

‘And then you THROW your arm over...’



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

The Colby Wrestling Club opened its practice season Monday night at the high school. Coach Kevin Kriss said that he has around 65 kids out this year. The club opens competition in Beloit on Dec. 14. ABOVE: Kriss demonstrated the ‘sit-out’ maneuver to the 10 and under and 12 and under wrestlers.

It’s time to see how the Trojans bounce back

This will be an interesting week for Trojan basketball. We will see how this team responds to our first loss of the season.

We tasted defeat for the first time Saturday night losing at Marshalltown 85-76. We won Friday night over Ellsworth, Iowa to improve to 9-0 but could not overcome some great shooting by the host school. The game was one that we just couldn’t get ourselves to do the things necessary to get a tough road win. We must get back to what we do well (REBOUND) and must go out and do those things for 40 minutes.

It was a tough night and weekend for both Justin Williams and Branden Miller. Both these young men have played much better at home. They are young kids and will adjust to playing tough on the road. Probably the most frustrated player on our team is pre-season all-America candidate Dedric Spooner. ‘Spoon’ was triple teamed and held to just four points Saturday night. Spoon has been double and triple teamed in all 10 ball games. We must continue to find ways to free him up and he must also continue to improve on his passing.

Our tough schedule will make us tougher down the road. A year ago when I started putting this season’s schedule together I wanted to have some really tough games for our team. Our thinking is this will help us when we get into the tough Jayhawk West. We have faced 5 quality Division I/juco programs to date (all 5 have winning records to date). In those games we are now 5-1.

Some teams in our league choose a softer schedule. Hutchinson for example has played 9 games (all at home) and have faced only 1 division I/juco program. Barton County on the other hand has a schedule one would say is even tougher than our schedule (per-



Brian Ostermann

●Power Sports

haps why they are ranked #1 in the nation). We have 3 super tough road games on our non-conference schedule. We had the great win at #8 South Plains, a tough loss at Marshalltown and next up at Coffeyville. All of these tough games will hopefully make us better prepared and tougher once we get into the league. Of course it is nice to be racking up the wins and we have been fortunate to win a few thus far.

Finally, what a challenge we have ahead this weekend. We must bounce back and play well just to give ourselves an opportunity at Coffeyville. We play the defending region champs on their floor Friday night. Coffeyville is coming off a terrific 34-2 season and a National runner-up finish return 6 key players from that team. This will be the toughest challenge to date for our team. I am sure our players will be looking forward to playing a great team on their floor. There will be over 200 college scouts. Coffeyville has a 31 game home winning streak at stake and it will be a standing room only crowd. It will be wild and intense! It doesn’t get any better than that! We will be ready. Let’s just hope we play well enough! Be sure to listen!

JOTTINGS

Trojan fans came from Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Illinois to support our team in Marshalltown. We had over 100 fans each night. It was great to see family and friends over the holiday.

A special thanks goes out to McDonald’s, Gambino’s, Taco Johns, and Thomas County Feeders. Thank

you for feeding the Trojans during the holidays! Also, thanks to Pepsi for providing drinks for our road trips!

The Dunk-O-Meter is currently at 35.

Check out the new HOME EVENTS schedule posted downtown on the Sport Shoppe building. This is a great reminder for all you fans. This sign will list our winter home sports contests. We thank the Colby CC Backers Club, Commercial Sign, and F & M Insurance for sponsoring the sign.

We have a big weekend ahead as we travel to Coffeyville, Kansas for the annual Jayhawk Shootout. It’s East Vs. West. We take on defending Region VI champion & National runner-up Coffeyville on Friday at 7 p.m. and then Kansas City, KS on Sunday morning at 9 a.m. Two very difficult ballgames. It should be very interesting!

Both games can be heard on KQLS 100.3 broadcast by Rich Epp

Four Eagle wrestlers are top-ranked

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

Four Colby Eagle wrestlers are among the top-ranked wrestlers in the state, according to preseason rankings released by the Kansas Wrestling Coaches Association.

Senior Danny Mainus, the defending 4A state champion at 112 pounds,

has moved up to 125 pounds and is ranked 1st. Senior Jesse Tibbles wrestled at the state tournament last year at 119 pounds and is currently ranked 4th. Senior Eric Luedke was second last year at 130 pounds and is ranked 1st this year at 145 pounds. Luedke won a national title last month in Colorado at the Rocky Mountain

‘Monster Match’ National Wrestling Tournament. Schuyler Sharpe is a junior this year and ranked 2nd at 152 pounds. Sharpe took second last year at state at 140 pounds.

The Eagle wrestlers kick off the season Friday at WaKeeney, with action on the mats getting under way at 6:30 p.m.

Chiefs will strive to keep momentum

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — As a reward for their 49-0 trouncing of the troubled Arizona Cardinals, the Kansas City Chiefs were excused from practice Monday.

Given the historic scope of the victory — which put them in the record book and kept them in the playoff chase — the Chiefs probably deserved an expense-paid trip to Las Vegas.

But can they sustain the momentum? The week before handing the Cardinals

the most lopsided loss in the history of that franchise by holding them to 122 total yards, the Chiefs (6-6) gave up more than 500 yards in a demoralizing 39-32 loss to underdog Seattle.

“The one thing that always carries over is confidence,” Chiefs coach Dick Vermeil said Monday.

“Confidence in the National Football League, for all the reasons, varies from week to week. You can get on a roll and gain momentum. I like to think we play as though we’ve gained momentum all the time.”

The Seattle game, which saw the defense revert to its terrible September form after seeming to make progress the three previous weeks, was on everyone’s mind all last week.

“I think the carry-over is of confidence,” Vermeil said. “Plus, for us, it’s the erasing of the negative experience in Seattle. It’s the washing it out of our mind and proving to ourselves that we

can do it.”

In gaining their first shutout since 1999, the Chiefs held the Cardinals to just 22 yards in the second half.

“Now, we have to say was it a miracle? Can we actually do that 2-3 times? We have to do it four weeks in a row,” Vermeil said. “We have to play just like that four weeks in a row.”

Striving to avoid being shut out of the postseason for the fifth year in a row, the Chiefs figure they’ll need to win their last four regular-season games and finish 10-6.

They have St. Louis at home this week, followed by trips to AFC West rivals Denver and Oakland, and one last home game against AFC West leader San Diego.

After the Seattle debacle, several players said there might have been a letdown after appearing to get their defense headed back in the right direction.



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