



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Colby Eagle sophomore Ross Wright took second at the Oberlin 9/10 tournament last Saturday. Wright wrestled at 140 pounds. ABOVE: Wright in action against Burlington's Colt Reents the night before the Oberlin tourney.

## Eagles take fifth at Oberlin tourney

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press

The Colby Eagle 9th/10th wrestling team wrestled in a tournament at Oberlin last Saturday, and placed 5th out of 8 teams, finishing with 83 points. The Eagles had a total of two first-place winners, one second-place, three thirds, and three fourth place wrestlers.

David Voss, at 145, took first at that weight, and Mark Bartlett took first at 215.

Here are the rest of the results from the Oberlin 9/10 tourney:

103, Lincoln McClure, third; 119, Taylor Finley, fourth; 125, Josh Cersovsky, fourth; 130, Kyle Withington, fourth; 140, Ross Wright,

2nd; 145, David Voss, first; 160, Tyson Plumisto, third; 189, Brady Strange, third; 215, Mark Bartlett, first.

Alex Kleinsorge, Sean McCurdy, and Alex Marshall also participated.

The Eagle wrestlers are back in action on Jan. 9, when the jv and varsity take on Goodland at the high school gym.

## Baseball free agents face a buyer's market

NEW YORK (AP)—The bear market isn't just on Wall Street anymore. Just ask baseball's free agents.

Among the 157 players who filed for free agency following the World Series, 61 have agreed to new contracts, ahead of last year's pace on Christmas Day (50 of 154) but behind two years

ago (75 of 136).

Here's the telling sign: Just 18 players have gotten deals for \$5 million or more total, down from 25 last year and 35 two years ago. Only six players have gotten \$20 million and higher, down from nine last year and way below the 15 at this point following 2000.

Jim Thome is the only player to top \$40 million, agreeing to an \$85 million, six-year contract with Philadelphia. Last year, New York Yankees first baseman Jason Giambi (\$120 million for seven years) and Texas pitcher Chan Ho Park (\$65 million for five years) topped that level.

## Trojans at home in early January

By LES BROWN

Colby Free Press

The Colby Community College Trojan wrestling team closes out the home portion of its schedule in early January and hopes to have a great crowd in attendance at each event. The Trojans are the nation's number one ranked NJCAA team and have seven individual wrestlers ranked in the polls. Five of those individuals are currently ranked 1st in the nation at their weight division, the other two are ranked 3rd.

The Colby Community Building will serve as the venue when the Trojans host the Lynx of Lincoln College (Ill.) on Wednesday, Jan. 8. The dual is slated to begin at 7 p.m. and will serve as the springboard for a full weekend of junior college wrestling action.

The Trojans will then host the annual Tournament of Champions in the Community Building on Jan. 10 and 11. Action is slated to begin at 10 a.m. on Friday and at 11 a.m. on Saturday. The TOC will feature seven of the nation's top ten ranked NJCAA teams. The twelve teams expected to compete combine to represent 55% of the individuals currently ranked in the NJCAA coach's poll. Historically, this tournament has been the toughest regular season junior college meet in the nation and this year's tournament is expected to be just as competitive.

The season's last home event will be on Sunday, Jan. 12 when the Trojans are scheduled to dual the nationally ranked, in-state rival Neosho County Community College Panthers. The dual will be held at the Colby Commu-

nity Building and will begin at 3 p.m.. The Panthers are currently ranked 3rd in the latest NJCAA poll and have individuals ranked in five of the individual weight classes. This event will be a tremendous competition between two of the nation's premier junior college wrestling programs. As such, it is hoped that we can fill the bleachers to add to the excitement of this all-important showdown will Neosho.

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend these events. This season represents the first time in the illustrious history of CCC wrestling that the team has earned the nation's number one ranking. With that in mind we ask that you be in attendance so that you can provide the added enthusiasm necessary to send the competition home with another tic mark in the loss column.

## Brian Griese upset about being benched

DENVER (AP)— Brian Griese questioned his future with the Denver Broncos on Wednesday after learning he will not start at quarterback against Arizona even if his sprained left knee is healthy.

Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said Steve Beuerlein will start Sunday as Denver clings to slim playoff hopes. The news left Griese dejected and somber at his weekly news conference.

"I've always had passion for the game," Griese said. "I wouldn't do this if I didn't have passion for the game. It's just that this isn't fun for me. I don't know who it would be fun for. I don't

think that anybody in my situation would have a good time sitting here on Christmas talking about this kind of stuff. But that's my life, and so I'll find a way to go forward."

Shanahan said he made the decision based on Denver's 28-16 loss to Oakland on Sunday, and not on how Griese fits into Denver's future plans.

The Broncos would've had a chance to win the AFC West had they beaten the Raiders, but fell behind 21-0 after Griese threw two interceptions in the first quarter.

His quarterback rating was 14.2 before Bill Romanowski knocked him

out in the second quarter.

Beuerlein threw for 288 yards and a touchdown in his place, leading the Broncos to 16 points before the Raiders pulled away.

"When a guy really steps up and performs like he did, and Brian didn't have one of his better games, I feel that it gives us the best chance to win by giving that person an opportunity to start," Shanahan said.

"And we're talking about this game. You don't know anything beyond this game. My job is to give our football team the best chance to win this weekend."

## Priest Holmes out for Oakland game

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)— Priest Holmes is definitely out for Kansas City's regular-season finale against Oakland on Saturday, Chiefs coach Dick Vermeil said Wednesday.

Holmes, who is just two touchdowns away from the NFL single-season

record of 26, injured his hip at Denver on Dec. 15. He missed last week's game against San Diego.

The 2001 NFL rushing champion, he was leading the league with a team-record 1,615 yards rushing when he was hurt at Denver. Holmes' 2,287

yards from scrimmage this year is just 142 shy of the NFL record.

"He had been optimistic about playing this week, but he will not play," Vermeil said.

Also out is safety Greg Wesley, who pulled a hamstring muscle last week.

## Female kicker breaks gender line in Division I football

LAS VEGAS (AP)— Katie Hnida became the first woman to play in a Division I football game when she attempted an extra point following a New Mexico touchdown in the Las Vegas Bowl.

Hnida, a walk-on junior, had her

kick blocked but by then she had already made history.

The 5-foot-9, 150-pound Hnida was on Colorado's roster in 1999 and suited

up for the Buffaloes in the Insight.com Bowl.

She joined New Mexico's team before this season.

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