

# Eagle golfers two short

Colby finished just two strokes behind Goodland at the Colby High Invitational held Thursday at Colby Country Club.

Goodland won the meet with a 355. Colby was second with 357. Chris Staley was the Eagles' best player with a 78. Cole Finley shot an 88; Kyle Molstad, 92 and R.J. Ladenburger finished Colby's scoring with a 99.

Staley had the best score of all golfers. Golfers played in a light breeze and chilly temperatures.

Hoxie was not far behind Colby shooting a 363. Following Hoxie was Hays, 365; Oberlin, 366; Norton, 369; Scott City, 371, and Oakley, 397.

# Middle school track running well

Various members of the Colby Middle School track team have had success this season. The following are compilation of notes from the Colby coaches during recent meets.

### Colby meet

Three seventh-grade pole vaulters tied or broke the old school record. Amy Schroeder set the new mark at 7.

Eighth-grade girl triple jumpers took first, second, third and fifth.

Seventh-grade girls 1600 relays team broke the old school record by 16 seconds.

### Goodland meet

Seventh-grade student Anna Taylor ran well again.

The track team had 33 personal-best performances at the Goodland meet. April Gee set a new school record in the triple jump.

Kayla Hockersmith had an outstanding day.

### St. Francis meet

The eighth-grade girls continue to pile up huge point totals and win meets despite having only nine girls on the team.

The seventh and eighth-grade distance runners had a good day. The seventh-grade 800 runners cut between five and eight seconds off their best times to place. Rhett Martin cut 17 seconds off her previous best to place second.

Gee improved her school record nine inches to 31-8.

# Barkley admits gambling problem

BRISTOL, Conn. (AP) — Charles Barkley says he has a gambling problem, estimating in an interview that he's lost about \$10 million over the years.

Barkley told ESPN that he's not concerned about his habit because he has enough money to cover his losses, though he did say he hoped to wager less money.

Barkley, elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame last month, said the thrill of competition has a lot to do with his urge to wager.

Recently, golfer John Daly said in his upcoming autobiography that he has lost between \$50 million and \$60 million during 12 years of heavy gambling.



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press  
Colby High golfer R.J. Ladenburger focused on his drive during the Colby Invitational played Thursday at Colby Country Club. Ladenburger finished with a 99.

# Luedke on academic team

Eric Luedke was one of only 18 of the 68 wrestlers named to the NWCA All-Academic team who placed at the 2006 NCAA Division I championships in Oklahoma City. He wrestles for the University of Iowa, and is a Health & Sports Stud-

ies major with a 3.740 GPA.

In the two years prior he was a two-time National Champion at Colby Community College. He is the son of Brian and Judy Luedke of Colby.

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# Johnson not happy in Kansas City

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — There's one thing the young, talented, rich and famous Larry Johnson wants everybody to understand — he is not happy.

Not after going to the Pro Bowl. Not after rushing for a Kansas City Chiefs record 1,750 yards and bursting into stardom.

Not after having fans approach him on the streets of New York and Las Vegas and tell him how great he is. Not even after hobnobbing with celebrities as a newly minted celebrity himself.

"No, I'm never happy," the muscular running back said Thursday. "When I feel like I'm successful in my own right, I will never be happy with anything, period. I haven't started one full season yet. I haven't gotten this team to a Super Bowl. As far as my career, it's still starting off late, I feel. So I can't overall be happy about where I'm at right now, 'cause like I said, I feel like I'm still playing catch-up."

One thing the fourth-year Penn State product has caught up with is a job as a starter. When three-time Pro Bowler Priest Holmes went out last season with neck trauma, the sullen backup finally got the chance he'd always said he deserved.

And man, did his critics eat their

words.

He started nine games and went over 100 yards each time, over 200 twice. His 1,627 yards from scrimmage in games played on or after Nov. 1 were the most in NFL history.

Even if Holmes decides to come back and resume his career, new head coach Herman Edwards has assured Johnson that he, not Holmes, will go into camp as the starter.

That much does make him happy. So does having Edwards as his head coach instead of the retired Dick Vermeil. He and Vermeil clashed repeatedly during his first three stormy years after being taken in the first round in 2003. But now, he

says, he has a head coach who's in his corner for the first time since he was a high school senior.

"For (Edwards) to come out and say that, and make it be known to everybody when we really haven't had our first minicamp yet — it's new to me. Usually, I would have to wait and wait and wait and try to figure out myself if I was going to start or not," he said. "But he stepped up and told me I was going to be a starter."

"I'm not really surprised. But at the same time, I am. I haven't had a coach like that."

Holmes still does not have medical clearance. Team president Carl Peterson has said that he still expects Holmes to return.

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