

# Dynamic duo leads Lady Eagles past #1 ranked Oakley

By Joey Falkoff

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The 2A defending state champion #1 ranked Oakley Plainsmen were supposed to be the team in western Kansas that could give the 4A defending champion Colby Eagles a run for their money this season.

But Colby's senior duo of Lissa Mazanec and Tasha Wagoner refused to let it happen.

Mazanec and Wagoner combined for 43 points and 18 of the team's 22 baskets in the Lady Eagles (5-0) 57-41 victory over Oakley (3-1) Friday at the community building.

On a night in which the rest of their teammates shot just 4-24 (17.2 percent), Mazanec and Wagoner had to carry the load, which Wagoner says just came naturally.

"We're a great duo together," said Wagoner, who had a season-high 25 points on 10-15 shooting. "We've been playing together since we were little, so there's a lot of chemistry there."

There chemistry was in full effect Friday and the Lady Plainsmen could do nothing to disrupt it.

"They're just better athletes," said Lady Plainsmen head basketball coach Randall Rath.

"They're very skilled basketball players. Your best players are going to score."

Unfortunately for Rath, his two best players didn't quite measure up.

Colby held Oakley's All-state tandem of Kimber Weiser and Brea Teeter to 27 points on 8-21 shooting, including 3-9 for just seven points in the first half.

It was Weiser who the Eagles focused on heavily in practice, and although she finished with 18 points, 10 of those came in the final six minutes when the game was all but decided.

"I thought Paige (Stephens) did an excellent job of using her length against her," said Eagle head girls basketball coach Parker McKee. "I was Weiser in practice all week, so the girls got to play against a quicker guard and I thought we did an excellent job."

"I wish I knew why it took her so long to get on track," said Rath. "They doubled her quite a bit, and she had to handle the ball a lot, so that may have affected her shot."

The shooting woes weren't lim-



Colby senior Lissa Mazanec, right, went up for a shot against Oakley's #55 Brea Teeter in the second half of the Lady Eagles 57-41 win Friday at the community building. In a battle of All-State players inside, Mazanec came out on top, outscoring Teeter 18-9.

ited to Weiser, especially in the first half where both teams shot under 35 percent.

The Lady Eagles 8-31 (25 percent) first half shooting effort barely topped the frigid temperatures outside, but somehow the Eagles managed a 21-15 halftime advantage after Wagoner's runner fell in just before the first half buzzer.

"A lot of that is a credit to their defense," said McKee. "They came out in a 1-2-2 zone, which we hadn't worked against a lot and it caused us troubles. Teeter altered some shots inside. Our shots weren't falling and we weren't able to feed off that energy, but I thought we showed a lot of poise."

The Lady Eagles rebounded with a 14-25 (56 percent) shooting effort in the second half and were able to extend their lead to 37-27 after a Stephens jumper at the end of the third quarter.

In her first game back from a knee injury, Eagle junior forward Taylor Young finished just 1-4 from the field with five points, but all five

came at the beginning of the fourth quarter and started a 9-0 Eagle run that allowed them to extend to a 46-27 lead.

"Taylor gave us a huge spark off the bench," said McKee. "April (Gee) was a little off tonight, and she had to step up. She does little things most people don't want to do."

Weiser, who finished a perfect 10-10 from the line, connecting on four free throws to cut the deficit back to 15, but Wagoner's third three-pointer with 3:38 left pushed the lead back to 51-33.

Oakley answered with four straight points to cut it back to 14, but a basket from Mazanec and four points from Wagoner allowed the Lady Eagles to answer with a 6-0 run to grab their biggest lead, 57-37, and put the Lady Plainsmen away.

"Our kids were overmatched athletically," said Rath.

"You can tell these kids put in a lot of work in the off-season. We knew they'd shoot better in the second half, and we didn't have an answer. We gave them open looks and you

can't do that."

Leaving Wagoner open was the Lady Plainsmen's biggest mistake. Wagoner had 15 of her 25 points in the second half and nine in the fourth quarter.

In a game that featured three All-State players, not including the Eagles senior guard, it was Wagoner that looked like the best player on the court.

"When we're down she picks us up," said McKee. "She did that the other night against Ottawa. She's

Box Score	
	1 2 3 4
Oakley (3-1)	2 13 12 14- 41
Colby (5-0)	8 13 16 20- 57
<b>Oakley (41)-</b> Cooksey 2, Hemmert 2, Kuhlman 8, Baalman 2, Weiser 18, Teeter 9	
<b>Colby (57)-</b> Wagoner 25, A. Stephens 2, P. Stephens 2, Gee 4, Young 5, Mazanec 18	
<b>Team Stats:</b>	
<b>Turnovers:</b> Colby 12 Oakley 16	
<b>Points off turnovers:</b> Colby 17 Oakley 8	
<b>Points in the paint:</b> Colby 16 Oakley 8	
<b>Rebounds:</b> Colby 31 Oakley 28	
<b>Assists:</b> Colby 6 Oakley 1	
<b>Steals:</b> Colby 14 Oakley 11	
<b>Field goal percentage:</b> Colby 22-56 (39.3%) Oakley 14-38 (36.8%)	
<b>Three-point percentage:</b> Colby 3-8 (37.5%) Oakley 0-5 (0%)	
<b>Free throw percentage:</b> Colby 9-10 (90%) Oakley 13-16 (81.3%)	

just such a warrior and a winner."

