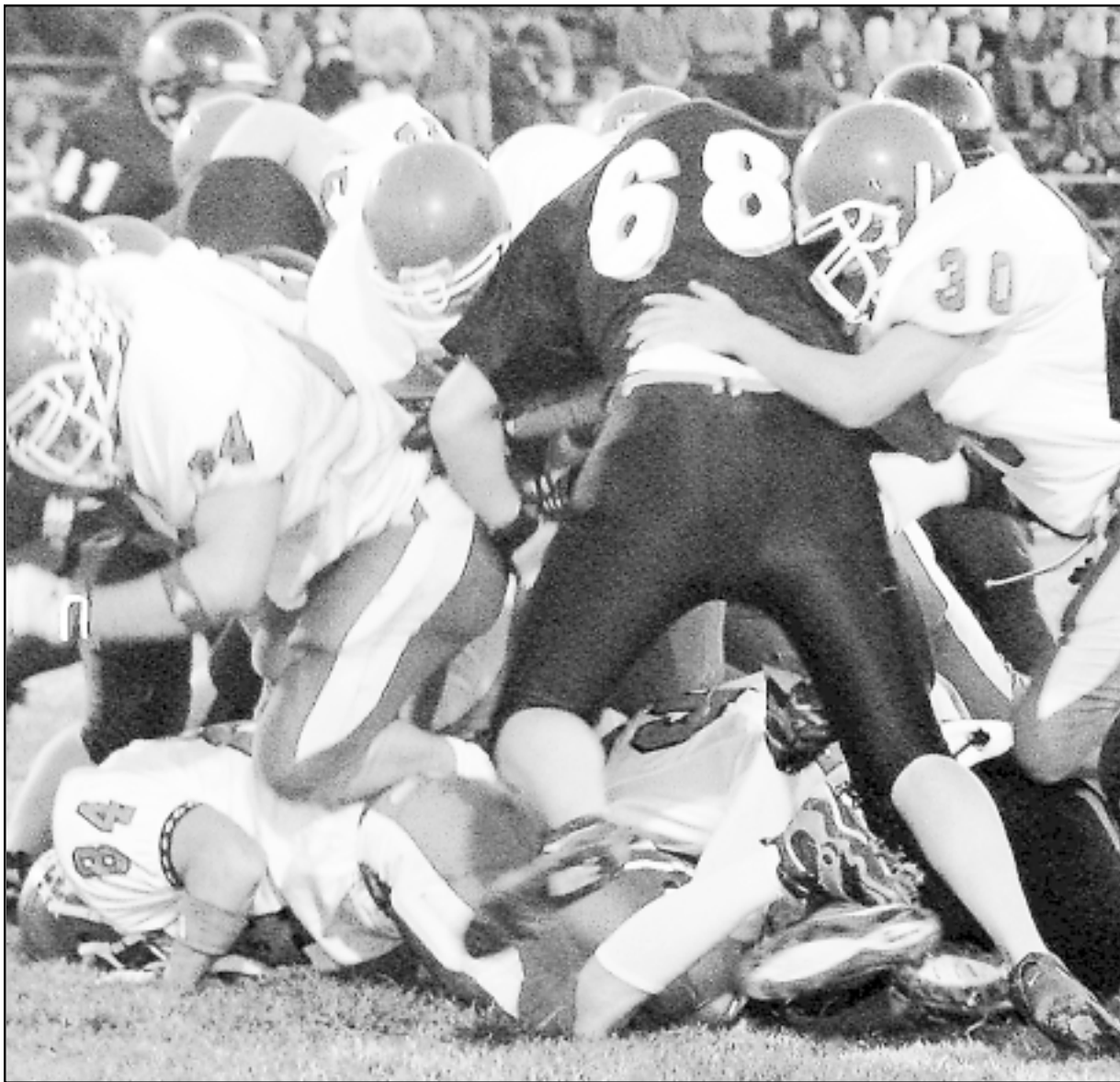
Colby stumbled on its first two possessions, fumbling on the third play of the game, and turning the ball over on an interception on its second possession. But the Eagles, with five men on the line, stopped the Redmen's vaunted wishbone attack, and the third time Colby got the ball, Cranston connected with Harris for the first score of the game. The Eagles never looked back, and never trailed in the game. The first quarter ended with Colby up 6-0.

Colby scored again with 7:56 left in the half, after a drive that featured five Eagle first downs. Arensdorf pounded the ball in from the six-yard line, and then took in the extra-point try to put Colby up 14-0.

Smith Center came right back, scoring from the Eagle 1-yard line to make the score 14-8. Colby went 3-and-out, and Smith Center got the ball back with 1:42 left in the half. Junior Brett Dempewolf got into the backfield on 4th and long to shut down the Redmen's final drive of the half.

The Eagles went to the locker room leading 14-8.

Smith Center came out in the second half with pretty much the same game plan: pound it up the middle.



