

Tough field awaits Lady Eagles

By Joey Falkoff

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Forgive Lady Eagle head softball coach Jack Elliott if a feeling of déjà vu overcame him when he saw this weekend's state tournament pairings for the first time.

As an assistant coach for the Lady Eagle basketball team this season, Elliott saw his team fall short of a state crown against a field that featured two undefeated teams and five teams with two losses or less.

Including his 18-2 Lady Eagle softball team, this weekend's state softball tournament features seven teams with four losses or less and five with two or less.

Even the lone team in the field with a sub .500 record, #8 seed Santa Fe-Carbondale (10-12), Elliott says will be no walk-in-the-park.

"They went through a tough regional, so I'd be scared to play them right now too," said Elliott. "This time of year, everybody we see is going to be tough. We haven't really scouted anybody. We're just going to try to play the best we can and see how we come out."

Elliott's approach will be put to the test 7 p.m. Friday when the #5 seed Lady Eagles open state tournament action against #4 seed Perry-LeCompton (20-2) on Field A at Bill Burke Complex in Salina.

A win and the Lady Eagles will advance to the play the winner of Girard/Santa Fe-Carbondale 10 a.m. Saturday in the semifinals. A loss ends their season.

The championship game is set for 1 p.m. Saturday, and the third place game is at noon.

Friday will mark the first state tournament game for the program since 2004 and the first for any of the players on this year's team.

While he believes the girls may have been pressing a bit last week, Elliott said they've returned to form these last few days.

"Last week, we didn't look very good at all," said Elliott. "We came back Monday and decided this needs to be fun. We need to enjoy this, and we deserve to be there. They've had a good week of practice except for today (Wednesday) and the weather."

Winds gusting up to 40 miles per hour cut Wednesday's practice short, but for Lady Eagle starting pitcher Logan Wark (9-2) the rest is probably well-served.

Wark, a Colby Community College signee, enters the state tournament nursing a bum shoulder. Because Friday's first round game is a win-or-go home scenario, Elliott has no choice but to ride it out with his ace.

"We're going to go as far as she can take us," said Elliott. "That's the way she would want it."

Despite the sore shoulder, Wark comes in with a lot of momentum. She's pitched well in each of her last three starts, including toss-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Senior Logan Wark will get the start for Colby (18-2) in their first round state tournament game 7 p.m. Friday against Perry-LeCompton (20-2) at Bill Burke Complex in Salina. An Eagle victory would advance them to the semifinals where they would take on the winner of Girard/Santa Fe-Carbondale 10 a.m. Saturday. The championship game is 1 p.m. Saturday, and the third place game begins at noon.

ing a two-hit, 10-strikeout gem against Ulysses in the regional semifinals.

"I know I can pitch well and I've done this before," said Wark.

Wark will try and limit a Lady Kaw team making its first state tournament appearance in the 15-year history of the program. The Lady Kaws, who started the year 16-0, feature a lineup of eight juniors and one sophomore.

Even with a relatively inexperienced team making their first trip to Salina, Lady Kaw head coach Jill Bradney says she isn't worried about her team's psyche.

"I think excited and nervous are two different things," said Bradney, a former All-American third baseman at the University of Kansas. "I've seen when they've been nervous the last two years. The last two days of practice they're still doing the things they need to, so I'm real pleased."

Perry-LeCompton hit .286 as a team during the regular season and had four girls in their lineup with double-digit RBIs. A change Bradney made with some of the girls before the season has paid dividends.

"We've got quite a bit of speed, which I am very pleased about," said Bradney. "In the past, my speedier kids have hit from the right-hand side. We weren't getting as many on so we switched those girls to the left-side. I think we've got both speed and power."

Much of the power comes from #4 hole hitter Courtney Kasson.

She leads the team in hitting with a .523 average.

But it's the circle where Kasson has really given her opponents fits.

The Lady Kaw junior enters the state tournament with a 19-0 record and a sparkling 0.59 ERA. She's struck out 158 of the 501 batters she's faced and posted seven shutouts.

Her impressive junior season has drawn her looks from Division I colleges

"I have never clocked her, but she has really good speed," said Bradney. "She's has two different movement pitches and a good changeup. She's gotten a lot stronger from throwing the shot put with the track team, and it's shown in her pitching."

The Eagles will counter Kasson with a lineup that features Logan, sister Caitlyn Wark, Brenna Jones and Jordan Krzycki who are all hitting above .400.

"If we play with confidence, we're one of the best teams," said Logan. "A lot depends on whether their girls have been playing as much high school summer ball as we have."

This Lady Eagle team has spent much of the last year preparing for this moment. Now that they've arrived on the big stage, they hope to give fans three more successful acts.

"I think it's in the back of everyone's minds that we want to win it," said Wark. "I think we can if we play with confidence."

