



JOEY FALKOFF/Colby Free Press

Golden Plains sophomore Corey Shaw, front, and senior Andrew Broeckelman, back, dove on the floor for a loose ball with Northern Valley's Drew Britt during the Bulldogs 54-32 win over the Huskies Tuesday in Rexford.

Bulldog boys improve to 3-3; while girls end '07 with loss

By Joey Falkoff

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After a sluggish first quarter, Golden Plains head boys basketball coach Parker Christensen decided to pick up the pace against Northern Valley, and the Huskies never could quite catch up.

Thanks in large part to their full court press, the Bulldogs turned an 8-7 first quarter deficit into a 27-14 lead by the half and continued to force the issue in the second half on their way to a 54-32 victory Tuesday in Rexford.

"We play better when we get up and down," said Christensen. "That's what helped us Saturday against Idalia, Colo. Our guys like to play that style."

"I thought we played a good first quarter, but we didn't handle their pressure well," said Northern Valley head basketball coach Chuck Fessenden. "We had too many turnovers. Then when we would get the ball inside, our big kid couldn't finish. That big second quarter just killed us."

It also didn't help that Golden Plains senior guard Dan Rogers continued his hot shooting from Saturday's 22 point fourth quarter against Idalia, finishing with a game-high 18 points with 16 of those coming in the first half.

Rogers carried the Bulldogs early in the game, scoring all seven of the teams first quarter points and 13 of their first 17 overall.

"Rogers shot it well early on and really got us going," said Christensen.

"I think that fourth quarter against Idalia gave him some confidence. We go as he goes. That's a lot of pressure, and it's probably not fair to him."

"You can't back off of him, but he's also really quick off the dribble," said Fessenden.

"We tried to focus a lot of our defense on him, but he still had a pretty good game."

Rogers' teammates started to find their comfort zone in the second quarter. After starting the quarter with a 10-0 run, the Huskies hit a couple of baskets to cut the Bulldog lead to 17-12.

Bulldog junior forward Tate Bruggeman responded with four of his 10 points, including a three-pointer, to push the lead back to 21-12.

Michael Callaway answered with two of his team-high 12 points, but the Bulldogs ended the quarter with a 6-0 run thanks to a Corey Shaw free throw, a Rogers three-pointer and a Bruggeman jumper with 8.4 seconds left.

"I thought we started to get up and down better and get some early offense," said Christensen. "I bet we missed 4-5 two footers in the first quarter."

Northern Valley's shooting struggles extended well beyond two feet. The Huskies not only missed shots, but a lot of times didn't draw iron which led to easy transition buckets for the Bulldogs.

"They zoned us up and we don't have any good shooters," said Fessenden. "That makes it tough."

Golden Plains never let the Huskies back into the game and did what they had to do on the offensive end to extend the lead to 41-22 by end of the third quarter.



JOEY FALKOFF/Colby Free Press

Golden Plains guard Aisha Walter, left, tried to fight through the defense of Northern Valley's Joni Hilburn in the Lady Bulldogs 51-35 loss Tuesday in Rexford.

An Andrew Broeckelman layup brought the lead up to 47-25 with five minutes left in the fourth quarter, and at that point Christensen called off the dogs and allowed some of his younger guys like Isaac Broeckelman, Dylan Moss and Rilee Spresser to get some valuable playing time.

"I thought we played steady in the second half," said Christensen. "Corey Shaw really did a nice job for us."

Shaw finished with nine points. Four Bulldogs, Andrew Broeckelman and Rilee, Devin and Jordan Spresser, each had four points. Issac hit a free throw late for his only point.

The win evened the Bulldogs record at 3-3 entering the holiday break after a 1-3 start, and Christensen is happy with the direction the team is headed.

"We've only got two returning starters so we're still trying to fit everyone together," said Christensen. "To be 3-3 after starting 1-1, we're happy with where we are at. This team has loads of potential, we just need to get 'em to focus longer during games."

