

# Veterans step up to end Brewster's slide

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Maybe life without Jance McKee and Corey Siruta won't be so bad for the Brewster Bulldogs after all.

Playing just their second game without two of their senior starters who are both out for year with injuries, the Bulldogs pulled ahead of St. Francis at the half and made enough clutch plays late in the fourth quarter to squeak by the Indians 50-49 Tuesday in Brewster.

The win broke a three-game losing streak for the Bulldogs who are now 7-8 on the season.

"I didn't know he would play (without Jance or Corey), but it's given other kids an opportunity to step up," said Brewster head Jon McKee. "Now that we don't have them, different people have to step up. I really think our game Saturday at TMP helped us a lot tonight."

"We're playing more as a team now," said senior point guard Chris Williams who finished with 13 points. "The sophomores are stepping up and doing a lot for us."

Sophomores Braden McKee and Ryan Allen filled in nicely, but no two players rose to the occasion Tuesday more than Williams and fellow senior Michael Collett.

Collett finished with a team-high 17 points. He and Williams combined for 13 of the Bulldogs' 15 fourth quarter points and hooked up for what turned out to be the winning basket with 28 seconds left.

With the Bulldogs ahead 48-47, Williams beat his man off the dribble and dished it off to Collett who laid it in off the glass to give the Bulldogs a 50-47 lead.

"I didn't play well in the first half, but when they went to a man-to-man me and Mike knew they couldn't stick with us, so we just took it to the hole," said Williams who finished with 13 points.

"On that last play, I just drove, Mike's guy stepped up and luckily I found him open and he finished it."

"I just told them to keep attacking; play to win, instead of not to lose," said McKee. "Once Chris got confidence he knew he could beat his guy down the middle."

The Indians' Trent Kinen and Keaton Frewen each missed tying three's in the final 20 seconds. Ted Crabtree rebounded Frewen's miss with five seconds left and laid it back in with two seconds to go to make it 50-49, but the clock ran out on St. Francis.



JOEY FALKOFF/Colby Free Press  
Brewster senior T. J. Preston battled with St. Francis's Ted Crabtree for a loose ball late in the Bulldogs' 50-49 win over the Indians Tuesday in Brewster.

"It's good to win a close one," said McKee. "We hadn't figured out how to win a tight game. We are usually playing from behind and being ahead most of the game made it easier."

Crabtree's basket in the final seconds was the Indians' only hoop in the final 2:20 after Kinen's three made it 48-47.

The Indians took a 36-35 lead at with 16 seconds left in the third quarter and led at the start of the quarter until Collett's jumper with 7:38 remaining gave Brewster the lead for good. The Indians hit three three-pointers that kept them close in the fourth quarter, but couldn't deliver when it counted most.

Collett's turnaround, which gave Brewster a six point lead with 3:50 left, was the largest lead for either team in the game.

The Indians led 24-19 in the second quarter before the Bull-

dogs closed the half with a 7-0 run to take a 26-24 lead at the half.

Allen showed his shooting touch in the second quarter, connecting on two three-pointers and a jump shot for all eight of his points.

St. Francis was led by Trent Raile with 17 points. Kinen had 13 and Crabtree, the Indians' leading scorer, was held to just 12 and only six points after the first quarter.

The win broke a three-game losing streak for the Bulldogs who return to action 8 p.m. Friday at Wheatland/Grinnell.

With five regular season games remaining, the prospect of playing without McKee and Siruta no longer seems as daunting.

"We've been on a losing streak, and we've had to adjust without Corey and Jance, but we're getting better," said Williams.

**Saturday**

Brewster fell to 6-8 and lost its third straight to 3A #8 ranked Thomas More-Prep Marian (Hays) 66-49 Saturday in Hays.

Brewster led 13-9 after the first quarter, but TMP dominated the next two quarters to take a 47-30 leading entering the fourth.

Despite scoring 19 fourth quarter points and hitting 25-32 free throws in the game, the Bulldogs were unable to make up any more ground.

Michael Collett led the way with 14 points. Chris Williams put in nine.

