

# Eagle boys lose to Monarchs

By Tracy Rogers

Colby Free Press

For the second time in just seven games, Colby faced the number one ranked team in 4A. And for the second time, Colby was on the short end.

Hays Thomas More Prep defeated Colby 64-42 Tuesday in Colby. The first game of the year Colby faced Scott City who was ranked number one at the time.

For about two and a half quarters, the Eagles went toe to toe with the TMP Monarchs. Colby got on the board first with a basket by freshman Stephen Dinkel, who was making his first varsity start. TMP answered that with two free throws by Kyle Hammerschmidt.

RJ Ladenburger banked in an 18 footer from the side to regain the lead for the Eagles, but the Monarchs went on a 13-0 run until sophomore Ethan Stover got one to fall with 38 seconds remaining in the first period. TMP's Cameron Stremel and Colby's Nick Howard traded buckets in the final 13 seconds to make it 17-8 after one.

The second quarter saw both teams score 10 points to bring the halftime score 27-18 in favor of TMP.

"The first half we played well and kept ourselves in the game with defense and not turning the ball over," said Colby head coach Derek Bissitt.

The Eagles defense held TMP's first half shooting percentage to 48 percent. Coming out in the third quarter saw the Monarchs experience start to pay off. Athreepointer by Scott Stramel with 10 seconds left extended their lead to

45-26 after three periods. Colby went on an 8-0 run midway through the fourth quarter to cut the lead to 13, but could get no closer the rest of the way.

"The second half we had too many errors against a veteran team. When you are playing the number one team in 4-A you can't have those mental errors," said Bissitt. "I was pleased with the play of our young guys like Dinkel and Levi Schlick coming off the bench, but we've got to become more consistent with our handling of the ball." Dinkel led the team in rebounds with six, followed by Trevor Siebert and Trey Barnett with two each.

For the game, TMP out rebounded the Eagles 30-17. The depth of the Monarchs showed as they led the Eagles 27-5 in points off the bench.

Siebert led Colby in scoring with 10 points, followed closely by Dinkel and Ladenburger each with nine. The loss leaves Colby still searching for their first victory as their record falls to 0-7, while TMP remained unbeaten at 7-0. Colby travels to Goodland Friday to face another top 10 team in 4A.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Colby High School Eagle Trey Barnett kept a close eye on Hays TMP's Nolan Hoffman during their matchup Tuesday at the Colby Community Building. The Eagles will play Friday at Goodland. Varsity action begins at 6:30 p.m. with the girls game, followed by the boys game.

# Lady Eagles earn win in first game after winter break

By Tracy Rogers

Colby Free Press

The Colby Lady Eagles got right back in the swing of things Tuesday in their first game after the holiday break.

Colby hosted Hays Thomas More Prep and came away with a 46-32 victory to push their record to 6-1.

Jessica Stephens got the first basket for the Eagles, followed by a three-point basket by TMP's Sara Stoecklein. That would be the only time Colby trailed.

Paige Stephens and Lissa Mazanec then scored the next three baskets to push the Eagles lead to 8-3. Sharlie Staab answered for the Monarchs with five straight points. Mazanec and Ashley Barnes hit shots for Colby and the quarter ended with Colby on top 12-10.

The defensive pressure was turned up in the second quarter and the Eagles allowed TMP to score just four points before halftime. Mazanec added eight points during the quarter towards her game high 21. Colby duplicated their offensive output of the first quarter with another 12 points to go into the intermission with a 24-14 lead.

The third quarter saw the two teams trading baskets. TMP did close to within five on a shot by Seri Hertel with 29 seconds left. Barnes hit a jumper with 13 seconds left to give the Eagles a seven-point cushion going into the final eight minutes.

Once again Colby cranked up the defensive pressure, doubling down on Hertel and 6' Jenna Mayers every time they touched the ball near the basket.

Colby coach Derek Bissitt said "It was nice to see the girls do the things we worked on over the break. Zanae Baird and Ashley Barnes do a lot of things that don't show up in the box score."

Baird took two charges during the game, and the constant pressure frustrated the taller girls inside. The Eagles extended their lead to 14 on a basket by Baird with 1:34 left in the game.

Mazanec had 12 rebounds to go with her 21 points for a double double. Baird followed her with seven boards and Paige Stephens had five. For the game, Colby out rebounded TMP 38-21.

"I was pleased with our effort defensively and I thought we rebounded the ball extremely well against a bigger and taller team," said Bissitt. "I thought our defense played well. When you have an off shooting night like tonight you have to be able to step up and play defense."

Colby shot 40 percent and held TMP to 36 percent from the field. Next up for Colby is a trip to Goodland Friday to face the Cowboys. Game time is 6:30 p.m. CST.

# Bowl contest down to two

There is two of everything in the 790 KXXX and Colby Free Press 2005 Bowl Spectacular contest.

There are two teams left and two contestants playing for the championship. If USC defeats Texas in tonight's Rose Bowl, Colby's Dale Plumisto will win the contest and

the grand prize. If Texas wins, Brent Owens of Edson will claim the top spot.

As for the town contest, if USC wins, Rexford will edge out the victory with a scoring average of 39.2. If Texas wins, Levant wins with a scoring average of 38.2

## SportsLine

### Boys basketball league sign-up this week

Sign-up for a boys basketball league will be all week at the Colby Recreation Department office.

The league is for boys only, in grades four through six. The first event of the season will be a fundamental day at 10 a.m. Saturday at the elementary gym in Colby.

### Eagle wrestlers on the road Thursday

The Colby High School Eagle wrestlers will travel to Goodland Thursday, Jan. 5 for a match. Action starts at 6:30 p.m.

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