TV LISTINGS

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SATURDAY

MAY 24

	6 AM	6:30	7 AM	7:30	8 AM	8:30	9 AM	9:30	10 AM	10:30	11 AM	11:30
KLBY/ABC (2) (6)	Good Morning Kansas Saturday		Good Morning America (N) (CC)		Good Morning Kansas Saturday		That's-Raven	That's-Raven	Hannah Montana	Zack & Cody	Emperor New	Replacements
KSNK/NBC (3) (8)	Today (N) (CC)				Paid Program	Paid Program	Jacob Two Two	Dragon (E)	Friend Rabbit	Pen-guins	Veggie-Tales	Jane-Dragon
KBSL/CBS (12) (11)	The Early Show (N) (CC)				News (N)				Sushi Pack (E)	Dino Squad	Paid Program	Paid Program
K15CG (2)	Business	Market-Market	Beren-Bears	Make-Noddy	Bob the Builder	Thomas-Friends	Mama-Movies	Signing Time!	Lassie's Pet Vet	Motor-Week (N)	Woodwright	Victory Garden
ESPN (28)	SportsCenter (CC)	SportsCenter (CC)	SportsCenter (CC)	SportsCenter (CC)	SportsCenter (CC)	SportsCenter (CC)	SportsCenter (Live) (CC)				College Softball	
USA (37)	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Law & Order: Criminal Intent 30				Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	
TBS (38)	(5:10) Movie: While You Were Sleeping		Movie: Housesitter **½ (1992, Comedy) Steve Martin, Goldie Hawn. (CC)						Movie: Elizabethtown **½ (2005, Comedy-Drama) A flight attendant helps a man get back on track. Orlando Bloom. (CC)			
WGN (39)	Paid Program	People-People	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Funnies Pets	Funnies Pets
TNT (40)	(5:30) Movie: The Mists of Avalon **½ (2001, Drama) The Arthurian legend as seen by the women of Camelot. Anjelica Huston. (CC)								Movie: The Prince & Me ** (2004) A collegian and a Danish prince fall in love.			Movie: Prince 2
DSC (42)	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Man vs. Wild Sahara (CC)			The Alaska Experiment		Dirty Jobs 100th Dirty Job Special	Dirty Jobs 100th Dirty Job Special	
A&E (47)	Biography Harrison Ford (CC)		Biography Shia LaBeouf (CC)		Sell This House!	Sell This House!	Sell This House!	Sell This House!	Star Wars: Empire of Dreams		The trilogy becomes a phenomenon. (CC)	
HIST (48)	Heavy Metal P-51 Mustang! (CC)		American Eats Beer Beer. (CC)		Wild West Tech Disaster Tech (CC)			UFO Files UFOs and the White House		The Exodus Decoded	Scholars argue the validity of Exodus. (CC)	
NICK (55)	Jimmy Neutron	Jimmy Neutron	OddParents	OddParents	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Barnyard	Mighty B	Tak and Power	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	SpongeBob
DISN (56)	The Wiggles	Johnny-Sprites	Bunnytown	Tigger & Pooh	Mickey Mouse	Mickey Mouse	Handy Manny	Einsteins	Higglytown	Charlie & Lola	Phineas and Ferb	Phineas and Ferb
FAM (58)	Step by Step	Step by Step	Sabrina-Witch	Sabrina-Witch	Full House	Full House	Grounded-Life	Grounded-Life	Grounded-Life	Movie: Little Giants **½ (1994, Comedy) Flick Moranis.		
HALL (60)	Movie: Little House on the Prairie **½ (1974, Drama) Michael Landon. (CC)				7th Heaven Homecoming (CC)				Movie: Tom and Huck ** (1995, Adventure) Jonathan Taylor Thomas. (CC)			Movie: Talking to Heaven (2002) (CC)

