

Spotlight on sports



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Katie Lang, a junior at Colby High School, went undefeated during Saturday's tennis meet held in Colby. Lang took first after winning all five of her singles matches at the Fike Park tennis courts. Varsity singles and doubles were played at Fike Park with junior varsity players competing at the Colby Community College courts. Results will appear as they are received.



SHERRY BARRETT/Colby Free Press

Track announcer Gary Walker interviewed ASCS Sprint Car driver C. J. Johnson of Quinter in the winner's circle, after his victory in the Sprint Feature race on Aug. 31 at Thomas County Speedway. C. J. is a second-generation racer, in his eighth year of racing. He won Rookie of the Year in 1996, and the Championship title of NCRA 360s in 2000. C. J. has also won the Hutchinson Nationals Twice (2000 and 2002), while also being crowned the Kansas State Fair Champion in 2001 and the Iowa State Fair Champion in 2002. C. J. posted a win at Thomas County Speedway's final race of the 2002 season last year.



RANDY DECKER/Colby Free Press

Tucker Olsen, a Colby Eagle senior, broke away for a nice run in Friday's game vs. Atwood at Dennen Field. Brett Dempewolf kept would-be Buffalo tacklers at bay. The Eagles lost the game, the first of the new season. Olsen did go in for a touchdown in the third quarter but it was nullified by a holding penalty. The last 4 1/2 minutes of the third period turned into a nightmare for Colby with four flags being dropped for various infractions. The Eagles will try to get into the "W" column Friday night when they climb aboard the bus for a trip to Hoxie.

More sports photos on Wednesday

Second-half struggle spells defeat for Colby Eagles

By TOM (TD) DREILING

Free Press Publisher

It was one of those games where you had a feeling that, despite the score, a break here or there would turn things around.

Those hoped-for breaks came...but fizzled, and in the end the always tough Atwood Buffaloes took home a 35-7 victory over the Colby Eagles at Dennen Field on Friday night to usher in the new football season.

If what Colby fans saw early on is repeated, before the unfortunate turn of events late in the third quarter, this team will be a team to reckon with before the 2003 campaign ends.

With the score 21-0 in favor of the Buffs and the clock showing 4:18 left in the third period, Matt Augustine latched onto a pass and the

Eagles were on the 2-yard line. A play later Tucker Olsen was in the end zone and it was a 21-6 game.

Or was it? The Eagles were penalized for holding and the ball was suddenly on the 12 yard line. On the very next play, the Eagles were flagged for illegal use of the hands and the ball was on the 27.

A couple of incomplete passes later — including one that had the crowd yelling for a flag against the Buffs, but that never materialized — Atwood was in possession. And when it rains it pours because moments later the flag hit the turf again and the Eagles were called for unsportsmanship, which is a biggie, and Atwood suddenly found itself two yards shy of midfield.

The Buffs' Jeff Horinek practically ran his legs off on the next play

— which would have been a plus for the Eagles if that had happened— ending up on Colby's 3-yard line with 2:27 left in the third. A play later the Buffaloes were on top 27-0, again on the legs of Horinek. On the point-after, the Eagles were whistled for roughing the kicker, putting the ball on the 1-yard line, from which Atwood's Tyson Vap ran it in for a 2-point conversion and a 29-0 lead.

(Remember, just minutes earlier the game could have been 21-7, and that could have made a difference.)

The third quarter nightmare was not quite yet over, however. The Eagles weren't able to muster anything on the ensuing kickoff and were forced to punt.

Unfortunately, the ball was fielded by Horinek who raced 59 yards for a touchdown and a 35-0 Atwood lead. The only thing the Eagles managed to salvage out of that entire quarter was blocking Vap's point-after attempt.

The Eagles did manage to light up their side of the scoreboard when Matt Augustine was on the receiv-

ing end of a 15-yard touchdown pass and Bruce Arnberger spilt the uprights for the final 35-7 result.

Briefly, Atwood scored a TD and point-after with 52 second left in the first quarter, on a Curtis Snodgrass pass to Adam Holste and a 7-0 lead.

With 3:48 left in the half, quarterback Snodgrass, on a keeper, raced 71 yards to paydirt and it was 14-0. At 9:21 in the third, Snodgrass connected with Mitchell Lowry for a 76-yard TD strike and a 21-0 lead. At 2:12 in the third, Horinek scored from 3 yards out and Vap's 2-point

conversion made it 29-0. With under a minute left in the third quarter, Horinek raced 59 yards for a TD and a 35-0 lead.

At 6:39 in the fourth period, Augustine scored on a 15-yard pass, Arnberger kicked the point-after and it was 35-7.

In a nutshell: A game of big plays by the visitors. Mistakes, breakdowns by the Eagles. But there were times when the Eagles did look good.

This week's practice will be a call for improvement.

Colby College runners host invitational

The Colby Community College invitational cross country meet was held Friday in hot and windy conditions.

