

# Luedke claims state wrestling title

By MICHELLE L. HAWKINS  
Colby Free Press

The Colby Eagles took nine wrestlers to the Class 4A State Wrestling Tournament this weekend in Wichita, and three returned home with medals, placing in the top six.

The first-place medalist at 145 pounds was Eric Luedke. A senior, he has participated in four state tournaments, but has been eluded by the title — until now. As a freshman he finished third and was the runner-up both his sophomore and junior years.

Schulyer Sharpe, a 152 pound junior, returned to the state tournament for the second time. He finished fourth this year. Sophomore Daniel Tibbles, 103 pounds, worked he way up the back side of the bracket for a fifth-place finish.

Heading to Wichita hoping for a state team title, the Eagles finished in seventh place. Abilene finished in first place with 113 points followed by Goodland and Columbus in a tie for second with 100 points each. Clay Center, the 2002 state champs finished in fourth place with 89 points. Mulvane was fifth with 76.5 and Fort Scott sixth with 68. Colby came in seventh with 67.5.

- Daniel Tibbles was the first Colby wrestler to take to the mats and easily won his first match with Andy Coffman of Eudora by a score of 12-2. He advanced to wrestle Zach Freisberg of Caney Valley.

Freisberg took the first take down and continued to dominate the match. By the end of the second period, Tibbles was down 4-0. After Freisberg scored two reversal points in the second, Tibbles could not take back the top position. He lost 6-0.

On the back side of the bracket, Tibbles first faced Chad Normandin of Goodland. Tibbles was able to take to score the first take down, but Normandin got out of the hold and received an escape point. After the start of the second period, Normandin again scored another escape point to tie the match at 2-2. Tibbles was able to get him on his back and pined him just before the buzzer signaling the end of the second period.

Tibbles then faced Lorenzo Mundy of Santa Fe Trail. An escape point in the third period would win the match for Tibbles, 1-0. In the quarter-finals, Tibbles faced Isaac Wall of Andover. Tibbles lost to Wall, the eventual third place finisher, by a score of 4-1.

In the match to decide fifth place,



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Jesse Tibbles, senior, wrestled against Zach Camacho of Independence at the Class 4A State Wrestling Tournament. Tibbles finished the tournament 2-2 in the 130 pound weight class.

Tibbles wrestled Josh Sharp of Fort Scott. Tibbles started the match by a quick take down, but neither wrestler could score another point in the first or second period. In the third, Tibbles put Sharp to his back and picked up three back points. Sharp pulled and escape and took down Tibbles, but he was able to escape and picked up another point. Tibbles won the match 6-3 for the fifth place finish. He finished his season with a record of 28-12.

- Sophomore Travis Powell, 112 pounds, competed for the second time at the state tournament. He lost his first match to Keith Shepard of Independence by a score of 5-0, sending him to the consolation bracket.

He picked up his first win of this year's state tournament against Jordan Robbins of Hiawatha. Powell picked up the quick take down and put Robbins to the mat for two back points. Robbins was able to escape near the end of the first period and took down Powell at the start of the second. By the end of two periods, Powell was ahead 5-3. Powell scored another three points by an escape and a take down to win the match 7-3.

Powell's final match was with Sean Flynn of Lansing. He lost the match by a close score of 3-2. Powell ended his season with a record of 18-16.

- At 130 pounds, senior Jesse Tibbles, finished the tournament with two wins and two losses. He lost his first match to Zach Camacho of Independence. Camacho took the first take down, but neither wrestler scored again throughout the first or second peri-

ods. In the third period, Camacho scored another take down, but Tibbles picked up the reversal and put the score at 4-2. Unfortunately, Tibbles couldn't get Camacho to his back and allowed and escape for another point. Tibbles lost the match 5-2.

In the consolation brackets, Tibbles first match was with Garrett Palmer of Tonganoxie. He easily overpowered Palmer and won 15-5 to advance to wrestle Dustin Crotinger of Santa Fe Trail. Tibbles beat Crotinger by a score of 9-2.

His final opponent was Brian Zey of Abilene. Zey, who went on to finish fourth in the tournament, pinned Tibbles in the first period. Tibbles finished his season with a record of 25-13.

- Cole Garcia, the only freshman from Colby to attend the state tournament this year, took two tough losses. Garcia lost his first match to Scott Pittenger of Wamego. It was a back and forth battle through all three periods, but Pittenger came out on top 10-7.