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Tanner Brown (68) and the rest of the Colby Eagle defense stood up to the Smith Center Redmen Friday night at Dennen Field.

But Colby wasn't giving up any yardage, and the two teams traded the ball back and forth for most of the third quarter, until Cranston hit a streaking Harris for a 48-yard score. Harris caught the extra-point try and the Eagles led 22-8.

On the ensuing kick-off, Smith Center took the ball all the way to mid-field, and then two plays later, scored, but Colby stopped the conversion, and the score was 22-14.

The Eagles started the last drive of the third quarter from their 35-yard line, and got a huge run from Brent McCoy just as the quarter ended.

McCoy collapsed on the sideline between quarters, and paramedics worked on him for 15 minutes. McCoy was taken by ambulance to Citizens Medical Center, and was treated and

released. His mother Carla said this morning that he had had breathing difficulties and a bruised side, and was sore and stiff, but he's alright. Coach Wildeman said that McCoy would be able to play Friday night.

Play resumed in the fourth quarter with Cranston hitting Brian Sulzman on the sideline for a 33-yard score. The PAT was no good, and Colby led 28-14.

Smith Center got good field possession on the kick-off after Cranston first kicked the ball out of bounds, then Colby went offside on the second kick-off. Smith Center scored with 9:30 left in the game and after the PAT the score was 28-22.

On the drive again, the Eagles got a key first down from Jared Cranston, and then a Arensdorf reception got them to the 4-yard line.

Two plays later, Arensdorf got into the end zone, and then converted the PAT to put Colby up 36-22.

With McCoy gone from the nose guard spot, the Redmen were able to move the ball down field, but two penalties on their last drive helped to chew up the clock, and there was only 1:40 left in the game when they scored to get to 36-30.

Colby recovered the on-side kick at mid-field and ran the clock out to seal the win.

"This was definitely a morale booster," Wildeman said. "It was all you could ask for from these kids."

Colby hosts Scott City Friday night at Dennen Field.

Game time is set for 7:30 p.m. This is the first game in the district play-offs.

What do you take for a sports hangover?

I hope you were at the football game Friday night at Dennen Field. If you weren't there, you missed a classic. Smith Center, described as a perennial powerhouse, came into Colby expecting, I imagine, to get a cream puff win. Not so fast, Redmen. Our Eagles didn't lay down (they never do), and I for one, thoroughly enjoyed watching the game. Let's hope the Eagles can use this game as a springboard into the post-season.



Darrel Pattillo
On the Ball

You know, I've said some harsh things this year about greed-head baseball players and owners, and how I wish they would all get into a big bus and drive off of a cliff, but I'll be danged if I wasn't sitting there Sunday afternoon rooting the Angels on. They're in the Series for the first time in the club's existence. I remember when I was a wee lad, I had some Los Angeles Angels baseball cards. How much would those be worth now?

And you know what else? I hope the Giants win the Series. Barry Bonds deserves a ring, just like Elway deserves his. No matter how big of a jerk he is, Bonds has finally shown up for the play-offs, so you gotta root for him to go all the way. Don't you?

How 'bout them Chiefs, huh? The Chargers tried to lose that game five or six times, but Kansas City wouldn't let them. It's an example of the football

gods saying, "Well, you got that bogus win at the beginning of the season, so we're going to have take this one away from you." It all evens out, you know.

I'm in the early stages of Sports Alzheimer's. This is where a 38-year old man keeps forgetting that he's not 25 anymore, and continues to participate in sports at a level of play that really hurts on Monday mornings. There is a definition of insanity that goes

like this: "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over, expecting different results every time." Guess what? Next Monday morning, I'll be sore again. Big deal. I gotta play!

Is it just me, or does it seem like there's an awful lot of sports overlapping right now? You've got MLS soccer, college basketball, college football, NBA, NFL, NHL, and Major League baseball and probably two or three others that I can't think of right now.

Well, at least golf is over with for a couple of weeks. I was getting close to overload there for a minute. (My buddy Rod gets upset if I go too many columns in a row without mentioning golf. So there you go, Rod!)

Darrel Pattillo is the sports editor for the Colby Free Press. His column appears on Mondays.

Wildcats' kicking game just not getting the point(s)

MANHATTAN (AP) — Extra points are supposed to be easy. That's why they're only worth — well, an extra point each.

Tell that to No. 17 Kansas State.

The kicking game is in disarray at Manhattan, where the Wildcats had three of their five extra-point tries blocked — and missed both of their 2-point attempts — in Saturday's 44-9

win over Oklahoma State. The Cowboys even returned one of the blocked kicks for a 2-point defensive conversion.

The timing couldn't be worse, either,

with No. 8 Texas up next on the schedule. The Longhorns dropped five spots after losing 35-24 to No. 2 Oklahoma on Saturday, while Kansas State moved up two spots in the latest poll.

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