



COLBY FREE PRESS

Colby girls: We are the champions!

By John Van Nostrand
Free Press Publisher

Four years ago Colby High's Ashley Barnes was carried off the state tournament basketball floor with a severe knee injury.

Saturday, she carried off a state championship trophy.

Colby High girls defeated Augusta 58-46 for the 4A state championship at the Bicentennial Center in Salina.

Barnes' 17 points were key as the Eagles turned a three-point lead at the beginning of the fourth quarter into a 10-point cushion. For the game, Barnes was 7-9 from the field and 2-3 at the free throw line.

"I realized I was in the zone," she said. "When the shots were on, I just shot away."

Colby coach Derek Bissitt mentioned one piece of advice he told Barnes before the game.

"I told her to save her best game for last," he said.

Barnes, a senior, finished her high school career with a better memory from this year's state tournament than when she started as a freshman.

"Coming back my senior year, it's amazing," she said.

Colby finished fourth in the 2004 state tournament. Colby last played in the championship game in 1990 losing to Rose Hill.

Barnes' play symbolized the Eagles' performance in the state championship game.

The previous two games, Colby needed overtime periods to get through the first and semifinal rounds. Colby defeated Columbus in double-overtime in the first round and needed one overtime period to get by Tonganoxie in the semifinals.

"It's kind of anticlimactic to win this way after the last two nights," said Bissitt.

Bissitt said the team's start in the championship game was key.

"I loved their energy at the beginning and every time they made a run, we responded," he said.

Colby had a 15-8 lead at the end of the first quarter and would eventually lose that lead in the second quarter. Augusta's Julie Stephenson tied the game at 17 with two free throws at the 4:35 mark. Stephenson led the Orioles with 18 points.

But Colby responded. Barnes made two free throws one minute later to give Colby a 21-17 lead. Another Barnes' bucket later on gave Colby a 27-20 lead at halftime.

In the third quarter, Augusta had a difficult time making a basket and Colby extended its lead to 37-24 with 3:50 left. Augusta stormed

back behind Stephenson.

She scored nine points in the last three minutes to trim Colby's lead to 41-38 at the end of the quarter.

In the fourth quarter, Augusta's Brooke Burns scored and the Orioles trailed 41-40. Augusta would not get any closer.

When Augusta closed in, Colby's Aubrette Stephens said she was not rattled.

"I feel secure with these girls," she said. "I knew we were going to win."

Colby's Lissa Mazanec's basket with 6:04 left gave Colby a 45-42 lead. With 3:13 on the clock, Mazanec's two free throws extended Colby's lead to 49-42. Mazanec led Colby with 18 points and eight rebounds.

Bissitt said how his team played in the fourth quarter showed their strengths. Later in the quarter, Augusta continually fouled sending Colby to the free throw line. What was a weakness against Columbus, was a strength against Augusta. Colby made 21-23 free throws.

"We overcame adversity," Bissitt said.

Knowing what was at stake, Mazanec said her teammates knew how to handle the situations Augusta put them in.

"We are all close friends and we play for one another," she said. "That's what it came down to. This has been a wonderful experience. You win, look around and say, 'Oh my gosh.'"

Bissitt also had concerns of the Colby girls showing fatigue after playing two overtime games on consecutive days. The fatigue never showed up against Augusta.

"We never run sprints in practice," he said. "They work that hard."

Paige Stephens scored 12 points and had eight rebounds.

Barnes is one of three seniors on this year's team. Rishonna Martin and April Weaver are the others. Mazanec, a junior, likes what next year has to offer.

"Four juniors come back and we all have great potential," she said. The other juniors with varsity experience include Tasha Wagoner, Aubrette Stephens and Paige Stephens.

"We could all be back here again," Mazanec said. Colby finished the season 24-2. Augusta 8 12 18 8 — 46 Colby 15 12 14 17 — 58 Colby (58): R. Martin, 0-2, 0-0, 0; L. Wilson, 0-0, 0-0, 0; T. Wagoner, 0-5, 7-8, 7; A. Stephens, 0-1, 4-4, 4; P. Stephens, 4-6, 4-4, 12; K. Kendrick, 0-0, 0-0, 0; A. Gee, 0-2, 0-0, 0; A. Barnes, 7-9, 2-3, 17; A.



