



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press

Trojan wrestlers Matt Schippers, right, and Daniel Prater prepared to face off during a practice Tuesday. Prater and Schippers are two of six Trojan wrestlers competing at the national tournament this weekend in Rochester, Minn.

## National wrestling tournament Numbers game for Trojans

By John Van Nostrand  
Colby Free Press

The difference between six and seven is so little. But in the Colby Community College world of wrestling, the difference might be nothing at all.

Six Colby Community College Trojan wrestlers will compete in the National Junior College Athletic Association tournament this weekend in Rochester, Minn.

Colby coach Steve Lampe is curious to see how six wrestlers will do compared to the seven that won the Trojans the national championship in 1999.

“When we started the year, we started with half of the talent we wanted but we knew we had five good wrestlers and you hope you have a couple more evolve,” he said.

“We won nationals in 1999 with seven. That has never been done before and we won by 40 and a half points. We could not lose.”

The six Trojan wrestlers this year are Levi Younkin (133 lbs.), Daniel Prater (141), Mat Gilliland (149), Matt Schippers (157), Jason Schippers (165) and Bobby Dennis (184). Last year, Colby qualified four for nationals including Prater and Matt Schippers. Colby finished fourth in 2005. Labette won the title last year.

Prater placed seventh in 133 lbs. and Matt Schippers placed fifth in 149 lbs.

In addition to Prater’s and Schippers’ experience, Younkin defeated both the number one and number two ranked wrestlers at the regional meet earlier this month in Powell, Wyo.

“Some of those guys pulled off miraculous things at regionals,” Lampe said. “We have a strong nationals team this year. Matt Schippers was ranked number one in the nation at one time this year. When Schippers is on, he is good.”

Lampe said teams with only five qualifiers should also be taken se-

riously.

“A team with five can win a championship. You get to the finals round and you can have some terrific team points. This time we have four capable of reaching the finals,” Lampe said.

If it is not the talent of the six Colby wrestlers that give them the crown, what Colby has to get through every year to get to regionals may be the reason.

“This is the toughest region in America,” Lampe said.

“Our region has won since 1999. There have been four different teams.”

Other than Colby, Labette, Northwest Wyoming and Neosho have taken home national titles.

There is nothing new about the competition at this year’s national meet Lampe said.

“Iowa Central is strong and North Idaho has won 14 titles,” he said.

“But that is why we have these tournaments, to find out who is the best.”

## Free throws help Colby boys win

By Tracy Rogers  
Colby Free Press

With Sub-State right around the corner, the first round opponent of the Colby Eagles might want to beware.

Colby’s record of 5-15 might look like an easy game for a higher seeded team, but having won four of their last six games, shows that the Eagles are starting to gel together when it counts most.

The latest win was 46-40 Tuesday at Norton.

Colby only made one field goal in the final quarter. But Colby was also 16-22 from the free throw line in the fourth quarter. For the game, the Eagles were 20-28 from the

charity stripe.

The second quarter saw the Blue Jays hit a couple of shots to pull within two, before Levi Schlick had a basket on a nice pass from Trevor Siebert. Nic Lewis and Ethan Stover traded buckets, then with 35 seconds remaining in the half Barnett converted another three-point play to make the halftime score 16-13 in favor of Colby.

The third quarter saw the Eagles extend their lead to seven on a strong finish in the last two minutes with RJ Ladenburger putting back an offensive rebound and foul shot for a three-point play. That was followed by Stover making one of two free throws, and finally Nick Howard hitting a shot with 1:07 left.

## Eagle girls miss out

By Tracy Rogers  
Colby Free Press

The third time may have been a charm for the Colby Eagles girls basketball team. Colby did not have a chance to shoot a third three-point shot as they lost 34-31 Tuesday in Norton.

Colby had a couple of shots at the end to tie the game up and send it to overtime, but three point attempts by Brittany Kersenbrock and Lissa Mazanec just rimmed off. Norton hung on for a 34-31 win and moves to 19-1 on the year.

Kersenbrock started the scoring in the fourth period by hitting a three-pointer from the corner to pull Colby within five. At the 6:30 mark, Tasha Wagoner was fouled while shooting and then sank both free throws, making the score 30-27.

Karli Jones for Norton hit a shot two minutes later, giving the Blue Jays a five- point margin again. That would be the only field goal made by Norton in the final period.

Jessica Stephens broke through the Norton press and got a shot off but was fouled. She made the first but missed the second free throw, making the score 32-28. The Bluejays ran some clock off before Ashley Barnes made a steal and a

couple foul shots at the 2:39 mark, getting Colby to within two.

Norton ran their delay again and the Eagles were forced to foul and put Jones on the line for a one-and-one. She made both free throws and made it a two possession game again, 34-30. Stephens was fouled with three seconds left and made one of two shots.