Braden McKee scored six. T.J. Preston, Devan Selby, Seth Ackerman and Corey Siruta each scored five.

Siruta re-injured his wrist Saturday and is out for the season.

**Friday**  
Brewster lost for the second time this year to Weskan 74-60.



JOEY FALKOFF/Colby Free Press  
Colby Eagle junior Kyle Molstad soared to the basket for a layup in the second half of the Eagles' 71-33 win over Oberlin in the first round of Colby's Junior Varsity Tournament Monday at the high school.

## Eagle JV boys team reaches tourney finals

The Colby Eagle junior varsity boys basketball team advanced to the finals of the Colby Junior Varsity Tournament against Oakley with a 71-33 win over Oberlin in the first round Monday at the high school.

The Eagles zoomed out to a 24-6 lead after the first quarter and kept the pressure on in the second quarter to build a 43-17 halftime lead.

Colby slacked off a bit in the third quarter and let Oberlin out-score them 12-10, but made up for it with an 18-4 run to close the game in the final quarter.

"We came out and played hard in the first half. I told 'em to jump out quick and get on them," said junior varsity head coach Barry Lucas.

"We've got a lot of guys that could play varsity in other towns, so I feel I have an advantage. In the third quarter, we were lackluster and not ready to play. I wasn't

happy about that, but overall, pretty good."

Twelve players scored for the Eagles who were led by Thomas Wieland with 13 points.

Ryley Haas was also in double-figures with 12 points. All 12 of his points came from four three-pointers. The Eagles hit seven as a team.

Also getting in the scorebook for Colby were Tyson Miller with nine, Andrew Flanagan and Kyle Molstad scored eight, Brent Arnbarger put in six, Dylan Stithem had five, Preston Krzycki scored four, Brandon Rasmussen and Garrett Rogers each had two and Cole Finley and Adam Weber both scored one.

Oberlin was led by Jeff Isbaell with eight points.

Colby, 7-4, will face the Plainsmen 8 p.m. Thursday at the Colby Community Building. The Eagles beat Oakley earlier this year, 63-47.

## Lady Eagle JV girls trounce Oberlin 56-31

Colby's junior varsity girls basketball team continues to try and keep pace with their 14-0 varsity counterparts.

The JV girls moved to 11-0 with a 56-31 win over Oberlin in the first round of the Colby Junior Varsity Tournament Monday at the high school.

Colby advanced to the finals of the tournament 6 p.m. Thursday against Garden City at the Colby Community Building.

The Lady Eagles came out strong against Oberlin and led 22-7 after the first quarter.

Colby grew its lead to 34-11 at the half after another strong second quarter.

Colby won the third and fourth quarters by just a point, but by then the game had been decided.

"We got out to a big lead, which allowed us to play all 15 players that suited up," said Lady Eagle junior varsity coach Jack Elliott.

The Lady Eagles were led by Taylor Young with 16 points. Kelsey Shields was also in double-figures with 12.

Eight other players got in the

scoring book for Colby including Brittany Schuette and Katrina Kaus each with six points, Shelby Terrell and Amy Schroeder each with four points and Brittany Bange, Ashley Standage, Sara Martin and Caitlyn Wark all with two.

Erin Jones led Oberlin with eight points.

**Friday**  
The Lady Eagle junior varsity improved to 10-0 with a 37-35 win over Ulysses.

The difference in the game was at the free throw line where Colby was 13-22 compared to 1-3 for Ulysses.

Brittany Schuette led the way for Colby with 11 points. Katherine and Katrina Kaus both had six. Amy Schroeder had five.

Kelsey Shields scored four. Rhett Martin and Kayla Hocker-smith each put in two and Shelby Terrell hit a free throw for her only point.

"We played pretty decent defense, especially in the second half," said Eagle junior varsity head coach Jack Elliott.

## Brewster girls break losing streak against St. Francis

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The Brewster Lady Bulldogs showed in the first half Tuesday they can be vulnerable to full court pressure.

In the second half, Brewster also proved they know how to make adjustments.