Girls

The Golden Plains girls hung with Northern Valley for just over three quarters before things fell apart in the final seven minutes of the Bulldogs 51-35 loss to Northern Valley earlier Tuesday.

Brittany Ritter's three-pointer cut the deficit to 31-29 with 6:37 to play, but from that point on it was all Huskies.

Northern Valley went on a 12-3 run over the next three minutes to extend to a 43-32 lead, which was highlighted by two three-pointers from Megan Cole and Staci Dole.

They were the only two three-point field goals Northern Valley hit all night, but after missing open shots for three quarters, the odds evened out in the fourth quarter.

"We kept giving them open shots

and they finally decided to hit a few," said Christensen.

An Aisha Walter free throw got the deficit back to 43-35 with under three minutes to go, but Northern Valley ended the game with an 8-0 run and forced the Lady Bulldogs into three turnovers and an airballed shot in that span.

"We did okay for three quarters, but we ran out of gas," said Christensen.

Northern Valley forced the issue on Golden Plains all night with their full court pressure, causing numerous turnovers and making it difficult for the Bulldogs to set up on the offensive end.

"We run our press breaker against eight defenders in practice, but it's hard to simulate," said Christensen.

"We did a decent job early in the game, but we struggled more tonight than we have in our last two games. We have no true point guard. It's kind of a point guard by committee right now."

That showed up in the fourth quarter after the Bulldogs trailed only 20-16 at half and never trailed by more than four points until the last seven minutes.

Ritter, who was noticeably sick and fatigued, finished with six points. The Lady Bulldogs were led by Jessica Luna and Walter each with seven points.

For Walter, it was her third game back from a knee injury and Christensen says she is about 80 percent healthy.

Angel Lobato also finished with six points. Melissa Ritter had five, Karly Miller added four and Erika Best scored one.

"I was pretty pleased with the effort but we have to start making those easy shots and making free throws," said Christensen.

The Lady Bulldogs, now 1-5, will have a few weeks to recuperate before they return to action Jan. 4 at Logan.



FILE PHOTO

The Colby Lady Eagle 2006-2007 4A girls basketball state championship team will be presented with its state championship banner following their game with St. Francis, beginning 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the community building.

State title team to be honored

By Joey Falkoff

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Memories of the Colby Lady Eagle 2006-2007 4A state championship basketball team will soon hang from high above the high school gymnasium, as the first girls state championship team in Colby High history will be presented with its state title banner at the conclusion of their game with St. Francis 6:30 p.m. Thursday at

the community building.

The banner will be presented by the Colby All-Sports Booster Club and Sunflower Bank of Colby and will be displayed in the high school gym after the holiday break.

The school has had to hold off on presenting the team with their banner until last year's seniors, Ashley Barnes, Rishonna Martin and April Weaver, could all be back in town.

Last year's squad posted a 24-2 record, capped by a 58-46 win over

Augusta in the finals of the state tournament in Salina.

Members of the championship team were Martin, Weaver, Barnes, Alli Barton, Kiri Kendrick, Aubrette Stephens, Lindsey Wilson, April Gee, Lissa Mazanec, Paige Stephens, Tasha Wagoner and Taylor Young.

The team was coached by the now departed Derek Bissitt, who was assisted by Mary Beth Flanagan and Jack Elliott.

The girls are 5-0 this year.

Eagle wrestlers too much for Oakley

The Colby Eagle wrestling team continue their torrid pace to start the year with a 60-10 duel victory Friday at Oakley.

The Eagles won 11 of their 14 matches and are now 1-0 in league duels.

103: Seth Dehart (Colby) won by forfeit (6-0)

112: Cody Wark (Colby) won by fall over Andrew Peterson (Oakley) (12-0)

119: Jace Campbell (Oakley) beat

Bryan Brewer (Colby) 13-4 (12-4)

125: Nathan Reed (Colby) won by forfeit (18-4)

130: Michael Halbilil (Oakley)

Brewster beats Healy twice

The Brewster Bulldog boys beat Healy 83-46, while the girls handled Healy 56-30 Monday in Brewster.

