

Eagles suffer fourth loss at Homecoming

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

Penalties and turnovers at critical moments were two main reasons why the Colby Eagles lost their Homecoming matchup against the Ness City-Dighton Titans at Dennen Field.

The Eagles lost 28-20, bringing their record on the season to 0-4.

Colby received on the opening kick, taking over on their own 30-yard line after a return by running back Sam Munderloh.

The first two plays of the drive saw running back Mitchell Tuma with two carries.

On the third play, Eagles quarterback Cole Garcia carried the ball for a first down.

A play later, Colby lost five yards on an illegal procedure call.

A minute later, the Eagles scored first with 8:35 left in the first quarter on a 61-yard run from Sam Munderloh, making the score 6-0.

Seconds later, the two-point conversion attempt was unsuccessful with an incomplete pass from Colby quarterback Cole Garcia to Munderloh.

The Titans took over on the Colby 39-yard line at 8:35 left in the first and ate off nearly 3 minutes on the clock on their way to the first touchdown of the game.

They scored their first tally with 4:11 left in the first with a two-yard run from fullback Keith Farish, tying the game 6-6. That was followed by an unsuccessful extra point attempt which ended with Titan quarterback Alex Kuhlman getting sacked.

Colby went scoreless in the second quarter and the Titans scored their second touchdown of the half with 17 seconds left on a pass from

Kuhlman to Farish., making the score 12-6.

Kuhlman also connected with Farish on the point after attempt, bringing the score to 14-6 at the half.

In the third quarter, the Titans converted on their first possession of that half with a three-yard pass from Kuhlman to Farish, bringing the score to 20-6 with 7:30 left in the quarter.

Colby answered with their own touchdown with 6:45 left. Tuma took a hand-off from Garcia, fighting his way through traffic, breaking through and running unscathed into the endzone of a 65-yard run.

Tuma followed up with a two-point conversion, making the score 22-14.

Ness answered back with 5:06 left in the third with a 50-yard touchdown run from Farish, giving the Titans a lead of 28-14.

The last touchdown of the game came on a three-yard run from Munderloh with 11:31 left in the fourth.

Colby head coach Greg Koenig said he wasn't disappointed with his team's effort, but he was disappointed with the loss. Koenig also had several players in the lineup who normally don't play varsity. They were playing because of suspensions and injuries to other players.

"I thought the kids stepped up and played well. We had a lot of kids who've never played varsity football, but I'm really proud of the effort," he said. "I thought that our kids gave us everything that they could and breaks just didn't go our way."

Koenig said his players don't have anything to be ashamed of.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Colby High School Eagles Mitchell Tuma, Heath Bieker and Eli Robert blocked for running back Sam Munderloh during one of his carries during their Homecoming matchup against the Ness-Dighton Titans Friday at Dennen Field. The Eagles are now 0-4 on the season, losing 28-20. The Eagles will face St. Francis on the road this Friday night. The game starts at 7 p.m.

"They played exceptionally hard and they did the things we asked them to do," he said.

The team matched it's tally from the first game of the season and Koenig said the Eagles were consistent on drives, and blocked better in the second half than in the first. He said his players took control of the line of scrimmage.

"That's our style of football and

our guys are finally starting to figure that out," Koenig said.

He was also pleased with the performance of his younger players.

"They did a great job taking advantage of opportunities and there were several kids that probably doubted they would play very much yet they stepped in and did a super job and I can't even single individuals out because the whole team did

a good job," Koenig said. "All the kids we put in new positions, all the kids we asked to step up their performance, I just thought it was a great team effort all the way around."

He also said it should make the team better as the season progresses.

"We found out we've got some kids who can play, who can step up

at the varsity level and do some things, so that's going to help our depth," he said.

Next up for the Eagles this Friday is a trip to St. Francis.

Koenig said they have a "fine" ball club that plays a very physical game.

He said they run the ball and his team will have to match their intensity and physical play.

SportsLine

Varsity golf in Ulysses

The Colby High School Lady Eagles varsity golfers will travel to Ulysses for a tournament Tuesday. Play starts at 10 a.m.

Eagle cross country on the road

The Colby High School Eagle cross country team will travel to Oberlin Tuesday for a meet. Action will start at 5 p.m.

Volleyball 'Senior/Parent Night' scheduled

Tuesday, Sept. 27 has been designated Senior/Parent Recognition Night for Colby High School's senior volleyball players. The ceremony will be held right after the second match of the night at approximately 6:30 p.m. Parents are asked to meet their student participants between 6 and 6:15 p.m. in the hallway outside the gym.

Middle school volleyball, football Thursday

The Colby Middle School seventh and eighth grade football and volleyball teams will be playing against Scott City Thursday. The football game starts at 4:30 p.m. at Dennen Field. The volleyball teams will be playing on the road at Scott City. Games start at 4:30 p.m.

JV golf in Syracuse Thursday

The Colby High School Lady Eagle junior varsity golfers will head to Syracuse for a tournament. Tee-off is at 3 p.m.

