

Good start important for Eagles

By John Van Nostrand
Colby Free Press

New Colby Eagles boys basketball coach Beau Sheets is reminding this year's team not to specifically do one thing that occasionally happened last season. That was to dig themselves a hole early in the game and then play catch-up.

"We did have some close games last year," Sheets said. "But we dug holes too many times. We want to be competitive each night."

Colby's first night is tonight at Scott City. That will be a tough test for Colby as Scott City won 4A state last season.

Sheets was named head coach earlier this year after Derek Bissitt resigned. Bissitt, who had coached both Colby boys and girls teams last year, decided to just coach the Eagle girls.

Sheets is not new to Colby basketball. Last year he was an assistant boys coach under Bissitt and had coached Colby's eighth-grade team. Sheets also coached the Brewster-Triplains football team to the playoffs this year.

Sheets said the experience of Colby's varsity team has shown during practice.

"On varsity, we have eight from last year and four of them have been starters," he said.

Nick Howard was the only senior on last year's team. Trey Barnett, Anthony Rohr, Trevor Siebert, Ethan Stover and R.J. Ladenburger all had significant playing time on

last year's team that finished 5-12. They all returned this year.

Sheets said other contributors to this year's team will be Stephen Dinkel, Levi Schlick and Ryan White - new to basketball.

Exactly when Sheets can find the right combination of those players is unknown. Ladenburger is recovering from shoulder surgery and is not expected to play until January. Siebert has a nagging leg injury and how much he can play will be determined each week.

On the bench or on the court, Sheets expects seniors Barnett, Rohr and Ladenburger to show some leadership to the rest of the team.

"We have some good, quality kids," Sheets said.

Sheets said what has also helped



Sheets

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Beau Sheets,
Colby boys coach

make practices go well, is how the kids have made the switch from Bissitt.

"It has gone well so far," Sheets said.

What has helped Sheets with that has been his assistant coach Tom Bowen. Sheets said he appreciates the input and effort from Bowen to the team. Bowen was an assistant last season. Replacing Sheets as an assistant is Barry Lucas.

Lucas coached the Sublette girls to back-to-back undefeated state championship seasons in 2A beginning in 2004.

"That was incredible," Sheets said.

Eagle Trevor Siebert is surrounded by defenders during a Colby game last season. Seibert is one of several players with varsity experience returning under new head coach Beau Sheets. Siebert's playing time is uncertain though because of a leg injury.



COLBY FREE PRESS FILE PHOTO

Annual college bowl contest coming

The Budweiser Bowl Contest presented by the *Colby Free Press* and Country Advocate and 790 KXXX and 100.3 The Ride will be available next week.

Each contestant will have the opportunity to score points by selecting the winners of all NCAA Bowl Games.

If a bowl game does not have a winner selected, that will be counted as a missed game.

Entry forms must be from the Colby Free Press, the Country Advocate, or retail outlets with the official Budweiser registration form. Photocopies of the Colby Free Press and the Country Advocate will not be accepted or eligible to win. Entry forms will be in various Colby Free Press editions and the Dec. 13 Country Advocate.

Multiple entries are not permitted. Each contestant may have only one entry.

Each bowl has been assigned a point total based on the quality of the bowl games and the teams participating among other factors.

Budweiser Bowl Contest Point System

5 Points: BCS National Championship Game

4 Points: BCS Bowls, Fiesta, Sugar, Orange, & Rose

4 Points: Bowls for local teams such as Kansas State, Kansas, Nebraska

3 Points: New Year's Day Bowls: Cotton, Outback, Capital One, Gator

2 Points: Bowls with both teams from BCS Conferences

1 Point: Bowls with one or both teams from non-BCS conferences

The contestant with the highest bowl point total will win a trip to Silver Creek/Sol Vista resort in Colorado.

Any tie will be broken by 1. number of winnings bowl picks 2. number of correct BCS bowl picks; 3. number of New Year's Day bowl picks 4. coin toss.

The Best Football Town In Northwest Kansas

This is the town competition for earning bragging rights and the coveted 790 KXXX/*Colby Free Press* Traveling Trophy.

The Best Football Town will be determined in the following manner:

If three contestants from the same town sweep the top three positions in the individual bowl contest standings, the hometown of those three contestants will be declared the 2006 Best Football Town. Ties for second or third place will NOT count towards a sweep.

If there is not a single-town sweep of the top three positions, then the town (with a minimum of four entries from a town) with the highest bowl point average will be declared the 2006 Best Football Town.

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