



TOMBETZ/Goodland Star-News

Colby Eagle 119 pound sophomore Nathan Reed, top, had a grip on Goodland's Seth Miller during their match Thursday in Goodland. Reed defeated Miller by technical fall and the Eagles won the duel from the Cowboys 40-24.

Eagles hold off Goodland

The Colby Eagle wrestling team picked up right where they left off in 2007, starting the new year with a 40-24 duel victory at Goodland Thursday to improve to 2-0 in league duels on the year.

Colby got off to a strong start and led 22-0 after Bryan Brewer's pin on Kayler Rietcheck at 125 pounds. Goodland rebounded by winning five of the next six matches to cut the deficit to 28-15.

Tanner Kriss picked the Eagles up at 171 with a pin on Vance Johnson to clinch the victory and extend the lead to 34-15.

Following Treat Bugbee's loss at 189, Nick Kriss responded with a pin on Ren Scherling to make it 40-18.

Taylor Brown was pinned by Bob

Doxon at 285, but the duel had well been decided.

Goodland actually won seven of the 11 matches they wrestled, but three forfeits and an inability to get more than one pin prevented them from winning the duel.

Results are unofficial.

103: Taylor Moeder won by forfeit (6-0)

112: Cody Wark won by forfeit (12-0)

119: Nathan Reed won by technical fall over Seth Miller (16-0)

125: Bryan Brewer won by fall over Kayler Rietcheck (22-0)

130: Bob Schroeder lost by decision to Chris Bustillos (22-3)

135: Hunter Olsen won by forfeit (28-3)

140: Heath Stephens lost by deci-

sion to A.J. Stephens (28-6)

145: Garrett Zwegardt lost to Keegan Smith by 3-0 decision (28-9)

152: Ethan Stickel lost to Aaron Deeds 2-1 by decision (28-12)

160: Breck Arnberger lost 4-2 OT decision to Ryan Taylor (28-15)

171: Tanner Kriss won by fall over Vance Johnson (34-15)

189: Treat Bugbee lost by decision to Fernando Martinez (34-18)

215: Nick Kriss won by fall over Ren Scherling (40-18)

285: Taylor Brown lost by fall to Bob Doxon (40-24)

The Eagles resumed action today at the Liberal Tournament. The tournament will continue 10 a.m. Saturday. Colby doesn't return home until Jan. 10 against Hoxie.

Excitement tempered for Tournament of Champions

By Joey Falkoff

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Once one of the most respected junior college wrestling tournaments in the country, Colby Community College's Tournament of Champions has dwindled into obscurity.

This year's tournament was originally scheduled as a two-day event set to begin this morning and would include anywhere from 11-13 teams.

But because six and maybe seven teams have canceled their trip to Colby this weekend, the plans have been forced to change.

The tournament is now a one-day event, beginning 9 a.m. Saturday at the community building.

Only seven teams are still planning to attend the tournament, and the respective coaches will meet tonight to decide whether they should change from a tournament to a duel format, which would guarantee each team more mat time.

"It's really too bad," said Colby College head wrestling coach Steve Lampe who is in the midst of his 33rd year at the college.

"For 30 years this has been one of the best junior college events, and in almost two years it has disintegrated."

Lampe believes much of the reason for schools abandoning his tournament is due to the timing of it.

It's still winter break for nearly every school in America, and coaches have a difficult time getting their kids back on campus this early.

Neosho was one of the schools Lampe said pulled out because their administration wouldn't allow its athletes to live on campus during break without charging them

extra money. Consequently, they couldn't practice and ultimately decided against participating.

Other word got around that schools like Neosho were pulling out, other teams followed suit.

"Good teams don't want to be a part of bad tournament," said Lampe.

"We need to get away from having this the first week of January. It's kind of sabotage deal. Christmas breaks are getting too big, so we may have to end up moving it."

One of those good teams was Northern Iowa Area College, who hadn't yet backed out as of Wednesday, but were strongly considering it.

Northern Iowa's reluctance to participate was a disappointment to Lampe especially after his Trojan team traveled 10 hours earlier this year to attend their tournament.

"Normally a good coach and a good program will return the favor," said Lampe. "They're trying to squelch it. We're really struggling."

It's been a struggle for Lampe, as well, to get his own kids back for practice. The Trojans resumed practice Wednesday and Lampe said half of the team was missing in action.

"It's not a good practice room situation," said Lampe.

Other than Gabe Smull (174 pounds) and Gabe Walz (285 pounds) who both dropped out of school, Lampe expects the rest



Lampe

of his starters back in time for the tournament.

It's a tournament that will at least feature Western Wyoming, Pratt, Minnesota West, two teams from Air Force Prep and Pima (Ariz.) Junior College.

Lampe believes Western Wyoming will be the biggest challenge for his #4 ranked squad.

"I tell ya Western Wyoming is a really tough team," said Lampe. "They have a really outstanding heavyweight that was second in the national tournament last year."

A duel format would make it a little tougher for the Trojans with the departures of Smull and Walz.

The Trojans will be open at 197, but 197 pound backup Steven Sandrock Jr. will take the place of Walz at heavyweight.

Ben Mettlen, a 157 pound backup from Scott City, may take the place of Smull at 174, but Lampe isn't sure whether he wants to expose the undersized Mettlen at that weight class.

Lampe says he has no expectations for this tournament other than to keep working toward the national tournament.

"I've gotten to the point where we only focus on the last event of the year," said Lampe. "Hopefully we can take care of business this weekend."

Though the Tournament of Champions won't have the prestige it had in years past, Lampe believes the trip out to the community building Saturday will still be worthwhile.

"Hopefully we can have a reasonably competitive weekend," said Lampe. "It should be interesting and there will still be plenty of wrestling to watch."

A finalized schedule won't be known until tonight.

Kansas wins first Orange Bowl

MIAMI (AP) — The high-scoring Kansas Jayhawks brought their usual assortment of tricks to the Orange Bowl. They split their tackles wide alongside the receivers. They threw wrong-handed shovel passes. They pulled off a fake punt.

The biggest surprise: They won with defense.

While their offense was stymied

most of the night, the Jayhawks came up with three interceptions and beat Virginia Tech 24-21 to cap one of the finest seasons in school history. The takeaways led to 17 Kansas points, including Aqib Talib's 60-yard return for the game's first score. He was chosen the game's most valuable player.

"Everybody talks about Virginia

Tech's defense," said safety Justin Thornton, who also had an interception. "We came out to show we can play defense at Kansas, too."

Back on the hardwood



JOEY FALKOFF/Colby Free Press

After a two week break, freshman forward Katherine Kaus, right, and the rest of her Lady Eagle teammates are back in action 6:30 p.m. tonight when they host Holcomb at the community building. The boys game will immediately follow. The girls enter 2008 with a 7-0 record while the boys are 5-2.

Weekend Schedule

Colby High:

Wrestling: at Liberal Tournament today and Saturday
G Basketball: 6:30 p.m. vs. Holcomb at the community building
B Basketball: 8 p.m. vs. Holcomb at the community building

Colby Community College:

Wrestling: 9 a.m. Saturday Tournament of Champions at the community building
G Basketball: 6 p.m. at Pratt
B Basketball: 8 p.m. at Pratt

Brewster High:

G Basketball: 6:30 p.m. at Greeley County
B Basketball: 8 p.m. at Greeley County

Golden Plains High:

G Basketball: 6:30 p.m. at Logan
B Basketball: 8 p.m. at Logan

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