Eagles cross country Thursday

The Colby High School Eagles cross country runners will travel to Hays Thursday for a meet. It will start at 3:45 p.m.

"C" team football on the road

The Colby High School "C" football team will play on the road against Holcomb Thursday. Game time is 5:30 p.m.

Eagles football Friday

The Colby High School Eagles varsity football squad will travel to St. Francis on Friday, Sept. 30. The game starts at 7 p.m.

College pool fall hours announced

Colby Community College fall pool hours have been announced. Lap swimming will be from 5-7 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. Open swimming is from 4-8 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; from 4-6 p.m. on Fridays and from 1-5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. For more information, contact Kipp Nelson at 462-3984 Ext. 304.

AP Sports

DOVER — Jimmie Johnson held off teammate Kyle Busch by about a car-length Sunday to claim victory at Dover International Speedway — and the lead in NASCAR's Chase for the championship.

Tony Stewart, the Nextel Cup points leader for the last seven races, finished 18 to drop to fifth in the championship standings.

The victory in the MBNA 400 was the third this year for Johnson, who now leads Rusty Wallace by seven points after two of 10 races in the Chase among the top-10 drivers.

Johnson also won for the third time at Dover and 17th overall. Wallace was third, followed by Mark Martin and Ryan Newman.

On Saturday, Newman raced to his record fourth straight Busch Series victory.

WATKINS GLEN, N.Y. — Dan Wheldon finally got to celebrate his first IRL title. Scott Dixon simply was happy to finally celebrate a win. Dixon won the inaugural IRL Indy Grand Prix on Sunday at Watkins Glen International for his first victory since he won at Richmond in 2003.

Tony Kanaan finished second, followed by Dario Franchitti, Giorgio Pantano and Wheldon in the first open-wheel race at Watkins Glen since a CART Indy car series event in 1981.

LAS VEGAS — Sebastien Bourdais survived a crash with Paul Tracy and a brush with his own teammate to win the Champ Car Hurricane Relief 400 on Saturday night at Las Vegas Motor Speedway.

Las Vegas native Jimmy Vasser finished third, 3.6 seconds behind Bourdais.

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Before the season you would have been hard pressed to think of a reason why Kansas State should contend in the Big 12 North.

Now the question is, Why shouldn't the Wildcats?

Every team in the North is vulnerable. The nonconference portion of the schedule proved that.

After a 54-7 feel-good victory over North Texas, the Wildcats are eager to move on to their Big 12 opener Saturday at Oklahoma.

"I think this win was a steppingstone for us," freshman running back Parrish Fisher said. "We got a big win, and I feel like we are ready to head into conference play. We know that the Big 12 teams we face will be tougher, so we have to keep working and improving each day."

The Wildcats were picked to finish fifth in the North, ahead of only Kansas. But the division looks balanced now and ripe for the taking.

Preseason favorite Iowa State struggled to hold off Army 28-21 on Friday, and the Cyclones' 23-3 win over Iowa on Sept. 10 doesn't look quite as impressive after Ohio State throttled the Hawkeyes 31-6.

Kansas is 3-0 for the first time since 1997 but has built its record against undistinguished competition.

Nebraska also is 3-0, but the Cornhuskers have an offense that

has mustered a total of three touchdowns in three games.

Missouri is 2-1 but hasn't proved it can stop anyone.

Defending North champion Colorado also is 2-1 and still looks like the class of the division. But the Buffaloes were shaky on the road in a 23-3 loss at No. 9 Miami, where they committed a school-record 16 penalties.

The North, to be sure, has been hard to predict. The Wildcats won the division in 2003 and shocked Oklahoma 35-7 in the conference championship game, only to drop to last place last season.

So being 3-0 for the 13th time in 15 years means little to Kansas State

coach Bill Snyder.

"We haven't really done enough to say that were really up there yet," Snyder said. "There are other schools who have obviously played a more difficult schedule and fared well. I think those teams would be the odds-on favorites as it stands."

But the Wildcats have reason to be optimistic.

Fisher, who had 169 yards subbing for the suspended Thomas Clayton, become the first freshman in school history to rush for 100 yards.

The Wildcats rolled up 658 yards of total offense, breaking the school record of 638 set in 1997 against Bowling Green.

Allen Webb completed 10 of 12 passes for a career-high 256 yards, including three passes of 40 or more yards. He's the first Wildcat quarterback to throw for more than 250 yards since Ell Roberson's 294 against Ohio State in the 2004 Fiesta Bowl.

Wide receiver Jordy Nelson caught his third touchdown pass in three games and Jermaine Moreira returned a second-quarter punt 62 yards for a touchdown, the first at Kansas State since Darren Sproles' 63-yarder against Kansas in 2003.

"It was very important to get this win going into Oklahoma," Moreira said. "It builds our confidence a lot more."

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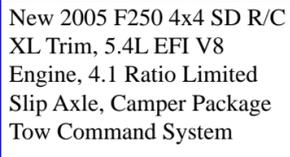
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