On the back-side of the bracket, Garcia faced Caleb Galemore of Chanute. Galemore pinned Garcia with one minute remaining in the match. Both of Garcia's opponents placed in the tournament, Pittenger sixth and Galemore third. Garcia finished up his season with a record of 15-15.

- At 145, Luedke was the champion of his weight class. The first three matches Luedke wrestled, he pinned his opponent. His first victim was Kevin Montgomery of Kansas City Piper. He pinned him halfway through the second period. He went on to pin Travis Eden of

Santa Fe Trail at the beginning of the third period and Jared Daniels of Caney Valley in the third.

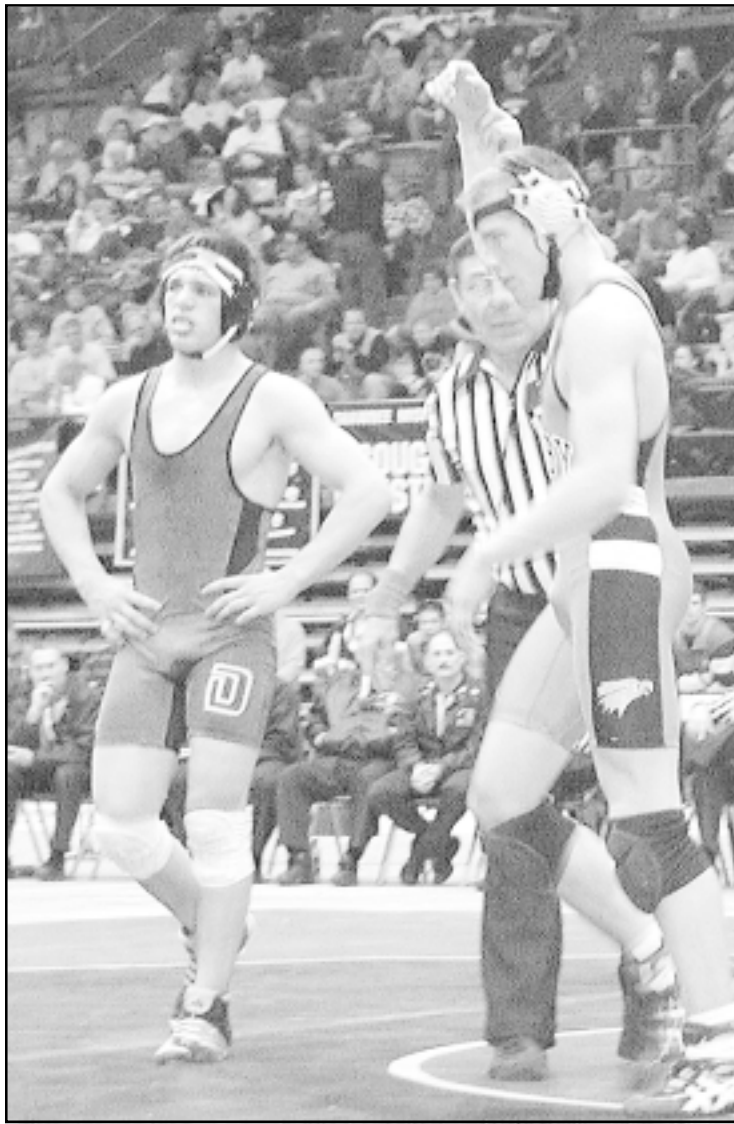
In the finals, Luedke faced Neil Erisman of DeSoto in the 145 pound weight class. Erisman entered the tournament with a 33-0 record for the season and was handed his first loss by Luedke. Both wrestlers were scoreless in the first two periods, but Erisman was able to score an escape in the third. With less than 2 seconds left in the match, Erisman used an illegal hold to give Luedke a point.

At the sound of the buzzer, the match was tied 1-1, leaving the title hanging in the balance of overtime. The wrestlers went back and forth fighting for control but in the end after a take down, it was Luedke's arm raised as the champion. He finished the season with a record of 38-1.

- At 152 pounds, Sharpe started the tournament with a win. He beat Josh Torrez of Topeka High School by pinning him in the first period. Sharpe went on to wrestle Jesse Strawn, the eventual second place finisher. He lost by a score of 7-3, sending to wrestle back on the consolation bracket.

