



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

The Colby Lady Eagle volleyball team is the #3 seed heading into the state tournament this weekend in Salina. Play begins at 9:30 a.m. Friday at the Salina Bicentennial Center. ABOVE: The Lady Eagles in action against Hoxie from earlier this year.

# Trojan wrestlers open season Friday

By LES BROWN  
Colby Free Press

The 2002-03 version of Trojan Wrestling hopes to utilize the momentum of two returning NJCAA All-Americans, the transfer of two NCAA DII athletes and the arrival of one of the most talented recruiting classes in Colby's history to add to its string of six consecutive top ten finishes at the NJCAA national tournament. Head coach Steve Lampe, who is entering his 28th year at Colby Community College, feels this to be the most talented team in the school's illustrious history. And he, along with third year assistant Eric Toraya, recognize that, barring injury, their projected varsity line-up has the capacity to accomplish great things in this year's post-season tournaments.

Coach Lampe indicates he is very optimistic about the upcoming year. "Realistically, it currently appears as though seven of our ten weight classes

are capable of earning NJCAA All-American honors this year," said Lampe. But, even with this optimism, Lampe is quick to point out that he "does not expect to see runaway performances at the beginning of the season. However, I do expect our team will be ready for the big stuff at season's end."

Team chemistry will likely have a lot to do with the evolution into a championship contender. Multi-cultural issues, several new faces and fierce practice room competition have kept the team from gelling as of yet.

Lampe expects this to quickly change once the team's viewpoint shifts from an internal focus to an external perspective.

Meaning that success against outside competition will go along way in enabling the team to rally together and unite for a common objective and success at the 2003 NJCAA national tournament.

While Colby's varsity line-up is expected to be tremendously talented, the early portion of the team's schedule will test their ability and endurance. The Trojans open their season on the road in a dual meet against last year's NJCAA national tournament runner-up, Neosho Community College, on Friday.

During the following 38 days the Trojans are scheduled to compete in three NCAA level tournaments (University of Wyoming Cowboy Open, the Oklahoma State University Kick-off Classic and the Las Vegas Invitational) and three additional duals against top ten teams from last year's NJCAA national tournament (North Idaho #3, Pima #4 and Lassen #10). Colby will also take on last year's top NJCAA team, Iowa Central, in a dual meet in January of 2003.

The Trojans open their home schedule on the evening of Nov. 19th against the Air Force Prep team.

# Wildcats are heavy favorites over Jayhawks

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP)—Kansas State coach Bill Snyder has a nine-game winning streak against Kansas and is heavily favored against his in-state rival, but that doesn't mean he isn't concerned.

The cause of concern is Kansas coach Mark Mangino. Before a two-year stint at Oklahoma, Mangino spent seven years on Snyder's staff. He brought with him to Kansas a distinct knowledge of Snyder's program and strategies.

That inside information has Snyder worried.

"It's always a concern," Snyder said. "Sometimes I wish the apples fell further from the tree. There is just an awful lot of things that coaches who spent an awful lot of time here know about us. Whether the knowledge is philosophical or schematic, it puts you in a position where you have to make changes."

Although Kansas State's players are different than when Mangino coached there and many schemes have changed, Snyder believes Mangino knows his program.

Mangino, however, downplayed his knowledge of Kansas State.

"I've been removed there for several years," Mangino said. "I put eight years of dedicated work there, loyalty to the program. My contribution there right now is miniscule. You couldn't find it with a microscope."

Mangino was the recruiting coordinator at Kansas State from 1991 until he became the running game coordinator in 1997. After being promoted to assistant head coach in 1998, Mangino left with fellow assistant coaches Mike

Stoops and Brent Venables to coach with Bob Stoops at Oklahoma. Mangino was an assistant head coach

at Oklahoma for three years before being hired as Kansas' head coach in December.

# Fall sports heading to post-season

By DARREL PATTILLO  
Colby Free Press

The fall high school sports season is winding down in Thomas County, with some of the area schools finishing their seasons as early as this evening, while others will play into the weekend, and still others who look to be playing as late as mid-November. The Colby Eagle football team, under first-year head coach Brad Wildeman, finishes up this evening in Ulysses, hoping to end the season on an up-note, by improving its record to 3-7. The Lady

Eagle cross country team will have seven runners at Wamego Saturday morning, at the 4A state meet. The Lady Eagle volleyball team, with a record of 30-3, is the #3 seed at the state tournament in Salina, and will play Towanda-Circle at 9:30 a.m.

Over at Rexford, the Golden Plains Bulldog volleyball team finished its season at the Little Eight volleyball tournament in Brewster on the Oct. 29, losing to Sharon Springs in the finals of that tourney. The Bulldog football team is looking to go to 8-1 as they take

on Weskan tonight in Rexford. Bi-District play begins on Tuesday, Nov. 5.

The Brewster volleyball team also finished its season at the Little Eight tournament, hosting Sharon Springs, Greeley County, Triplains, Golden Plains, Weskan, Grinnell, and Cheylin. Brewster lost to Cheylin in the consolation match, to take fourth place.

The Bulldog football team plays its final district game against Cheylin tonight at Bird City. The 'Dawgs lost to Golden Plains last Friday at Brewster, 53-8.

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