JOHN VAN NOSTRAND/Colby Free Press

ABOVE: Members of the Colby High girl's basketball team held the championship trophy Saturday in Salina after defeating Augusta. It was the first time since 2004 Eagle girls had placed in the tournament. Colby girls last played in the state finals in 1990. **RIGHT:** Eagle Tasha Wagoner drove around two Augusta defenders on her way to the basket. A pep rally for the Colby girls will be held at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday at Colby High School. It is open to the public.

Weaver, 0-0, 0-0, 0; T. Young, 0-0, 0-0, 0; L. Mazanec, 7-15, 4-4, 18; A. Barton, 0-0, 0-0, 0. Team totals: 18-40, 21-23, 58. Three-point shots, 1-5. Rebounds, 34. Turnovers, 11. Fouls, 13.

Augusta (46): A. Poor, 0-6, 1-2, 1; E. Myers, 0-1, 0-0, 0; S. Waldorf, 2-5, 0-0, 0; A. Schwimmer, 0-0, 0-0, 0; N. Gillies, 0-4, 0-0, 0; C. Carman, 0-0, 0-0, 0; B. Burns, 6-9, 0-0, 12; K. Farmer, 0-3, 0-1, 0; L. Crawford, 0-0, 0-0, 0; R. Nickel, 4-16, 0-4, 9; J. Stephenson, 4-9, 8-9, 18. Team totals: 16-53, 10-13, 46. Three-point shots, 4-18. Rebounds, 28. Turnovers, 9. Fouls, 19.

Semifinal game

Been there, done that.

For the second consecutive game, Colby needed extra time to defeat Tonganoxie 73-67 in the semifinal round of the 4A state basketball tournament. In the first round, Colby defeated Columbus in double-overtime.

Tonganoxie was seeded first in the tournament with a 22-1 record. Colby was seeded fourth.

Colby would have been playing for third place Saturday if Tonganoxie Chieftain Ali Pistora's shot at the buzzer would have fallen through to break the tie in regula-

tion. The Eagles had the advantage in the overtime, building a lead and not giving it up. Barnes made one of two free throws to give Colby a 67-62 lead with 1:15 remaining.

Chieftain Elizabeth Baska's score cut the deficit to 67-64. Gee and Paige Stephens each followed up with baskets to extend Colby's lead and force Tonganoxie to foul.

Tonganoxie led through much of the first half including 33-28 at halftime. Barnes' three-point shot with 2:41 left in the third quarter gave Colby a 37-36 lead.

Barnes was one of five Eagles to score in double figures. Mazanec led with 16 points. Gee had 14 and Barnes added 12. Aubrette Stephens and Paige Stephens each scored 10.

Late in the third quarter, one of Gee's baskets tied the game at 43.

The fourth quarter was a see-saw battle as the biggest lead was four points, when Tonganoxie led 53-49 with 4:30 remaining. Wagoner's basket with 3:12 left tied the score at 53.

Pistora made one of two free throws with 16 seconds left in the game to tie the score at 60. Tonganoxie called a timeout after an Eagle turnover to set up the last second



shot. Colby's defense forced 22 turnovers. In the third-place game Saturday, Andover-Central defeated Tonganoxie 55-46.

Colby (73): R. Martin, 1-3, 0-0, 2; L. Wilson, 0-0, 0-0, 0; T. Wagoner, 2-6, 3-4, 7; A. Stephens, 3-6, 3-4, 10; P. Stephens, 3-11, 4-4, 10; K. Kendrick, 0-0, 0-0, 0; A. Gee, 7-7, 0-1, 14; A. Barnes, 4-9, 2-4, 12; A. Weaver, 1-3, 0-0, 0; T. Young, 0-0, 0-0, 0; L. Mazanec, 7-19, 2-4, 16; A. Barton, 0-0, 0-0, 0. Team totals: 28-64, 14-21, 73. Three-point shots,

3-10. Rebounds, 33. Fouls, 19. Turnovers, 13.