Sharpe defeated Justin Wiscombe of Santa Fe Trail by 2-1 and then went on to face Ben Kerting of Douglass. With a major decision score of 16-1, Sharpe won and advanced to wrestle Frank Chase. Sharpe defeated Chase 2-1 to advance to the consolation finals.

In the vi for third place, Sharpe was matched up with Alvin Metcalf of Fort Scott. Metcalf scored the first take down of the match, but shortly after the start of the second



DANIEL J. MORRIS/Colby Free Press

Eric Luedke had his arm raised as the champion of the 145 pound weight class at the Class 4A State Wrestling Tournament. Luedke finished the season with a record of 38-1.

period, Sharpe freed himself from Metcalf's control for an escape point. Heading into the final period, Sharpe was down 2-1. Metcalf was able to score another three points for the win. Sharpe finished the season with a record of 38-6.

- Junior Tucker Olsen, 171, finished his 29-13 season with a 1-2 record at the state tournament. Olsen won his match against Chris O'Toole of Royal Valley by a score of 18-9. The first period of the match was slanted in Olsen's favor 6-1, but O'Toole made a come-back in the second. Heading into the final period, Olsen was only up by one point 8-7. Olsen turned it around again in the third period of the 18-9 win.

Olsen lost his next two matches, the first to Kyle Flory of Baldwin and the second to Wes Weller of Chapman. He was pinned by Flory in the third period and Weller in the second.

- Junior, Theo Kleinsorge at 189 pounds, had a tough two losses at

his first appearance at the state tournament. His first match was against the first seeded wrestler from Wellington, Chris Norris. He was pinned in the second period.

In the consolation bracket, Kleinsorge was next paired with Dan Hamilton of Baldwin. He was pinned at the end of the first period.

Kleinsorge finished his season with a record of 7-23.

- The final Colby wrestler was heavyweight, Brent Deibert. A senior, Deibert went 2-2 at the tournament. He defeated his first opponent, Andrew Miller of Tonganoxie, by pinning him in the third period.

In his second match, Deibert wrestled Sam Coffey of Baldwin and lost by a score of 3-2.

In the consolation bracket, Deibert first faced Josh Mills of Coffeyville. He easily defeated him by a score of 14-5 to advance to wrestle Danny Lavoie. Lavoie, the eventual third place finisher, pinned Deibert at the buzzer at the end of the first period.

# Labette to town for play-off game

## Trojans close out season with 24th victory

By TOM (TD) DREILING

Free Press Publisher  
(Chad Ostermann also contributed to this report)

A total of 187 points were scored in Saturday night's game between the Colby Community College Trojans and Pratt, and more than 1,100 boisterous fans were on their feet when the home gang chalked up that 100th point.

The victory in the Colby Community Building was especially sweet as it was the Trojan men's 24th win of the season and allowed them to finish second in the Jayhawk West Conference.

And those 24 wins are noteworthy because those are the second most victories for a Trojan team ever.

Overall, the Trojans finish regular season's play with a 24-6 mark and 11-5 in the conference. They will play Labette on Wednesday night in the first round of playoff action, in the community building. Game time is 8 p.m. Labette is 17-13 and the #7 team in the Jayhawk East conference.

In Saturday night's game, Pratt was first to score and that proved to be their only lead of the night, as the Trojans began building their lead

and went into the break with a 10-point advantage.

The Trojans outscored Pratt 14-4 in the first 4 minutes of the second half, holding a commanding 20-point lead, setting th tone for the final result.

Colby shot a season high 70.6 percent from the floor while holding Pratt to just 34.4 percent.

Justin Williams had a banner night, scoring 18, grabbing a career high 24 rebounds and blocking 8 shots. EJ Drayton netted 21 points; Brandon Miller, 21 (with 7 assists); Dedric Spooner 20 points (and 4 rebounds); and Eric Fowlkes had 10 points (and 5 assists).

**COLBY 100, PRATT 87**

**PRATT** (7-23, 4-12)  
Richard Russell 7-17 8-8 23; Robert Robinson 7-230-219; Tony Bennett 4-10 2-3 11; Sherwin Johnson 4-12-2-5 10; Luke Byler 4-12 0-2 9; Keith Miller 3-4 0-0 8; Mike Jackson 3-10 0-0 6; Naflys Blakewood 0-3 1-2 1; Marcus Taylor 0-1 0-0 0; Curtis Tatum 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 32-93 13-22 87.