The course featured rough footing and few hills.

Jeff Becker is head coach for the Colby Trojans and Emily Orth is assistant coach.

Here are the results

Women (teams):
1. Fort Hays State 6
2. Highland Community College 15

(Scored 3 runners)
Women's 4K (individual placers, times):

1. Kristy Parry 16:49 FHSU
2. Audrey Brake 17:09 Colby
3. Lisa Werner 17:13 FHSU
4. Rachel Nelson 17:15 FHSU
5. Cristine Ensign 17:19 Highland
6. Janelle Greene 17:52 Highland
7. Jessica Bosworth 18:22 Highland
8. Heather Sneden 18:23 Highland
9. Joy Zumbahlen 18:31 Colby
10. Eronne Golgert 18:39 Highland
11. Ashley Anderson 19:03 FHSU
12. Dominique Martin 19:12.07 Garden City
13. Lindsay Pfannenstiel 19:12.68 FHSU
14. Cody Solomen 19:54 FHSU
15. Emily McCampbell 21:25 Highland
16. Amanda Goodpasture 21:41 Highland
17. Kristina Duval 24:40 Garden City

Men (teams):
1. Fort Hays State 24
2. Highland Community College 49

3. Colby Community College 56
4. Garden City Community College 88

(Scored 5 runners)

Men's 6K (individual placers, times):

1. Adam Moos 21:30 UNAT (unattached)
2. Noah Moos 21:37 UNAT
3. Will Hurst 21:52 FHSU
4. Jose Martinez 21:57.58 Garden City
5. Aaron Davidson 21:57.84 FHSU
6. Pat Younger 22:39 UNAT

7. Danny Holmes 22:42 Highland

8. Felipe Longoria 22:52 Colby

9. Jerod Kersey 23:41 Colby

10. Caleb Mahin 24:00 FHSU

11. Brayton Gladhart 24:11 Highland

12. Tom King 24:17 Colby

13. Mark Brunk 24:27 Highland

14. Brenton Bogart 24:46 FHSU

15. Nathan Dahlke 24:57 FHSU

16. Charles Cofield 25:15 Highland

17. Jared Phipps 25:21 Highland

18. David Kearney 25:22 Highland

19. Ryan Haug 25:27 Highland

20. Josh Sullivan 25:28 Colby

21. Bruce Laird 25:42 Garden City

22. Andrew Bird 25:56 Colby

23. Rocky Baalman 26:11

Colby

24. Evans Amoako 26:17 Garden City

25. Daniel Culver 26:27 Colby

26. Josh Colburn 28:05 Highland

27. Edward Leggett 29:03 Garden City

28. Brent Lawson 29:04 Garden City

29. Bryan Burks 30:37 Highland

30. Michael Luster 31:25 Highland

Area Headlines

- Goodland in big win over Hoxie, 35-16.
- Oberlin shuts out Dundy County, Neb. 43-0
- Oakley blanks Quinter, 47-0
- Golden Plains upends Triplains, 58-36
- Weskan punishes Sharon Springs, 48-0
- Jennings beats Grinnell, 20-12
- Norton runs over Hill City, 45-0
- Brewster edges Tribune, 8-6
- St. Francis gets by Clay Center, 28-22
- Cheylin routs Healy, 30-8

SportsLine

Colby's 'Peek at the Week'

- Today — Jayvee football at Atwood, 5:30 p.m.
- Tuesday — Jayvee and varsity golf at Goodland, 3 p.m.
- Thursday — Jayvee tennis at WaKeeney, 1 p.m.; cross country at Quinter, 4:30 p.m.; volleyball 7th/8th (B) w/Atwood at elementary gym, 4:30 p.m.; football 8th w/Atwood, 4:30 p.m.; football "C" w/Burlington, 6 p.m.
- Friday — Varsity football at Hoxie, 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday — Volleyball junior varsity at Garden City tourney, 8:30 a.m.; volleyball "C" at Dodge City tourney, 9 a.m.; cross country varsity at Wamego, 9 a.m.; tennis junior varsity at Norton, 10 a.m.; volleyball varsity at Hays (D.C.), noon.

Brewster's 'Peek at the Week'

- Today — High school junior varsity football at Tribune, 6 p.m.
- Tuesday — High school varsity volleyball quad at Weskan, 3 p.m.
- Thursday — Junior high volleyball vs. Cheylin at home, 4 p.m.; junior high football vs. Cheylin at home, 5:30 p.m.; cross country at Quinter, 4:30 p.m.
- Friday — High school football vs. Jennings at home, 7:30 p.m. (homecoming).
- Saturday — High school varsity volleyball tourney at Otis-Bison, 9 a.m.

Golden Plains 'Peek at the Week'

- Tuesday — High school volleyball at Rexford, 4 p.m.
- Thursday — Middle school volleyball and football at home with Weskan, 3 p.m.
- Friday — High school football at Grinnell, 7:30 p.m.

