

Murray captures the silver

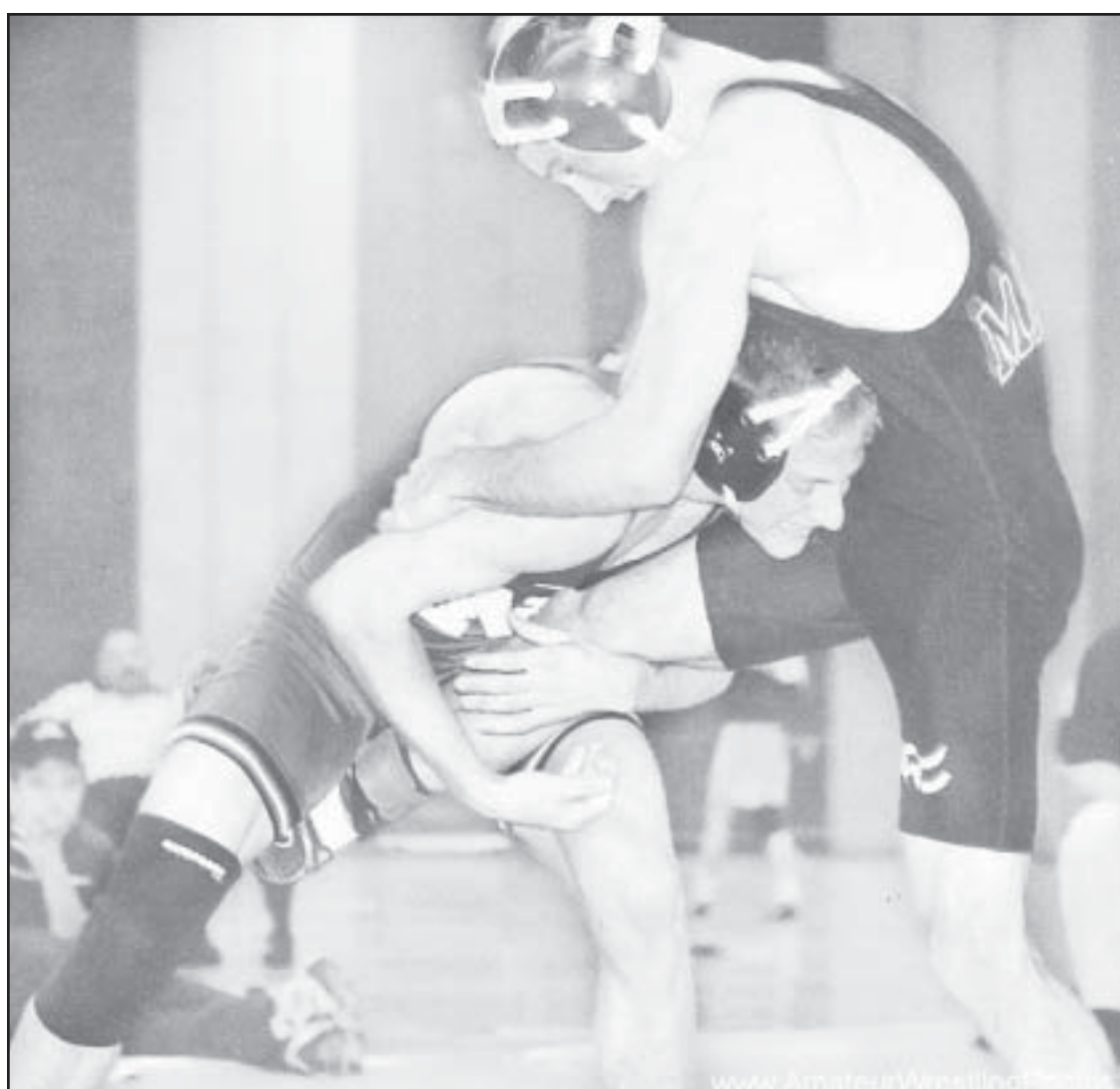
Former Colby High and Colby College wrestling standout, Matt Murray and his University of Nebraska Cornhusker wrestling team, took part in the recent Kliff Keen Invitational Wrestling Tournament in La Vegas on Dec. 5-6.

Murray, who competes for the Cornhuskers at the 141-lb. weight class, entered the tourney with a record of 4 wins and 1 loss, but had not broke into the top national rankings yet. His only loss up to this time was to Donnie DeFilippis from Rutgers University, who was ranked 12th in the nation at that time.

