

Three classes logjam Newton's top five

From the Newton Kansan
The Bishop Carroll Golden Eagles reclaimed the title of the 44th Newton Invitational Tournament of Champions Saturday, edging Hutchinson for the title.

It was the fourth time Carroll has won the tournament and the first since 2004. Carroll topped a 23-team field, downing Hutchinson 181-162.5.

Manhattan was third, followed by Clay Center and Colby.

Rounding out the top 10 were Gardner-Edgerton, Emporia, Derby, Arkansas City and Valley Center. Carroll, Hutchinson and Arkansas City each won two titles. Eight schools won one title each.

Carroll coach Jamie Finkeldei was named outstanding coach of the tournament.

"I wish Norton would have been here," Finkeldei said of the two-time defending champs, which withdrew this year.

"That would have made for an exciting tournament. We wrestled real well up and down the lineup. Nine medalists at Newton is very impressive. At this tournament, every final match is tough. To win two is great. We lost one in double overtime. That was tough. At 112, we wrestled (Nathan) Furches three times, and beat him twice, but it's hard to beat a great kid three times in one year. That's going to happen. Overall, to get two champions and four finalists in this tournament is good."

Carroll will be shooting for its third straight Class 5A state title in February.

Third-ranked (Class 5A) Alex Whitehill of McPherson scored an escape and a takedown in the second period to take a 3-0 lead over unranked Nick Kriss of Colby at 215 pounds. Whitehill rode Kriss out in the third period for the win.

In a match to determine third place in the team standings, Manhattan's Steve Andrus, ranked first in Class 6A at heavyweight, faced unranked Travis Blackwood of Clay Center.

Andrus took the lead with an escape early in the second period. Andrus added a takedown late in the period. Andrus added two more points in the third period for a 5-0 win.

At 119 pounds, Sal Tovar, ranked fifth in Class 5A, faced Colby's Trenton Powell, ranked third in Class 4A. Tovar scored an escape in the second period. Powell scored an escape in the third period. Tovar scored a takedown with eight seconds left for a 3-1 decision.

The only battle of unranked wrestlers in the finals came at 152 pounds, in which Manhattan's Bryant Petty fell behind early to Winfield's Pete Tepea. Petty rallied late in the first period to take a 6-4 lead. Tepea closed within one with an escape late in the first period.

Petty posted a reversal early in the third, but Tepea countered with an escape and a takedown to tie the

Two Eagles take second

By John Van Nostrand
Colby Free Press Publisher

The difference between 4A and 5A schools is 10 students and between 4A and 6A schools it is 500 students — but it was much closer than that on the mat in Newton.

Colby placed fifth at the Newton Tournament of Champions last weekend with 147 points. Bishop Carrol (5A) won the meet with 181 points.

"Finishing fifth, we did a good job," said Colby coach Matt Sims. "And we were just five points from fourth place."

Clay Center, another 4A school, finished fourth with 152. After Bishop was Hutchinson (5A), 162.5 and Manhattan (6A), 155.5.

Sims said the close scores will continue the debate over which classification is better in wrestling. Colby and Clay Center, finishing in the top five at such a competitive meet including 4A, 5A and 6A schools will add to the discussion.

"There will always be a battle over which classification is better," Sims said. "But it doesn't matter to me. What matters is February." Sims was eluding to the state tournament late next month.

Colby's Nick Kriss (215 pound) shows how good 4A wrestlers can be. During the tournament he defeated the number one and number two ranked wrestlers in 5A. Kriss lost to the third place finisher at state last season. Kriss finished second at Newton.

"Nick had a great weekend," Sims said.

Colby's other second place finishers was Trenton Powell in 119 pounds.

Here's how other Eagle wrestlers finished at Newton:

- 103: Nathan Reed, fifth.
- 112: Cody Wark, eighth.
- 125: Brent Luedke, fourth
- 140: Garrett Zwegardt, eighth
- 145: Jared Flanagan, eighth
- 160: Breck Arnberger, eighth.
- 171: Tanner Kriss, third
- 285: Taylor Brown, sixth.

Colby faces Goodland and Rawlins County (Atwood) Thursday at Colby Elementary gym. The meet was postponed Jan. 4 because of weather. Matches start 6 p.m.

match. Tepea got the takedown and pin 20 seconds in overtime.

Colby High School Lady Eagle Tasha Wagoner, left, dove after the ball during a game against Hoxie Friday at the Colby Community Building. The Eagles will play in the annual Orange and Black Classic basketball tournament this weekend.



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Eagle JV girls improve

Colby's junior varsity girls basketball team defeated Hays 37-27 Saturday in Colby.

April Gee led Colby with 12 points. Lindsey Wilson, Taylor Young and Ali Barton each scored six points. Kiri Kendrick, Aubrette Stephens, Rhett Martin each scored two points.

"The girls are working harder on defense and are doing better at the line. We need to cut the turnovers

but overall, I am pleased with our improvement," said Colby coach Jack Elliott.

Colby was 17-29 at the free throw line.

Friday, Colby defeated Hoxie 45-36.

Gee led Colby with 16 points. Stephens had 10 points. Young and Barton each scored six points. Sloan scored three points.

Colby is 5-3.

Trojan meet cancelled

The Colby Community College wrestling duel scheduled Tuesday with Pratt Community College was cancelled. No makeup date has

been announced. The next meet for the Trojans is the Worthington Open Friday and Saturday in Worthington, Minn.

Shockers look for wins

WICHITA (AP) — Wichita State followed its 9-0 start with a 1-6 free fall, and suddenly the early season's hottest mid-major seemed more like a flavor of the week than a contender to go deep into the postseason.

But with the Shockers coming off back-to-back wins for the first time since that early streak, things could be turning around for a team that was ranked as high as No. 8 in December.

"I've told the guys all along that there's a good team in here some-

where," coach Mark Turgeon said late last week. "We just have to find it."

Wichita State (12-6, 3-4 Missouri Valley) dropped four of its first five conference games before beating Evansville 69-56 on Saturday and Creighton 62-59 on Monday night.

"It stinks losing, period, whether it's one game, five games, whatever," said senior center Kyle Wilson, who has 44 points in the last two games, including a career-high 25 against Creighton. "But it's going to show how tough we are."