



COLBY FREE PRESS



EAGLES WIN!



Colby High football team breaks losing streak

By John Van Nostrand
Colby Free Press

The streak is over. Colby defeated the Hugoton Eagles 27-6 Friday in Colby. The win was the first one in more than two years and was critical, considering the game was the start of district play.

After the final second ticked off the clock, Colby fans and students swarmed the field and the Eagles team.

Colby's last win was 28-26 at Ness City-Dighton Sept. 24, 2004. The Eagles would lose their next 20 games.

The last time the Eagles won at home was Sept. 26, 2003, against Holcomb, 28-13. The last time Colby won a district game was 2001 against Goodland. Hugoton came into the game with a 2-4 record.

Colby coach Bob Ray said before the season, and during the season, his team has kept a positive attitude under such depressing situations. He said at times during this season, they showed signs of playing well but just needed to put a complete game together. Friday was that day. "They played excellent," he said. "We just coached, that's all we do," he said. "This Friday the 13th will go down in history."

And boy did the Eagles play. Eagle junior receiver Eli Robert scored three times. One of his scores was a thrilling fight for the ball among two Hugoton defenders.

"Eli was excellent," Ray said. "He will go up and battle with the best of them." Robert, who is listed at 5-6 and 142 pounds, faced the Hugoton secondary players which stood taller.

Robert finished the game with eight catches for 167 yards. Reviewing Hugoton on film, Ray and the coaches thought they could succeed with a passing game.

"Hugoton has a great defensive line," Ray said. "But we had some suspicions about their secondary." Eagle quarterback Ryan White



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press

Colby Eagle coach Bob Ray talked to his team Friday on the field after Colby beat Hugoton 27-6. It was the first win for Colby since Sept. 2004 and the first win in Colby since Sept. 2003. Fans blanketed the field and the team after the game. The Eagles play at Ulysses Friday. More sports on pages 5 and 8.

completed 10-18 passes for 209 yards and one interception.

The first White to Robert score was early in the second quarter. White found Robert who scampered down the sideline for 47 yards for the score.

Hugoton tied the score late in the second quarter, thanks to a Colby error that has plagued them all season.

With 3:17 left in the half, Colby punter Josh Johnson picked up a bad snap and attempted to throw down-

field to avoid a blocked punt. The pass fell incomplete and Hugoton took over on the Colby 45.

About two minutes later, Hugoton was in the endzone after a 14-yard run. The game was tied at 6 at halftime.

Colby running back Eric Jurek helped the Eagles regain the lead in the second half. On a third-and-10 play he ran for just enough yards to get a first down on the Hugoton 28. Later in the possession, White found Robert in the end zone for 15

yards. Robert went up against two defenders to catch the ball. Mitchell Tuma scored the two-point conversion and Colby led 14-6 with 2:45 left in the quarter.

Tuma led Colby on the ground with 17 carries for 41 yards. As a team, Colby had 33 carries for 99 yards.

In the fourth quarter, Johnson pinned Hugoton deep in its own territory with a punt. Hugoton started on the their own 4.

During that possession, Heath

Stephens recovered a fumble on the 5. Colby's Tanner Kriss rambled in from 5 yards out with 8:21 left in the game. Colby led 21-6.

Late in the quarter, Colby was deep in Hugoton territory and faced a fourth-and-three on the 21. White dropped back to pass and found Robert for the third time for 21 yards and a score.

"You could feel the excitement," Ray said. "They just fed off the points."

Ray said he was very apprecia-

tive of the community support for the team. The night before, fans held a parade and pep rally for the football team under the theme "We believe."

"The community support is huge," he said. "It was a bonus."

Ray said the win comes at the right time with Hugoton beginning district play.

"That's the kind of momentum we need into the playoffs," he said.

Colby (1-6) plays 7 p.m. Friday at Ulysses.

Wagon full of spirit



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Katie Zerr, left, Debbie Zerr, Danaya Wentz and Clae Schmidt, all of Girl Scout Troop 201 collected food Sunday during the annual "Trick or Treat so others can eat" event. The Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts and Sacred Heart Catholic Youth Organization went door-to-door collecting food for Genesis of Thomas County. Norm Hansen, Genesis board member, said it was one of the largest collections the youth have done. He estimated more than a ton of food was brought in.

Race date set for 2007 fair

By Tisha Cox
Colby Free Press

The date for races at the 2007 Thomas County Free Fair will be Aug. 3-4. The board approved the race contract Friday with Kerry Wark, who produces the races each year.

However, he did have some concerns. At the September meeting, the board talked about looking into new ideas for evening entertainment at the fair.

Wark wanted to know if they were going to do anything different, but the board hasn't come up with anything solid yet.

He didn't know if anyone had done any research, and also said he didn't like the idea of running races

the weekend before the fair because it would bump into races scheduled elsewhere around the area.

Board member Mark Anderson said the board hasn't yet looked at anything else and if it was going to think about changes, nothing would happen until 2008 or 2009 at the soonest.

Wark also had more business with the board.

Next spring there will be a demolition derby put on by Wark. He also presented that contract at the same time, which was approved.

"This is an identical contract to what we had this year," he said.

Wark has already received some phone calls from people asking if there was going to be a spring derby.

He said there was a good number of participants in April, but not a good crowd.

"Rain really hurt our crowd," Wark said, but he hopes the event will draw a bigger crowd next year.

The buildings and grounds were also on the board's agenda.

The board approved a \$10,360 bid from Marvin Wilson to install a concrete footer from the old bathrooms at the fairgrounds to the Kansas National Guard Armory.

The short concrete wall will also include posts for a new fence. In all, it will be 400 feet of concrete.

The board also talked about siding for the solar building.

Measurements will be taken to get an idea how much such a project would cost.

Candidates in AG race stretch truth

TOPEKA (AP) — To hear Attorney General Phill Kline or Democratic challenger Paul Morrison talk, they will make sure Kansans will be free of murderers, rapists and all manner of miscreants.

Of course, the reality is there's little likelihood the state can be free of crime simply because one or the other is the state's chief law enforcer.

When Democratic Gov. Kathleen Sebelius talks about what she's done for the state without a tax increase and GOP challenger Jim Barnett bemoans the possibility of higher taxes, they're not telling the whole story.

Are they shading the facts? The candidates argue they aren't, as if only the Sunday school truth passes from their lips.

"You can't exactly call it lying. You can call it avoidance, avoiding

the pitfalls of the past," said Ken Ciboski, Wichita State University political science professor. "That way, they can say they aren't lying to you."

With the Nov. 7 general election less than a month away, voters are getting what amounts to a full dose of marketing.

"Certainly they are shading the truth. They are telling the story that puts them in the best possible light," said Joe Aistrup, head of the Kansas State University Department of Political Science. "In reality, what they are trying to do is just like any marketer will tell you, emphasize the positives and don't dwell on the negatives."

Barnett portrays himself as the candidate who will reduce income and estate taxes to help the economy. Yet in 2002, as a senator from Emporia, he voted for a \$252

million tax increase to bolster the state budget. Interestingly, his running mate, Sen. Susan Wagle of Wichita, voted against it.

In her stump speeches, Sebelius doesn't mention she pushed for a \$300 million tax increase to provide more money for public schools and a \$50 million bump in tobacco taxes to finance health care initiatives. Both ideas, offered in 2004, were rejected by lawmakers.

Perhaps they're counting on voters having short-term memories.

"Candidates are willing to take the chance that nothing will come from it."

"If it does come up, she can always gloss it over somehow," Ciboski said.

Sebelius' campaign parses the particulars, saying her proposals would have financed improvements, not shore up the state budget.