

Ulysses blanks Eagles

• *Playoff berth on the line Thursday at Goodland*

By John Van Nostrand
Colby Free Press

Although Ulysses easily got by visiting Colby 47-0 Friday, the Eagles still have something to fight for Thursday in the regular season ending game at Goodland.

Whoever wins the historic rivalry between the two schools will qualify for the state playoffs that begin Oct. 31.

"I told the team, 'let's go on,'" Colby coach Bob Ray said to his team after Ulysses. "We still have a chance to go on. We want to play in November."

Colby (1-7) plays 7 p.m. MDT at Goodland. Whoever wins will likely end up in second place in the four-team district. Ulysses (7-1) plays Hugoton this week. Colby defeated Hugoton Oct. 13 and Goodland defeated Hugoton Friday. Ulysses beat Goodland Oct. 13. The top two teams qualify for the postseason.

Knowing what's at stake Thursday is just one reason for the excitement and motivation with the Goodland game.

"If you can't get up for Goodland, you got a problem," Ray said.

Ray said the Eagles must find ways to correct the mistakes made during the Ulysses game. The Eagles' 124 yards of offense were hard to get.

"Their defensive line was tough unit," Ray said.

Colby was able to gain 109 yards on the ground. Quarterback Heath Stephens led the rushing attack with five carries for 88 yards. He had one carry for 30 yards. Mitchell Tuma had 17 carries for 34 yards.

The passing game, which Colby succeeded with against Hugoton, was shut down by Ulysses. Stephens completed 1-3 passes for 13 yards. Ryan White was 1-8 for two yards. Eric Jurek caught Stephens' pass.

The Eagle's defense started off strong. Ulysses drove deep into Eagle territory on its first drive before White intercepted a pass on the 8-yard-line. Colby was forced to punt which gave Ulysses favorable field position. Ulysses' first score came with the 5:02 in the first quarter.

Ray said Ulysses' speed was hard to corral.

"We had some missed tackles in the backfield," he said. "It was the fastest team we have played."

The Tigers' second score came on a blocked punt and 18-yard return with 3:35 left in the quarter.

Ulysses scored on a 1-yard run late in the quarter to lead 20-0.

In the second quarter, Ulysses drove to the Colby 4-yard line. The Ulysses backfield mishandled a pitch on an option play and Eagle Treat Bugbee recovered the ball on the 13 with 8:24 left in the half.

Ulysses was able to score two more times before halftime to lead 32-0 at the break.

Late in the third quarter, Colby forced Ulysses to a fourth-and-goal play on the Colby 3. Ulysses threw an incomplete pass giving the ball back to Colby. White was trapped in the endzone giving up a safety.

Ulysses' last score was at 15-yard run on the first play of the fourth quarter.

The Eagles' best scoring chances were in the fourth quarter. Colby had a fourth-and-three on the Ulysses 17 with 8:19 left. A Colby penalty moved the ball back to a fourth-and-eight play. An incomplete pass gave the ball back to Ulysses.

With less than minute on the clock, Colby was able to drive deep into Ulysses territory before Ulysses intercepted pass in the endzone.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Colby High School Eagle Darren Sporing, far left, ran to sixth place at the regional cross country meet Saturday. Colby boys qualified for the state meet Saturday.

Colby returns to state tourney

The third time may be a charm for the Colby High volleyball team.

Colby won its substate tournament Saturday at Goodland, qualifying them for the state tournament that starts Friday in Salina.

"This is the third time in a row that the Lady Eagles have made it to state," said Colby coach Lesley Wagoner. "It is the first time that has ever happened here at Colby High School with a volleyball team."

The Eagles begin the state tournament at 7:30 a.m. Friday on court A at the Bicentennial Center in Salina against second seed Augusta (36-3). Colby is seeded seventh of eight teams in Class 4A.

Colby (26-6) is in pool II along with three seed Topeka-Hayden (36-4) and sixth seed Girard (26-6). Pool I has number one seed Towanda-Circle (39-1); 8th, Holton (26-6); 4th, Eudora (37-5) and 5th Paola (34-5).