In the Las Vegas tourney, Murray had 43 wrestlers in his bracket, with eight of those ranked in the top 20 nationwide. After defeating an unranked wrestler in his first match, he met Tommy Owen from Minnesota, who was ranked 17th in the country, and 8th in the Vegas bracket. Murray was able to defeat him soundly with a 7-2 score.

That victory paired him in the quarter-finals against J.P. Reese of the University of Missouri, the 11th ranked wrestler in the nation and the #1 ranked wrestler in the tournament. This was a very good match, and Murray was able to prevail with a 6-4 victory in 4 overtimes.

That close victory put him in the semi-finals against Clark Forward of Michigan Univer-



COURTESY PHOTO

Matt Murray shoots in for a takedown attempt against Rod Becker of George Mason University during the finals of the Kliff Keen Invitational at Las Vegas on Dec. 5-6.

sity, ranked 12th nationally. Murray defeated him by a 6-4 score and that sent him to the finals where he would meet Rob Becker of George Mason University, 10th-ranked in the country in the 149-lb. weight class.

Becker upset Jeff Ratliff of Ohio State, the #7-ranked wrestler in the nation, in the semi-finals to put him into the finals. Murray fell a little short in his match with Becker, los-

ing 6-3, and taking a silver medal in the prestigious tournament. He is currently ranked #3 in the Big 12 and 13th in the nation.

The Cornhusker wrestling team had a very successful tournament with 4 wrestlers making it to the final round and 3 taking home the gold. They entered the tourney ranked 9th nationally as a team, and were able to take home the team gold medal, outscoring the #3-

ranked team in the nation, Michigan, and the #1-ranked team, Illinois.

After their success in Las Vegas, the Cornhuskers are currently ranked #3 in the county, behind #1 Oklahoma State and #2 Iowa State. The Cornhuskers will meet each of these in dual competition later in the season.

Their next outing will be aquad in Lincoln on Dec. 22 at 5 p.m.

Colby Lady Eagles cruise to 104-39 win

By RALPH WOLF
Free Press Contributor

The Colby Lady Eagles totally demolished the Lady Cougars of Burlington, 104-39 at Burlington on Tuesday.

Colby had a 29-10 lead at the end of the first period of play and 56-17 at half-time.

All five starters reached double figures in scoring, with Amanda Seemann leading the way with 18 points. Zanae Baird finished the game with 14 points. Jessica Stephens tossed in 11 and Ivy Ramsey and Emily Sloan both recorded 10 points each.

Seemann also led the team with 7 steals, grabbed four rebounds, had 3 assists and 1 blocked shot. Baird recorded 3 boards as well as 3 steals. Stephens came away with 6 steals, 3 rebounds and 3 assists. Sloan recorded 5 rebounds, 4 steals, 1 assist and 2 blocked shots and 1 rebound. Ramsey dished out 6 assists, had 3 steals, 2 blocked shots and 1 rebound. Rishonna Martin, Brittany Kersensbrock and Ashley Barnes each contributed 8 points in the contest. Martin was credited with 2 rebounds and a steal. Kersensbrock had 6 assists, 2 steals and a rebound. Barnes hauled down 5 boards, recorded 2 steals and a rebound, had 1 assist and blocked one shot. She McKee tossed in 7 points, grabbed a rebound, 1 steal and had 2 assists. Lauren Cox finished the game with 6 points, 2 boards and a steal. April Weaver added 4 points and a rebound. Marcia Kaus was credited

with 3 rebounds. As a team the Lady Eagles connected on 62 percent of their shots from two-point land and 61 percent from the free throw line. Colby was able to record an impressive 30 steals in the contest, while only turning over the ball 12 times. Colby was also credited with a season-high 22 team assists.

JV Action
The Junior Varsity team easily defeated Burlington 55-7 on Tuesday night. Ashley Barnes led the way with 10 points, 4 rebounds, 3 steals, 1 assist and 1 blocked shot. Lauren Cox and Brittany Kersensbrock recorded 8 points apiece. Cox had a team high 6 rebounds, 4 steals and blocked 1 shot. Kersensbrock was credited with 4 boards, 4 steals and 4 assists. Nikole Schroeder added 7 points, 2 boards and 1 steal. April Weaver finished the game with 6 points, 4 rebounds and 3 steals. Shea McKee and Caitie Henry both recorded 4 points each. McKee also had 1 rebound, 3 steals and 1 assist. Rishonna Martin and Rashaun Wilson contributed 3 points each. Martin also had a rebound. Rounding out the scoring was Jenna Johnson with 2 points, 1 rebound and 1 steal. Carleigh Dempewolf came away with 2 rebounds, 1 steal and 1 assist. Jacquie Fry recorded 3 steals and had 1 assist. Kristin Cox had a rebound in the contest.