Michael Collett led with 21 points, while Jance McKee had 17 points. Corey Sirtua scored 16 and T.J. Preston added 12.

Abbie Allen and Britt Kammer combined for 31 points and all six of the team's three-pointers.

beat Bob Schroeder (Colby) 5-2 (18-7)

135: Hunter Olsen (Colby) won by fall over Kyle Zerr (Oakley) (24-7)

140: Heath Stephens (Colby) won by fall over Brett Ringleman (Oakley) (30-7)

145: Garrett Zweygardt (Colby) won by forfeit (36-7)

152: Ethan Stickel (Colby) won 8-3 over Cody Stewart (Oakley) (39-7)

160: Kelly Younkin (Oakley) won 4-1 over Breck Arnberger (Colby) (39-10)

171: Tanner Kriss (Colby) won

by fall over Ethan Jirak (Oakley) (45-10)

189: Treat Bugbee (Colby) won by forfeit (51-10)

215: Nick Kriss (Colby) won by forfeit (57-10)

285: Taylor Brown (Colby) won 4-2 over Zach Riggs (Oakley) (60-10)

"The team wrestled really well against Oakley after a big weekend at the Eagle Invitational," said Eagle head wrestling coach Matt Sims. "The team came back with a great effort."

The Eagles are off until 6:30 p.m. CT Jan. 3 for a duel at Goodland.

Little League Football PARTY

All 3rd thru 6th grade students that played Little League Football, come to the
**Football Party - Thursday, December 20
7:00 p.m. at City Limits**

STRIKE ZONE

~ League Bowling Results ~

Dec. 14th - Ten Pin League

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Farm Credit	37.5	18.5	1
Minds in the Gutter	31	25	2
Cal Williams	25	31	3
Colby Ag Center	23	33	4
Colby Bowl	23	33	5

First high Individual game: Monica Miller, 222
First high Individual series: Monica Miller, 558

Dec. 12th - Ladies Nite Out

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Golden Harvest Seeds	19.5	4.5	1
Service Oil	12.5	11.5	2
Don's Electric	12	12	3
Strike-Outs	12	12	4
Twisters	11.5	12.5	5
Camouflage Lawn Care	11	13	6
Margaret's Day Care	10.5	13.5	7
Straightline	7	17	8

First high Individual game: Kelly Horinek, 215
First high Individual series: Kelly Horinek, 553

Dec. 13th - King Pin

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Colby Automotive	162	90	1
Colby Bowl	148	104	2
Orschelins	144	108	3
www.visitcolby.com	126	126	4
T.J. Tire	124	128	5
Pink Steel	123	129	6
City Limits	119	133	7
5 Pony Men	118	134	8

Morgan Construction	106	146	9
Balls Deep	90	162	10

First high Individual game: Brent Menges, 255
First high Individual series: Lynn Cameron, 620

Dec. 11th - Pinbusters

Team	Won	Lost	Place
United Commercial Traveler	157	137	1
Gambino's	153	141	2
Colby Automotive	153	141	3
Donelan's Jewelry	152	142	4
Cummins Central Power	151	143	5
Pepsi	143	151	6
Killer Bees	142	152	7
Colby Bowl	125	169	8

First high Individual game: Rich Bachman, 255
First high Individual series: Rich Bachman, 660

Dec. 10th - First Nighters League

Team	Won	Lost	Place
Wild Ride	166	86	1
McKee	151	101	2
Fire Xtrikers	146	106	3
7-Up	136	116	4
NW Refrigeration	123	129	5
Discount Repair	120	102	6
Woolter Well & Pump	120	102	7
Parking Lot Maintenance	115	137	8
Sparky's Fireworks	109	143	9
Frontier Ag Inc.	109	143	10
Grinnell Furniture	105	145	11

First high Men Individual game: William Lyons, 246
First high Men Individual series: Jeff Wagoner, 654

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