Colby plays 11:30 a.m. Friday against Topeka-Hayden and 1:30 p.m. against Girard.

Of the six games Colby played and won, only one of them had a point difference of less than 10.

Colby started Saturday against winless Russell and won 25-8, 25-9.

In the quarter finals, Colby defeated Thomas Moore Prep in two games, 25-15, 25-14.

Colby defeated Goodland in the finals match, 25-14, 25-20.

In the first game, the Lady Eagles got off to an early lead at 8-0 and widened it to 13-3. The Cowgirls fought back to 22-12, before Colby won.

The second game was closer, with the Cowgirls getting an early lead. The Eagles soon tied the score at nine. The game seesawed to 19-19, then the Eagles slowly pulled ahead and won the match, 25-20.

At the Colby Quad Sept. 23, the Cowgirls lost both games to Colby, 25-22 and 25-11.

Goodland defeated Pratt in the first round and Ulysses in the quarterfinals.

Colby was the only team Saturday that had a winning record.

"It definitely showed in the play," said Wagoner.

"We had not played any of the teams before except Goodland and since they were the number two seed, we knew they were going to be on the opposite side of the bracket."

Wagoner was prepared for what

other teams had, regardless of record.

"I had watched a tape on TMP and knew that they had a freshman left handed middle hitter and that their serving was good at certain times so we were prepared for that. Since Russell had not won a match all year, we were just out to run our offense and play consistently."

With the third consecutive trip to state, Wagoner hopes the team's background will pay off.

"This year is different from the other two teams in that we have more experience. These girls have all gone to state in volleyball so they know what is expected at that level. Every team there is a good team and we need to play with focus and intensity to win."

Colby placed fourth last year.

Eagle boys, one girl run to state meet

Colby High boys cross country team overcame the competition and miserable weather to qualify for the state cross country meet as did Colby girl Paige Stephens.

"Our boys' team had a great performance," said Colby coach Bob Mannebach.

At the regional meet in Larned Saturday, Colby boys placed second with 64 points. Stephens qualified as an individual finishing 10th.

The state meet is Saturday at Wamego. The boys run at 10:30 a.m. The girls run at 9:30 a.m.

"Running in weather with a temperature of 36 degrees and winds gusting up to 35 miles per hour, they did not let the weather conditions hinder their run. It was a great team effort, with each runner doing their job individually to help make the team successful," Mannebach said.

Colby was led by Josh Baden who finished second in 17:29.

Darren Sporing was sixth in 17:44; Ryan Baalmann, 11th, 18:20; Kahle Phillips, 22nd, 18:58; Trenton Powell, 23rd, 18:59; Matt Kaus, 27th, 19:12; and Trevor Seibert, 62nd, 21:42.

"Their great work ethic, dedication, determination, and toughness helped them be a very suc-

cessful team this year," Mannebach said.

Buhler won the meet with 36 points. Colby was second with 64 points followed by Clearwater, 112; Pratt, 139; Ulysses, 160; Belle Plain, 173; Larned, 187; Lindsborg, 189; Hugoton, 195; Goodland, 228 and Andale, 248.

Paige Stephens' time was 16:11.

"She had her best run of the season and was very deserving of a state bid as she worked very hard this season to become a very good runner. She displayed the same toughness as the boys and was very determined to make it to state which will make this her third year running at state," Mannebach said.

Paige finished 21st at state last year.

Behind Paige was Aubrette Stephens, 25th, 17:02; Kelly Gerstner, 49th, 18:10; Rhett Martin, 57th, 19:00; Kiri Kendrick, 61st, 19:23; Katelyn Houtz, 71st, 21:11; Kayla Sloan, 74th, 23:00.

Clearwater won the girls meet with 53 points followed by Buhler, 68; Andale, 69; Lindsborg, 144; Ulysses, 145; Belle Plain, 148; Hugoton, 157; TMP-Marian, 165; Colby, 185 and Pratt, 295.

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