Next action will be on Friday as the Eagles host the Oakley Plainsmen.

SportsLine

Colby activities

- Friday — C-boys basketball with Oakley at Colby High gym, 4:30 p.m., followed by JV boys, then JV girls. C-team girls basketball (only 2 quarters) with Oakley at the Colby Community Building, 5:30 p.m. Varsity girls basketball with Oakley at the Community Building, 6:30 p.m., followed by varsity boys vs. Oakley. V/JV wrestling at Oakley, 6:30 p.m.
- Saturday — 9th/10th wrestling at Oberlin, 9 a.m.

Golden Plains activities

- Friday — High School basketball vs. Eastern Heights, 6:30/8 p.m. at Agra.

Brewster activities

- Friday — High School basketball at Sharon Springs, 6:30/8 p.m.

Ohio State is studying the Wildcats 24/7

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Some watched it with teammates, others caught a glimpse in the middle of their already busy lives. Everyone has seen highlights or

Brewster wins

Both Brewster varsity basketball teams picked up wins on Tuesday over Triplains.

The girls were 65-46 victors and the boys won 70-34.

Girls scoring:

Brewster — Megan Allen 15; Miranda Starns 7; Caitlan Rush 15; Jalyn Reid 9; Sarah Flanders 5; Andrea Horney 13; and Avery Schultz 1.

Triplains — Chelsey Moser 29; A. Mackley 12; K. Nichols 4; and C. Palmer 1.

Boys scoring:

Brewster — Karman Selby 7; Jace Terry 18; Heath Baird 9; Paul Flanders 8; Jake Long 2; Mike Doxon 2; Mark Luckert 4; Josh Ryan 8; and Jarrett Carpenter 12.

Triplains — Plummer 2; Barrett 6; Grob 3; Mackley 6; Rodriguez 13; and Bretz 4.

JV wins big

The Colby junior varsity basketball boys beat up on Burlington, there, on Tuesday, 77-33.

Scoring for the Eagles were Jordan Sharp, 2; Jeremy Dietz, 7; Joey Melnyk, 6; Brett Wilson, 5 (including a 3-point land connection); Sean Mengel, 9; Tanner Matzek, 2; Nick Howard, 2; Heath Bieker, 5; Stuart Aiken, 2; Derek Elliott, 12; and Dustin Quenzer, 11.

The jayvee now has a 3-1 record and will meet Oakley here Friday night.

C-team splits

The Colby High boys' C-team split their last two outings, losing to Hays High, 60-56 and winning over Burlington, 58-36. Both were road games.

Vs. Hays scoring: Barnett, 23; Donn 15; Siebert 8; Ladenburger 5; Rohr 3; and Coulter 2.

Vs. Burlington scoring: Barnett 12; Siebert 12; Ladenburger 10; Donn 7; Coulter 6; White 4; Rohr 4; Talsma 2; and Breese 1.

Colby had good second half efforts in both games, said the coach, but needs to put two a total game together.

The coach said at Hays the Eagles overcame a 22-point deficit to make it close, while at Burlington a 23-point third quarter put is away.

video since. When Kansas State beat up on then-No. 1 Oklahoma 35-7 in the Big 12 championship game on Dec. 6, the Wildcats got the attention of the Ohio State Buckeyes — their opponent in the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 2.

“What was really impressive to me is it came out the first five minutes of the game and it went as everyone talked about: Oklahoma scored, it’s 7-0,” Ohio State coach Jim Tressel said in a business-as-usual tone.

Then Tressel’s eyes widened and his voice raised.

“Boom! From that moment on they took over. That’s impressive,” Tressel said, shaking his head.

“When you’re behind 7-0 to the team that’s supposed to beat you, yet from that moment on it was all Kansas State.”

The Wildcats (11-3) were just a blip on the Buckeyes’ radar screen until the stunning Big 12 title game. They were just another good team in a nation filled with schools that had two or three missteps while navigating a long season.

Then quarterback Ell Robinson tossed four touchdown passes, Darren Sproles rushed for 235 yards and Kansas State’s defense stoned Oklahoma’s acclaimed offense.

All of a sudden, the Wildcats were a BCS team in the Fiesta Bowl and the Buckeyes started studying

them 24/7. “I don’t think there was anybody in the country going into that game — Kansas State fans aside — who thought Oklahoma would lose,” Ohio State quarterback Craig Krenzel said.

“They went into that game with a great game plan, were pretty close to healthy, and they showed the world why they were predicted so high at the beginning of the year,” he said.

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