**COLBY** (24-6, 11-5)  
EJ Drayton 5-89-11 21; Brandon Miller 8-11 1-3 21; Dedric Spooner 8-11 4-5 20; Justin Williams 8-11 2-6 18; Eric Fowlkes 5-6 0-0 10; Stuart Keltner 1-1 0-0 2; Dillion Sneed 1-1 0-0 2; Joseph Williams 0-2 2-2 2. Totals 36-51 22-35 100.

Pratt — 40 47 - 87  
Colby — 50 50 - 100

3-point goals-Pratt 10-30 (Robert Robinson 5-17; Keith Miller 2-2; Richard Russell 1-2; Luke Byler 1-4; Tony Bennett 1-5), Colby 6-12 (Brandon Miller 4-7; EJ Drayton 2-3; Eric Fowlkes 0-1; Joseph Williams 0-1). Fouled out—Pratt Mike

Jackson; Tony Bennett, Colby-None. Rebounds-Pratt 40 (Robert Robinson 7), Colby 49 (Justin Williams 24). Assists-Pratt 16 (Luke Byler 6), Colby 19 (Brandon Miller 7). Total fouls-Pratt 26, Colby 17. A-1108

# Baseball team has plenty to do, even indoors

Once again we spent the week indoors. It has been two weeks since we have played. People might wonder what we do when the weather is bad. Well, as any of our guys can tell you, we don't just go home.

Gym practices for pitchers and hitters usually consist of circuits. Pitchers go through stations where they might throw off wooden mounds, lift light weights, and do various drills without a baseball.

Position players have a hitting circuit that consists of tee work, soft toss, live hitting in a net that drops from the ceiling, wiffleball hitting, badminton birdie hitting, and a few other drills. They go through the circuit for about an hour and a half.

Defensive drills and conditioning take place after hitting, depending on the amount of time we are allotted. A typical gym practice for position players takes two hours.

Gym time allows for a high amount of repetitions within a short amount of time. I think we got better these past two weeks because of the amount of gym time we have logged.

This week we are scheduled to play the junior varsity from the Air Force Academy on Tuesday and McCook on Thursday. The Air Force junior varsity game may be canceled because of snow. Instead we may play Lamar at home. We



Ray Nolan

## ● From the Dugout

have tentatively rescheduled the McCook game from Saturday, Feb. 22 for Wednesday at home. So we might play six games in three days.

The Air Force junior varsity is usually very competitive. They always give us a good test. It will be fun for our guys to go to the Air Force Academy and play on a Division I field. Their field has not been great in the past because of bad artificial turf, but they just had new artificial turf installed that is just like grass.

In addition to us, the Air Force junior varsity plays a schedule consisting of junior colleges around Colorado. Their players sometimes move up to varsity, but many never make it to that level. The Air Force Varsity is coached by former Trojan skipper Reed Peters.

As for College baseball teams around the state, last week KU was ranked 17 in the country by Collegiate Baseball and 23 by Baseball

America. KU is 13-4 after going 2-1 Friday and Saturday at a tournament in Tennessee.

Wichita State is ranked 23 in one poll and 25 in two others. They were scheduled to play Iowa this weekend at home but the first game was postponed. The Shockers were 9-1 before the weekend. Eight of their victories have come against a week Hawaii-Hilo club. Their one loss came against the University of Hawaii.

Last week Fort Hays State was ranked 20 in the USA Today Division II poll after starting 6-0. They were scheduled to play in a tournament in Missouri this past weekend.

Have a few congrats to send out. First, congratulations to the Trojan wrestlers on a great season. Although they didn't win nationals, second is nothing to be ashamed of. They scored more team points this year than they did in their national championship season of 1999. In

addition, congratulations to C.B. Dollaway and Muzaffar Abdurakmanov on winning individual national titles.


Next, congratulations to the Trojan women's basketball team on earning a first round home playoff game by beating Pratt on Saturday. Wednesday the Lady Trojans will be taking on Labette at 6 p.m. at the Community Building.

Finally, congratulations to the Trojan men's basketball team for finishing second in possibly the toughest junior college conference in the country, the Jayhawk West. They will also be playing Labette on Wednesday at home. Their game starts at 8 p.m. It is imperative that we have a good turnout for the games. Playing on one's home court can be a tremendous advantage. Lets make sure that is the case. We are requiring that our players attend the games and be loud. Please join us Wednesday in cheering on these two great squads.

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