

Mistakes plague Colby Eagles

By John Van Nostrand
Colby Free Press

Hoxie started the Colby High football season under the "L" column with a 26-15 win Friday.

Colby coach Bob Ray wants that "L" to also stand for learning.

"We played hard, it was just the mistakes," first-year coach Ray said. "We are pretty young. We are going to make them under the new system."

One mistake with 2:46 left in the third quarter shifted the momentum to Hoxie. On fourth down deep in its own territory, the snap on a Colby punt went over the head of punter Josh Johnson and ended up as a safety for Hoxie. The Indians reclaimed the lead 16-15.

"It's how we respond to those mistakes is what important," Ray said.

Despite creating a turnover and a stiff Eagle defense after the safety, Colby did not threaten to score in the last quarter.

Colby was again stuck in deep in its own territory and Hoxie forced another safety with 3:46 left in the game to extend its lead to 18-15. Hoxie's Quinn Aumiller then scored on a 2-yard run with 1:08 left to put the game out of reach.

"I was impressed with the kids," Ray said. "The kids never quit," he said.

Ray said the Eagles must learn how to play after getting the lead.

"You have got to play perfect ball after a lead," he said. "They don't

understand yet to finish it off." Hoxie scored first. Brett Linden ran in from 2 yards out with 5:35 in the first quarter. The two-point conversion gave Hoxie a 8-0 lead. Colby responded driving to the Hoxie 40, but the drive was stalled by penalties.

The Eagles' first points of the season happened on the first play of the second quarter. Quarterback Ryan White threw a 11-yard pass to Travis Parker. Mitchell Tuma scored the two-point conversion to tie the game at 8.

Colby's defense had its moments in the first half. Treat Bugbee recovered a Hoxie fumble and the Eagles stopped Hoxie on a fourth-and-goal play late in the second quarter. But a Hoxie running back found a hole and scampered 55 yards for a score with 2:11 left in the half and led 14-8.

The Eagles quickly answered in the third quarter. On the first play, Colby recovered a Hoxie fumble on their 35. During Colby's possession, Tuma ran for 4 yards on a fourth-and-two play. Tuma eventually scored on a 4-yard run with 7:26. Mikel Ladenburger kicked the extra point to give Colby a 15-14 lead.

Colby was penalized 15 times to Hoxie's two. Some of those penalties stalled a Colby drive into Hoxie territory in the first quarter. Ray said the team must also learn how to respond and "play through the penalties."

Ray was pleased with the perfor-



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press
Hoxie's Marcus McKenna, left, broke up a pass intended for Colby's Mitchell Gatz during Hoxie's 26-15 win Friday in Colby.

mance of several players.

"Todd Ziegelmeier did a heck of a job," Ray said. "And Mitchell Tuma did well on both sides of the ball."

Colby completed seven of 12 passes for 36 yards. The Eagles ran

42 times for 120 yards.

White completed six passes for 35 yards. Parker caught three of those passes for 22 yards. Tuma ran 20 times for 81 yards

Colby (0-1) plays 7 p.m. Friday at Concordia.

Titans fall to Warriors

By Jay Kelley
Colby Free Press

GRINNELL — After his Brewster-Triplains High School Titans lost their first game to the Grinnell-Wheatland Warriors 40-30 Friday in Grinnell, coach Beau Sheets said he had seen a lot of good things on the field.

"We did a lot of things right," he said. "We just had some rookie mistakes."

A lot of things did go right for the Titans, including a balanced offensive attack which included 38 running plays and 35 passes for 149 and 267 yards, respectively

In the end it wasn't enough to overcome Grinnell's offensive line and Marty Lager, who ran or threw for five touchdowns, including turning a bad snap on a punt into a 75 yard touchdown run.

The Titans opened with a 60-yard scoring drive which concluded with Aric Grob finding Seth Carpenter open on third-and-nine from the Grinnell 13 with 7:54 left in the first quarter.

The Warriors spent the rest of the quarter on their opening drive only to be frustrated by the Titan defense on fourth-and-one from the Brewster 11. Kyle Kennedy was met at the line of scrimmage.