Colby 'Activities Calendar' changes

A couple of changes have been made to the Colby Public Schools "Activities & Events Calendar." They are:

- 1) The varsity football starting time for the Yuma, Colo. game there on Friday, Sept. 19 has been changed to 7:30 p.m. (Central Time), not 8 p.m. as listed.
- 2) The "C" team football game with Goodland on Thursday, Sept. 18 has been moved to Thursday, Sept. 25. Same location and time.

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Season's over for race crowd

By SHERRY BARRETT

Free Press Race Reporter

A cool gentle breeze, with no threat of rain, was a welcome change, to set the stage for Thomas County Speedway's last race of the 2003 season on Sunday, Aug. 31.

In the cruiser division, #61 team Honeyman/Dirks of Oakley, and #3d Doty/Doty of Atwood, were the heat race winners. In the feature race, the #W2 team of Wagoner/Wagoner took the lead early in the race and held off some close competition through-out most of the race. In the final laps the #3d team of Jeff and Roger Doty of Atwood, who had charged their way to the front from a sixth place start, slipped by the Wagoner team to claim their first feature win of the season.

With a consistently strong season, the #01W Bruce Plumisto, driver at each race won the honors of 2003 season track champ in the Cruiser division. Bruce's regular gasman Clint Hockersmith was not present due to an illness in the family. This race, (Dad) Dwayne Plumisto was Bruce's gasman.

In the Bomber division the Heat race winners were; #29R Tom Rosendahl of LaCrosse, #32 Cory Struckhoff of Kensington, and #28 Alan Kurth of Levant. In the Feature Rosendahl took the early lead from pole sitter #11x Ron Haremza of Colby and held it for over half the race. Struckhoff took over the lead mid-race and held on strong for the remainder, to take the feature win. This was also Struckhoff's first feature win of the season at Thomas County.

In the race for Bomber Track Champ for the season, #25 Jeremy Blackwill of Quinter despite a flat tire during a spin-out, survived to

finish ahead of his two closes competitors for the title, #3M Brent Moss and #4s David Schemm. Late in the race, Moss also had to pit for a flat tire and Schemm broke an axle in the heats. Schemm's team made a valiant effort to fix the problem dashing to Goodland and back for another axel and allowing Schemm to start the feature only to have that axel break also.

#41 Ronnie Hill and #3 Travis Towns were the Super Stock Heat race winners. In the Super Stock Feature Travis Towns starting inside pole position held the lead for the first half of the race with #15 Brad Wagoner challenging on every lap. Mid-race #27 Todd Schwarz saw a chance to dive past both Wagoner and Towns to assume the lead, which he held until the finish. This would make Schwarz the seventh different driver in eight races to claim a feature win in the Super Stocks this season. Brad Wagoner finished the race in second place. Ronnie Hill, the only driver in the division to post two feature wins this season held on to his points lead to win the championship. Hill, starting in the eighth place position had battled his way to a third place finish. Pole sitter Towns had slipped to a fourth place finish by the end of the race. #55 Wheat Lippelman, tied with Hill for the points lead coming into this race, suffered mechanical problems with his car mid-race, had to pull to the infield.

The Heat race winners in the Modified division were #44 Kevin Hoeme and #3 Brady Coen. In the Modified feature, Hoeme starting outside front row out gunned pole sitter #38 K. B. Murphy for the lead. Hoeme held that lead to the end of the race, posting his first feature win for the season. Point leader #21

Darren DeLoach starting ninth finished the race a strong third to clinch the championship in the modifieds for the 2003 season.

Cash Dashes were deleted from the show, because of the addition of the Sprint cars. The Cash Dash money in each division went to each of the division lap leaders at the halfway point in each of the features. The results of these awards were not available at press time.

Twenty cars in the Rocky Mountain Division of the 360 American Sprint Car Series made the show. The three heat race winners were #27 Patrick Bourke of Edwards, Colorado, #5D Gary Taylor of Seattle, Washington and 2D Randy Miller of Rapid City, South Dakota.

In the feature, Taylor, outside front row starter, got the jump on pole sitter Bourke to lead the first lap.

On the next round Bourke passed for the lead and held that position for seven laps, until #11x Garry Lee Maier of Cimarron took over. #45X C. J. Johnson from Quinter charging to second from a fifth place start tried every trick in the book to pass Maier.

On the twelfth circuit as lapped traffic came into play, Johnson completed the pass for the lead. #69 Mike Thigpen made contact with the turn four wall to bring out a caution one lap later.

Maier slipped past Johnson on the restart and held the lead with some very close wing-to-wing racing for the next eleven laps. On the final lap, Johnson completed a pass on Maier for the win. Maier was second with Bourke, Taylor and Current ASCS Rocky Mountain Region point leader and Thomas County Fair Race winner Randi Miller rounding out the top five.