“We played great defense and rebounded really well. What killed us was the first half turnovers and giving up layups off of the turnovers. Typically we don’t turn the ball over like that,” said Colby coach Derek Bissitt.

“With a young team, that is something we have to keep working on improving. I was proud of how we battled back in the second half. We played a highly ranked team down to the wire on their home court when we didn’t shoot the ball particularly well and battled extremely hard.”

Barnes was the leading scorer for Colby with eight, followed by Mazanec seven, and Paige Stephens, five. The Eagles outrebounded the Blue Jays 29-18 with Mazanec getting nine boards.

The loss drops Colby to 15-5 for the season, and waits for Sub-State pairings to see who they will face on Monday.

Then came the foul-fest fourth quarter which saw the Eagles seal the win with 73 percent shooting from the free throw line.

Norton had crawled back to within five at the 2:14 mark before Colby went on a seven point run over the next minute from the line.

Barnett led the team in scoring and rebounds with 20 and six, respectively. He was followed by Ladenburger and Howard who each had eight points. Howard also pulled down five rebounds.

“We did a great job defensively. I thought we did a pretty good job overall. When you don’t shoot the ball particularly well from the field you have to play defense and make free-throws. We did that and took care of business,” said Colby coach Derek Bissitt.

Colby will travel to a yet to be named opponent Tuesday, for a first round Sub-State matchup.

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# STRIKE ZONE

## ~ League Bowling Results ~

**February 13 - First Nighters League**

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Discount Repair of Oakley	123	87	1
Grinnell Furniture	121	89	2
Montana Mikes	120	90	3
Colby Implement	108	102	4
Warrior Hunting Supply	108	102	5
C.C.C. Boys	106	104	6
Frontier Equity	98	112	7
XStrikers	93	117	8
Woolter Well & Pump	92	118	9
Schlick Construction	81	129	10

First high Men Individual game: Gordon Berry, 278  
First high Men Individual series: Gordon Berry, 729  
First high Women Individual game: Kelly Lee, 159  
First high Women Individual series: Kelly Lee, 436

**February 1 - Powderpuff League**

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Farm Credit	15	9	1
Service Oil	14	10	2
Weiser	12	12	3
Golden Harvest Seed	7	17	4

First high Individual game: Monica Miller, 223  
First high Individual series: Monica Miller, 544

**February 14 - Pinbusters League**

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Colby Bowl	182	112	1
United Commercial Travelers	171	123	2
Donelan Jewelry	168	126	3
Twisters	152	142	4
Colby Automotive	138	156	5
Mufflers Plus	135	159	6
Cox Communications	121	173	7
Pepsi Cola	109	185	8

First high Individual game: Alan Focke, 277  
First high Individual Series: Alan Focke, 717

**February 16 - King Pin League**

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Colby Automotive	163	89	1
Thunderballs	139	113	2
T - J's Tire	131	121	3
Warks Embroidery	129	123	4
www.visitcolby.com	119	133	5
5 Pony Men	112	140	6
Orschelns	110	142	7
Colby Bowl & Fun Center	105	147	8

First high Individual game: Brent Menges, 245  
First high Individual series: Vern Schwanke, 686

**February 12 - King & Queen**

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Phillips - Finlay	33	11	1
Brewer - Schwanke	29	15	2
Barton - Kreutzer	25	19	3
Sturdy - Branum	23	21	4
Moeder - Lee	21	23	5
Kern - Wark	16	28	6
Schissler - Koehn	15	29	7
Rondeau - Johnson	14	30	8

Men's First high Individual game: Vern Schwanke, 230  
Men's First high Individual series: Ken Brewer, 626  
Women's First high Individual game: Kelly Horinek, 223  
Women's First high Individual series: Misty Finlay, 533

**February 14 - Early Bird Ladies League**

Team	Won	Lost	Place
www.strike	15	5	1
Jean's Rollers	14	6	2
4 4 Fun	10	10	3
NW Vacuum	8	12	4
Bowlerettes	8	12	5
Van's Merry Four	5	15	6

First high Individual game: Lois Van Horn, 182  
First high Individual series: Dee Hovda, 487

**February 15 - Ladies Nite Out**

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Lobo Liquor	17	7	1
Strike-Outs	16	8	2
Who-No's?	15	9	3
Don's Electric	14	10	4
Straight Line	13	11	6
Bottle Gallery	12	12	5
Sunflower Bank	10	14	7
Camouflage Lawn Care	9	15	9
Twisters	8	16	8

First high Individual game: Linda Liester, 190  
First high Individual series: Linda Liester, 542

**February 17 - Ten Pin League**

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Classic Trojans	14	6	1
Cal Williams	13	7	2
Comfort Inn	12	8	3
Hurt Enterprises	9.5	10.5	4
KNEA/S.P.	8	12	5
Satan Haters	8	12	6
Colby Bowl	7	13	7

First high Individual game: Jody Engel, 234  
First high Individual series: Rose Riffle, 522

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