

Lady Eagle tennis players ready to compete at state tournament

By John Van Nostrand
Colby Free Press

Eagle junior Logan Wark said just getting to the state tennis tournament is not enough. She wants to do what she has seen other girls do at the tournament.

Wark is one of three Colby High girls who will play at the state tournament Friday and Saturday at Emporia High School in Emporia. Wark, who qualified last year in singles play, finished ninth.

“My goal is to improve on what I did last year,” she said.

Logan said the girl who defeated her in the second round last year, went on to win a state championship.

“And she had been to state for three years,” Wark said. “State experience helps.”

Wark said even approach to state is not like it was last year

“Last year, I was just eager to get there. I was excited,” she said.

“Now, I need to improve.”

Eagle coach Jordan Sharp agrees.

“She is determined in practice,” he said. “She is not settling for just qualifying for state. She actually wants to do something.”

Wark said how well she plays, even at state, is determined by her



FILE PHOTOS

FROM LEFT: Colby High School Lady Eagle tennis players senior Kaylie Dugger, junior Logan Wark and sophomore Lindsey Wilson qualified for state tennis in to be Emporia Friday and Saturday.

first move.

“I like my serve,” she said, “When it’s on, I can play real well.” Wark said the better her serve is, that momentum carries over into the match.

Looking back at the season, and even last year, Wark said her game has changed over the seasons.

“I’ve got more patient, sometimes it depends upon who I am playing,” she said.

The other two Eagle players, senior Kaylie Dugger and sophomore Lindsey Wilson, qualified for state as a doubles team.

“Going to state was our goal,” Dugger said. “And I felt like we had a shot going into regionals.”

Dugger said playing strong tennis at regionals reflected what had happened all season.

“I felt like we were getting better during the year,” she said.

Sharp said how Dugger and Wilson played in Lindsborg earlier in the season was pivotal.

“They played the team from Smoky Valley. They played their best tennis all year. It showed they had potential.” The Colby duo placed seventh.

Dugger said relying on the strengths between her and Wilson are what made them excel.

“We are both good at the same things,” Dugger said. She said they both have skills playing at the net and on the baseline.

But what is as important as skills to Dugger, is how the two communicate during matches.

“In doubles play, if one of them has a bad day it can rub off on the other,” she said. “But we talk between matches.” That way, one player can tell the other what they are struggling with so the other can be prepared and help.

“They have had their ups and

downs,” Sharp said. He said their ups this year “helped them realize what they are capable of doing.”

Wilson contrast Dugger on their strengths. Wilson said their best game is at the net.

“We played together all year,” Wilson said.

“And it has been practice, practice, practice. We both played well when we had to and that is why we can play the same way.”

Like Dugger, Wilson said how they developed during the year paid off with a trip to state.

“I thought we could do it. We built up our confidence during the year,” she said.

“But at state, it is going to be tough.”

State tournament players are guaranteed to play at least two matches.

Eagle golfers finish

Colby Eagles girls golfer Courtney Ress missed qualifying for the state tournament by two places at the regional meet held Monday at Lakin.

Ress shot a 113, a 59 on the front nine and then came back with a 54.

“She showed some good toughness to fight back and post a better score on the back nine when the conditions were horrible to begin the tourney and got worse as the day went on,” said Colby coach Rick Williams. “She was just a few strokes away from qualifying for state.”

The top two teams and then the next five individuals qualified for state. Ress finished seventh among the individuals.

“If she could have put together a front nine that was a few strokes better, we would be preparing for the state tournament right now,” Williams said.

Jessica Leiker shot a 132.

“She was a little disappointed in the way she played, but she beat a lot of golfers at the regional,” Williams said.

Williams said Leiker started the year as an average junior varsity player and improved to be a solid varsity golfer.

“She improved an amazing amount and if she will play some golf in the off season, she will be pretty darn good next year,” he said.

Syracuse won the regional and Holcomb was second. (Two team qualifiers)

Sammie Raymer of Goodland and Jordan Albers of Oakley qualified.

Trojans 2-2

Colby Community College volleyball team competed last weekend in Sterling, Colo., at the Northeastern Junior College Pizza Hut Invitational winning two and losing two.

The Lady Trojans defeated McCook 3-0, and Lamar 3-0.

College alumni game Sunday

This year’s Colby College women’s basketball team is taking on women players from the past three seasons for the first alumni game at 1:30 p.m., Sunday, at the Colby Community Building, 285 E. Fifth St. Admission is free.

Super Six Picks

The Super Six Picks will be a weekly feature in the *Colby Free Press* during the football season.

Six people have been chosen to pick the winners from selected games in high school, college and the pros. This week’s games include high school, college and one NFL game.

The super six are KXXX/KQLS radio manager Mike Fell, radio broadcaster Rich Epp, His Shop owner Dave Jennings, Thomas County Commissioner Ron Evans, Thomas County

Insurance’s Jim McLaughlin and Free Press Publisher John Van Nostrand.

This week’s games are: Norton vs. Beloit; Goodland vs. Ulysses; Phillipsburg vs. Oberlin; Triplains/Brewster vs. Sharon Springs; Grinnell vs. Tribune; St. Francis vs. Syracuse; Hoxie vs. WaKeeney; Kansas State vs. Nebraska; Oklahoma State vs. Kansas; Kansas City vs. Pittsburgh. Who they think will win, along with their record, is listed below their picture.



Epp



Evans



Fell



Jennings



McLaughlin



Van Nostrand

Norton
Ulysses
Phillipsburg
Triplains-
Brewster
Grinnell
St. Francis
WaKeeney
Nebraska
Kansas
Pittsburgh

Last week
7-3
Overall
46-14

Norton
Ulysses
Phillipsburg
Sharon
Springs
Grinnell
St. Francis
WaKeeney
Nebraska
Kansas
Pittsburgh

Last week
7-3
Overall
49-11

Norton
Ulysses
Phillipsburg
Sharon
Springs
Grinnell
St. Francis
WaKeeney
Nebraska
Kansas
Pittsburgh

Last week
8-2
Overall
47-13

Norton
Ulysses
Phillipsburg
Sharon
Springs
Grinnell
St. Francis
Hoxie
Nebraska
Kansas
Pittsburgh

Last week
7-3
Overall
46-14

Beloit
Ulysses
Phillipsburg
Sharon
Springs
Grinnell
St. Francis
WaKeeney
Kansas St
Okla. St.
Pittsburgh

Last week
6-4
Overall
42-18

Norton
Ulysses
Phillipsburg
Sharon
Springs
Grinnell
St. Francis
WaKeeney
Nebraska
Kansas
Pittsburgh

Last week
6-4
Overall
46-14

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