Even with the outstanding performance and win over a #1 ranked team, Wagoner was the first to admit the team didn't play as well as they would have liked.

"Not really," said Wagoner on whether the team was happy with their play. "We'd like to have a better start."

McKee was even more blunt about it.

"The girls were excited with the win but they didn't show it in the locker room, because they know they can play a lot better," said

McKee. "Not to take anything away from Oakley, but we wanna win big."

The Lady Eagles (5-0) will have one final opportunity at the community building to do just that before the holiday break 6:30 p.m. Thursday against St. Francis.

Prior to Thursday's game, the Lady Eagles 2007 state championship team will be presented with their championship banner.

With Mazanec and Wagoner leading the way, the Lady Eagles don't appear to be satisfied with just one.

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Brewster sophomore Nichelle Erskine, back, dropped a bounce pass to junior Britt Kammer, front, in the second half of Brewster's 52-21 win over Golden Plains Saturday in Brewster.

# Brewster girls wallop Golden Plains to finish fifth at Sage Brush Tourney

The Brewster Lady Bulldogs closed out the Sage Brush Shootout with a 2-1 record and a fifth place finish after a decisive 52-21 win over Golden Plains Saturday in Brewster.

Brewster jumped out to a 12-4 lead after one quarter and built it to 29-13 at half lead thanks to a 19 point first half performance from sophomore Nichelle Erskine that included two three-pointers.

Erskine scored only two points in the second half, but still finished with a team-high 21.

Senior point guard Abbie Allen was second on the team with 17 points.

Allen scored eight of her 17 in the

## Golden Plains guard explodes in big comeback

Trailing 47-33 to Idalia, Colo., entering the fourth quarter, it appeared the Golden Plains Bulldogs were headed for their third loss in a row and a 1-2 finish at the Sage Brush Shootout.

Instead, the Bulldogs responded

third quarter, allowing Brewster to open the second half with a 15-2 spurt and lead 44-15 after three quarters.

"Abbie played as well as she has all year," said Brewster head girls basketball coach Dean Anderson. "She saw the court real well, played tremendous defense and was our floor leader."

The big lead allowed Brewster to rest some of its starters in the fourth quarter, but the Bulldogs still outscored Golden Plains 8-6 and broke the 50 point barrier for the second straight game.

Also reaching the scoring column for Brewster were Amanda Albers with eight points, Britt Kammer

with a 36 point fourth quarter and pulled off a miraculous 69-62 victory over the Wolves Saturday in Brewster to finish third at the shootout.

Senior guard Dan Rogers went off for 22 points in the final period to

finish with a game-high 27.

The win was crucial for the Bulldogs, now 2-3 on the year, who played poorly the night before in a 57-41 loss at Wheatland/Grinnell.

"Two wins was our goal," said head coach Parker Christensen.

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## The 2007 Bowl Spectacular

Circle The Winner of Each Bowl Game

Date	Bowl	Team	Team	Bowl Points
Dec. 20	Poinsettia	Utah	Navy	1
Dec. 21	New Orleans	Fla. Atlantic	Memphis	1
Dec. 22	Las Vegas	UCLA	BYU	1
Dec. 22	PapaJohn's	Cincinnati	Southern Miss.	1
Dec. 22	New Mexico	Nevada	New Mexico	1
Dec. 23	Hawaii	Boise State	East Carolina	1
Dec. 26	Motor City	Purdue	Cent. Michigan	1
Dec. 27	Holiday	Arizona State	Texas	2
Dec. 28	Emerald	Maryland	Oregon State	2
Dec. 28	Texas	Texas Christian	Houston	1
Dec. 28	Champs Sports	Boston College	Highton State	2
Dec. 29	Liberty	Central Fla.	Miss. State	1
Dec. 29	Meineke	Wake Forest	Connecticut	2
Dec. 29	Alamo	Penn State	Texas A&M	2
Dec. 30	Independence	Colorado	Alabama	4
Dec. 31	Music City	Kentucky	Florida State	2
Dec. 31	Sun	South Florida	Oregon	2
Dec. 31	Chick-Fil-A	Auburn	Clemson	2
Dec. 31	Armed Forces	California	Air Force	1
Dec. 31	Humanitarian	Fresno State	Georgia Tech	1
Dec. 31	Insight	Indiana	Oklahoma State	2
Jan. 5	International	Rutgers	Ball State	1
Jan. 6	GMAC	Bowling Green	Tulsa	1
Jan. 1	Outback	Tennessee	Wisconsin	3
Jan. 1	Cotton	Missouri	Arkansas	4
Jan. 1	Gator	Texas Tech	Virginia	3
Jan. 1	Capital One	Michigan	Florida	3
Jan. 3	Orange	Virginia Tech	Kansas	5
Jan. 1	Rose	Southern Cal.	Illinois	4
Jan. 2	Fiesta	West Virginia	Oklahoma	4
Jan. 3	Sugar	Hawaii	Georgia	4
Jan. 7	BCS Championship	Ohio State	LSU	6

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_  
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Entries due 5 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 20

Send entries to: Colby Free Press, 155 W. 5th St., Colby, KS, 67701  
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