A quarterback change on the next drive found rookie quarterback Jance McKee brutalized by the Warrior defense and ended with a Jeff Reid punt on fourth-and-16 from the Titan five.

That gave the Warriors good field position at the Titan 37 and Lager didn't waste any time, breaking six tackles to score on the first play of the possession.

Grinnell was on the Titan 33 and Lager found Corey Kincaid open for another Warrior touchdown. The Titans were now down 14-8 with 3:58 left in the half.

Brewster-Triplains started the next drive with Grob again at the helm, but were unable to make it into the endzone again. The Warriors, however, seemed to score effortlessly on the second play of their next drive to take a 20-8 lead.

The Titans' next drive ended with Lager picking off a pass from Grob intended for Reid with 14 seconds left. Only a solid hit from Sam Smith,

who seemed to be everywhere on defense, saved another touchdown.

Neither team was able to move the ball well at the beginning of the second half, but this time it was the Titans' turn to get a break. Grinnell decided to open up the offense a little and the Titans, Carpenter picked off a pass intended for Wade Wolf, giving Brewster-Triplains the ball on their 21.

The Titans marched downfield on the running of Starns and Bryant Plummer until they seemed to be stopped on the Grinnell 33. On fourth and four, Grob found Carpenter open and a great second effort put him in the endzone to close the gap to 20-14 with 5:27 left in the third.

The Titans pinned Grinnell back and forced a punt on their 20 with one second left in the quarter. A bad snap and a swarming Titan defense looked to be the end of Grinnell's drive, but Lager was able to evade seven would-be tacklers and outrun the last one into the endzone.

The he fourth quarter started with Grinnell up 26-14.

The Titans responded in kind, however, putting together a 65-yard drive ending in a pass from Grob to Taylor Barrett. The Titans had cut the lead to 26-22 with 9:18 left in the game.

The Warriors scored again on their next drive off a 20-yard Kennedy run, but they were unable to convert and their 32-22 lead was cut to 32-30 on the Titans' first play, another Grob to Plummer pass for 65 yards.

The Titans had to hold the Warriors and score again, but they had four minutes in which to do it. Grinnell, however, was not out yet. The second play of their drive was an option in which Lager kept the ball and ran 65 yard for a touchdown. Grinnell led 40-30 with 3:26 left.

Grob was 18-34 for 258 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions. McKee went 1-for-1 for nine yards.

Barrett had four catches for 108 yards and two touchdowns. Reid had eight catches for 91 yards.

Starns had 17 carries for 93 yards. Smith led the defense with five tackles and six assists.

The Titans will take on top-ranked Palco, who defeated Northern Valley (Almena), 7 p.m. Friday for the Brewster homecoming.

Eagle tennis wins tourney

Colby tennis' Lindsey Wilson and Kaylie Dugger win in number one doubles proved to be the difference in Colby's win Saturday at their own tournament.

"The won pretty easy too," said Colby coach Jordan Sharp.

Wilson and Dugger defeated the duo from Osborne 6-3 for first place.

Other Eagle results are: Logan Wark, second, number one singles; Barbara Bickner, second, number two singles and Cyndi Rothfuss and Lis Erickson, third, number two doubles.

Other teams that competed were Norton, Garden City, Plainville, Ulysses, Goodland and Liberal.

Only the team's second competition of the season, Sharp said he was impressed.

"I saw their potential," he said, "and they showed their results."

Colby plays 3 p.m. Monday at Goodland.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Colby High School Lady Eagle Logan Wark fired a shot back at opponent during the Colby Invitational Saturday at Fike Park.

Sports Briefs

Golden Plains was defeated by Victoria 50-0 Friday in Rexford. Statistics from the game were not available by press time today.

NORTON, Mass. (AP) — What began as a rally quickly turned into a rout for Tiger Woods, who matched the lowest final round of his career in the Deutsche Bank Championship to win for the fifth straight time on the PGA Tour.

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