Tonganoxie (67) T. Hileman, 3-6, 1-1, 7; V. Grizzle, 0-0, 0-0, 0; C. Weller, 3-7, 3-3, 11; A. Pistora, 3-8, 5-8, 11; E. Baska, 7-14, 0-1, 15; A. Ostermeyer, 0-0, 0-0, 0; R. Grizzle, 0-0, 0-0, 0; S. Carlin, 4-9, 0-3, 9; C. Jeannin, 2-3, 0-0, 4; R. Bogard, 1-2, 0-0, 2; R. Bogard, 4-8, 0-2, 8; A. Erickson, 0-0, 0-0, 0. Team totals: 27-57, 9-18, 67. Three-point shots 4-10. Rebounds, 44. Fouls, 21. Turnovers, 22.

Over a barrel



TISHA COX/Colby Free Press

Bob Holloway, a gun dealer from Hutchinson, looked at a Browning World War II pistol while selling his wares during the gun and coin show Saturday at the Colby Community Building.

City reviews fire station proposals

By Patty Decker
Free Press Editor

Three design proposals for a new fire station in Colby were discussed at the recent council meeting, but no decisions were reached.

The fire station committee, which includes Tim Hutfles and Mark Beringer, councilmen; Bob McLemore, fire chief and Sean Hankin, assistant fire chief, narrowed the search to three firms, said City Manager Carolyn Armstrong.

Beringer said the committee is reviewing proposals from Treanor Architects of Topeka; PBA Architects of Wichita and Gossen Livingston/Glen Strait in Colby.

The committee wants to get more

information on metal buildings and visit with Mike Woofter, owner of Woofter Construction and Curt Stephens, owner of Stephens Construction before recommending a design firm, Beringer said.

The council started looking into a new fire station building after the roof collapsed over the two north bays following a snowstorm in late December.

The building adjacent to Colby City Hall, 585 N. Franklin Ave., is no longer being used for safety reasons and temporarily the fleet of fire trucks and equipment is housed at the National Guard Armory on South Franklin.

The city already has a seven-acre parcel of land on South Country

Club Drive between the new state building and Hi-Plains Co-op fueling station which was bought in 2000. McLemore said that is a good location for a new building and will not affect response time. In fact, the new site is closer to the hospital, college and nursing homes.

The current fire station was inadequate for many years, he said, and once the design proposal is approved, the next step will go out for bids.

In other council business:

- Starting today the city is picking up branches from the December snowstorm. The service, Armstrong said, was to help people dispose of branches up to 8 inches in diameter. Anything larger, or entire

trees, needed to be removed by a contractor, she said.

- Councilman Jim Brown reported the sanitation committee had traveled to Oakley to look at the one-man truck operation. He said a number of commercial establishments would have to change the location of dumpsters if Colby went with the side load, single man truck. Brown said it would take over \$92,000 for the new dumpsters required by a change in trucks. The committee which includes Brown, Beringer and Public Utilities Director Chris Bieker, collectively said they believe it is a good idea; however, the committee wants to do additional research before making a recommendation.

Questions raised about governor, developer

TOPEKA (AP) — Some lawmakers are questioning the cost of a lease-purchase agreement between the state and developers with ties to Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

An audit of the transaction found that it could end up costing the state more than \$1 million for property developers bought for \$275,000 three years ago, The Wichita Eagle reported Sunday.

According to state records, the developers, their spouses and their companies have donated more than \$40,000 to the governor's political campaigns since 1994.

The governor's office said in a statement that Sebelius had no influence on the deal, which involves land for a new state park and a building used as the Topeka regional headquarters for the state Department of Wildlife and Parks.

The developers include or have included the chairman of the Kansas Real Estate Commission, who was appointed by Sebelius, and two lawyers who have represented the governor, one of whom is married to a staff attorney in the governor's office.

Rep. Peggy Mast, R-Emporia, chairwoman of the joint House-Senate Legislative Post Audit Committee, which had ordered the

audit, said the committee may need to order a second study of the transactions.

The audit, dated Feb. 12, found that the Wildlife and Parks department "followed most requirements" when it leased the property. But auditors criticized the department for leasing almost three times as much space as it needed, at almost three times the price of other spaces it could have leased.