Ahead 32-28 at the half, Brewster moved through St. Francis's press with ease throughout the second half and pulled away from the Indians for a 65-48 victory.

"The first part of the game we turned the ball over and stood around," said Brewster girls head coach Dean Anderson. "We knew we could do much better than we did in the first half. We made some adjustments at halftime that allowed us to get open on the backside."

The win snapped a three-game losing streak for Brewster, who improved to 9-6.

Nichelle Erskine led the way for the Lady Bulldogs with 20 points. Melissa Baird also had a big night with 15 points on 7-10 shooting. She grabbed seven rebounds and had five assists as well.

Baird scored eight of her 15 in the third quarter which saw the Bulldogs lead by as many as 14 points. St. Francis cut the deficit to 52-42 at the start of the fourth quarter. Brewster pushed the lead back to 57-43 after a Melissa Crumrine layup, but the Indians went on a 5-0 run to get within nine with a little under 5:30 to play.

Elizabeth Gienger's free throw that cut it to 57-48 was the last point of the game for St. Francis.

"I thought our team was in better shape than there's," said Anderson. "It payed off later."

Brewster closed the game with

an 8-0 run. Britt Kammer provided the dagger on her only three-pointer that made it 61-48 with 4:10 to play.

"That was a big one," said Anderson.

Brewster won despite turning the ball over 20 times, but St. Francis was even more careless with ball, finishing with 22 turnovers.

"They, flat out, had a better team tonight," said Lady Indian head coach Ted Busse. "We didn't do the things we needed to be successful."

St. Francis was led by Sidnee Crabtree with 17 points. No other Indian scored more than seven.

Things looked good for St. Francis early as they held a 16-12 lead after the first quarter. Brewster responded with a 20 point second quarter to grab the lead, which they held on to for the rest of the game.

Abbie Allen also finished in



JOEY FALKOFF/Colby Free Press  
Lady Bulldog junior Britt Kammer, back left, pressured St. Francis's Sidnee Crabtree during Brewster's 65-48 win over the Indians Tuesday in Brewster.

double-figures for Brewster with 10 points. Kammer had seven, Crumrine finished with six, Amanda Albers scored four and Baylee

Westover scored three.

Brewster wound up 10-14 at the free throw line. St. Francis was just 4-11.

## Seventh grade Lady Eagles still perfect

The seventh grade Lady Eagle basketball team won for sixth time in a row to start the year 36-14 at Oberlin Tuesday.

Colby had its typical first quarter blitz to gain a 16-2 lead after the first quarter. The lead remained 14 (22-8) at the half.

In the second half, the Lady Eagles had a big third quarter to expand their lead to 34-10. Oberlin won the fourth quarter 4-2, but the Eagles still held on easily for their sixth straight win of 20 points or more.

Alexa Haas, Lauren Bell and Shelby Gardner all scored 10 points. Kenzie Curry, Bailey Terrell and Jenessa Williams each had two.

The Lady Eagles, 6-0, are back

in action 4:30 p.m. Thursday against Hoxie at the elementary school gym.

**Saturday**  
Colby used a 30-2 first half run to propel them to a 45-7 over Scott City Saturday at the elementary school gymnasium.

The win improved the Eagles record to 5-0.

Colby led 22-0 after the first quarter and led 40-3 after three quarters.

It's the second consecutive game the Lady Eagles have pitched a first quarter shut out.

"The first quarter we put on a full court press. The kids do really well when press and do a good job anticipating the passes," said seventh grade head coach Norm

Behring. "We got quite a few steals and easy layups. We were able to get a lot of people in. The kids all just played really well."

Alexa Haas led the way with 13 points. Lauren Bell had 12. Shelby Gardner was also in double-figures with 10. Kenzie Curry had eight and Jenessa Williams added two.

In the 'B' game, the Eagles beat Scott City 18-6.

Chelsy Schroeder led the way with seven points. Morgan Smull had five. Keana Keck, Williams and Karly Kriss each had two.

"The kids, for the most part, shot and played well. I was really pleased with effort," said Behring.