

# Hoops for the holidays!

Home for the Holidays? Hoops for the Holidays? In Kansas High School teams are not allowed to play during Christmas break but in most other states Christmas is a time for Holiday basketball tournaments.



**Brian Ostermann**  
● Power Sports

My staff and I will be out in full force nation wide. Chad will be in his customary location Milwaukee, Wisc. Dave will spend some time in Minneapolis and in Chicago. Chad will also make a trip into Chicago.

I will be heading south to Charlotte, N.C. In all, we should see about 50 teams play during the break. This will give us a good recruiting list to work from over the next couple of months. Recruiting is the life blood of a college basketball program.

As we take a closer look at our recruiting we will graduate a very good sophomore class. We will lose Eric Fowlkes and Decric Spooner from our out of state class. We also lose a great in-state group with Stu Keltner, Mike Wolters, Joe Williams, and Jason Ven John all moving on.

Our needs will be a couple of guards and one big man from out of state in addition to one guard, one wing, and one forward from in state. Our in state recruiting picks up again in Jan. with the area high school tournaments.

Our freshman class is looking even stronger than our current sophomore class. In fact, our top three scorers are all freshmen. E.J. Drayton (17 ppg), Branden Miller (12 ppg) and Justin Williams (12 ppg). These three are all out of state kids. We have received some solid play from in state kids K.J. Wilkens, Zane Davis, and Sam Jackson.

The last couple of years we have done a solid job in retaining some of our core players. This is a big key in improving a program from season to season. If this core group remains intact I can assure you we will be very good in 2003-2004.

Most importantly let's get back to this season. It's almost here! We open up Jayhawk West league action on Saturday Jan. 4 at 4 p.m. vs Butler County. The women tip off at 2 p.m.

**JOTTINGS**  
There is a very strong possibility that 8 out of the 9 Jayhawk West teams will enter conference play with at least 10 wins in the non-conference. It looks like another awesome year in the West! Be sure to check out all the home games beginning Jan. 4 at 4 p.m.

Our team did outstanding overall in the classroom. Our TEAM g.p.a. was a 3.03 for the semester. Eight out of our thirteen players earned a 3.0 g.p.a. or higher including one player at a perfect 4.0!

Little Cagers will begin Jan. 4. Sign up at the Colby Recreation Department. Call 462-4440 NOW to reserve your spot.

Little Cagers has been very popular the last few years and our players look forward to working with your kids (boys & girls) each Saturday morning in Jan.. Age groups are as follows: 2nd grade thru 4th grade 9:00-10:30 and 5th & 6th grade 10:30-12:00. Cost is just \$35 for 4 Saturday's and includes a T-shirt. Little Dribblers will run from 12:00-12:30 for pre-school thru 1st grade. Cost is \$10. Cagers will take place at the Colby Middle School each Saturday in Jan..

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!

Stuart Keltner broke his hand and had surgery last week. He will miss most or all of January. He broke it in our last game.

The Dunk-O-Meter is currently at 45.

We resume practice on Sunday Dec. 29 as we prepare to open conference play on Saturday Jan. 4.

I thank everyone for his or her support first semester. Have a happy and safe holiday. We look forward to seeing you at the games in Jan..

**FAST FORWARD**  
This next home game will be a conference showdown with Butler County on Saturday Jan. 4. Game times are 2 p.m. for the women and 4 p.m. for the men. Please note the time change.

Thursday Jan. 9 is DOLLAR NIGHT. All tickets to the Trojan vs. Cloud County game will be just \$1.

Brian Ostermann is the head coach of the Colby Community College men's basketball team. His column appears on Tuesdays.



DARREL PATTILLO/Colby Free Press

Travis Powell, wrestling at 112 pounds, tried to get some crucial back points in the third period of his match with Burlington's Trevor Aeschilman.

The match went to over-time, where Powell got a fall and won 8-6. The Eagles went on to defeat Burlington 39-34.

## Eagles wrestle past Burlington Cougars, 39-34

By DARREL PATTILLO

Colby Free Press  
Sophomore Travis Powell's 8-6 over-time victory against Burlington's Trevor Aeschilman turned out to be difference in the Eagle wrestling team's 39-34 win Friday night at the high school.

Powell threw Aeschilman twice in the 3rd period to come back from a 6-2 deficit, then battled for 1:55 in the over-time period before tossing Aeschilman to get the win.

By the time John Wark had pinned Burlington's Rodrik David, coach Mitch Beims knew that a couple of pins were going to be crucial. He told Eric Luedke (152) and Tucker Olsen (171) that if they got pins, Colby would win the dual.

So Luedke and Olsen went out and got their pins, Sharpe and Kleinsorge won by forfeit, and the Eagles had a five-point win.

"We wrestled good enough early," Beims said. "Travis really came up big.

That's a six point swing the other way if he loses that match."

The Eagles had 3 wins by fall, 3 wins by forfeit, and 1 point victory. Colby's dual record improves to 10-1.

The Eagles are off until Jan. 9, when they take on the #2-ranked Goodland Cowboys at the high school, beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Here are the results of Friday's dual with Burlington:

103, Daniel Tibbles won by forfeit; 112, Travis Powell won 8-6 in OT over

Trevor Aeschilman; 119, Taylor Finley lost to Jeremy Hobbie; 125, John Wark pinned Rodrik David; 130, Josh Cersovsky lost to Tyler Frihauf; 135, Colby lost by forfeit; 140, Justin Bell Wright lost to Colt Reents; 152, Eric Luedke pinned Brad Whipple; 160, Schuyler Sharpe won by forfeit; 171, Tucker Olsen pinned Jeremy Sigle; 189, Theo Kleinsorge won by forfeit; 215, Colby lost by forfeit; 275, Cubby Haremza lost to Chad Vanmaarth.

## Broncos playoff hopes still alive, at least mathematically

DENVER (AP) — Despite their struggles in the second half of the season, the Denver Broncos still have a chance to reach the playoffs — barely.

A 28-16 loss to Oakland on Sunday was Denver's fifth in seven games and dropped the Broncos to 8-7. But in the mess that is the AFC playoff picture, the Broncos still have a few ways to sneak in as a wild card.

"We know we still have a mathematical chance to be in the playoffs and if you really look into it it's prob-

ably very legitimate," Broncos coach Mike Shanahan said. "But you still don't know."

The Broncos know the first step is a victory over Arizona at home on Sunday, but it gets complicated after that.

One scenario would be if Atlanta beats or ties Cleveland, Miami beats or ties New England and Green Bay beats or ties the New York Jets tie.

The Broncos also could get in if Cleveland ties or loses, Miami loses and the Jets win.

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