SATURDAY

MAY 24

	12 PM	12:30	1 PM	1:30	2 PM	2:30	3 PM	3:30	4 PM	4:30	5 PM	5:30
KLBY/ABC (2) (6)	NBA Access	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Colon Detox	WNBA Basketball: Seattle Storm at San Antonio Silver Stars. AT&T Center. (Live)			Paid Program	Paid Program	ABC News	ABC News
KSNK/NBC (3) (8)	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Golf: Senior PGA Championship -- Third Round. From N.Y. (Live) (CC)						Paid Program	NBC News
KBSL/CBS (12) (11)	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	Paid Program	PGA Tour Golf: Crowne Plaza Invitational -- Third Round. From Fort Worth, Texas. (Live) (CC)						Paid Program	CBS News
K15CG (2)	Yankee Shop	This Old House	Ask This Old House	Home-time	For Your Home	Food	Test Kitchen	School-Fine Art	Love of Quilting	Place-Our Own	Antiques Roadshow (CC)	
ESPN (28)	College Softball	College Softball: NCAA Super Regional -- Teams TBA. (Live) (CC)										
USA (37)	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent
TBS (38)	(11:55) Movie: Groundhog Day (1993) A TV weatherman's day keeps repeating.				Movie: The Wedding Planner ** (2001, Romance-Comedy) Jennifer Lopez. (CC)				Sex and the City	Sex and the City	Seinfeld (CC)	Seinfeld (CC)
WGN (39)	America's Funniest Home Videos (CC)	Soul Train Dazz Band. (CC)			Movie: Flubber (1997) A scatterbrained professor invents a miraculous substance.				American Idol Rewind (CC)		America's Funniest Home Videos (CC)	
TNT (40)	(11:30) Movie: The Prince & Me 2: The Royal Wedding				Movie: Spanglish *** (2004) A housekeeper works for a chef and his neurotic wife. Adam Sandler. (CC)				Movie: Save the Last Dance *** (2001, Romance) Julia Stiles. (CC)			
DSC (42)	Vermintors Rats: roaches.	Vermintors Rookie Mistakes			Man vs. Wild Zambia				The Alaska Experiment		The Alaska Experiment	
A&E (47)	Movie: Sphere * (1998, Science Fiction) Experts investigate a spaceship on the ocean floor. Dustin Hoffman. (CC)				Movie: Alien Resurrection **½ (1997, Science Fiction) Sigourney Weaver. (CC)				Movie: The Last Boy Scout (1991)			
HIST (48)	Bible Code II: Apocalypse	Tougher in Alaska Gold Mining (CC)	Tougher in Alaska Salmon Fishing (CC)	Tougher in Alaska Salmon Fishing (CC)				History of the Joke a perfect joke. (CC)			Essential elements of	
NICK (55)	OddParents	OddParents	iCarly (CC)	iCarly (CC)	Drake & Josh	Drake & Josh	SpongeBob	SpongeBob	Ned's School	Ned's School	Drake & Josh	Drake & Josh
DISN (56)	Zack & Cody	Zack & Cody	Phineas and Ferb	Phineas and Ferb	Zack & Cody	Zack & Cody	Phineas and Ferb	Phineas and Ferb	Zack & Cody	Zack & Cody	Phineas and Ferb	Phineas and Ferb
FAM (58)	(10:30) Movie: The Borrowers (1998) Little people learn their home is about to be demolished.				Movie: Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory *** (1971) Gene Wilder.				Movie: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory *** (2005)			
HALL (60)	(11:00) Movie: Talking to Heaven (2002, Biography) A spiritualist medium solves murders. Ted Danson. (CC)								Movie: Code 11-14 (2003) A serial killer stalks victims aboard an international jet.			Movie: Stone Cold **½ (2005) (CC)

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KLBY/ABC (2) (6)	News (N) (CC)	Kake News	NBA Count	NBA Basketball: Eastern Conference Final Game 3 -- Teams TBA. (Live) (CC)					News (N) (CC)	American Idol Rewind (CC)	Ent. Tonight	
KSNK/NBC (3) (8)	News (N) (CC)	Wheel of Fortune	To Be Announced			Last Comic Standing (CC)			News (N) (CC)	Saturday Night Live (CC)		
KBSL/CBS (12) (11)	News (N) (CC)	Paid Program	Movie: Vinegar Hill (2005) A teacher and her family must move in with her in-laws.			48 Hours Mystery (CC)			News (N) (CC)	M*A*S*H (CC)	Without a Trace The Innocents (CC)	
K15CG (2)	Taste-Midwest	America's Hrtl	Keeping Up	As Time Goes By	The Lawrence Welk Show Occupations	Romance	New Red Green		Austin City Limits R.E.M. performs. (N)		Soundstage (CC)	
ESPN (28)	SportsCenter (Live) (CC)		College Softball: NCAA Super Regional -- Teams TBA. (Live) (CC)			Baseball Tonight (Live) (CC)			SportsCenter (Live) (CC)		Fast-break	Baseball Tonight
USA (37)	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Law & Order: SVU		Law & Order: Criminal Intent 30	
TBS (38)	King of Queens	King of Queens	Movie: Titanic *** (1997, Drama) (PA) A woman falls for an artist aboard the ill-fated ship. Leonardo DiCaprio, Kate Winslet. (CC)								Movie: Housesitter **½ (1992) (CC)	
WGN (39)	MLB Baseball: Chicago Cubs at Pittsburgh Pirates. PNC Park. (Live) (CC)					WGN News at Nine (N) (CC)			Scrubs (CC)	Reno 911!	Reno 911!	24 (CC)
TNT (40)	Movie: The Wedding Date ** (2005, Romance-Comedy) Debra Messing. (CC)					Movie: Bewitched (2005) An actual witch stars in a TV remake of the 1960s sitcom.			Movie: The Wedding Date ** (2005) Debra Messing. (CC)			
DSC (42)	MythBusters Alarm solutions. (CC)	Mean Green	Mean Green	Deepest Catch Seeking the Catch		Vermintors Infestation Nation			MythBusters Alarm solutions. (CC)		Mean Green	Mean Green
A&E (47)	(5:00) Movie: The Last Boy Scout					Movie: Under Siege *** (1992) A Navy cook thwarts a plot to hijack a battleship.			Movie: Under Siege *** (1992) A Navy cook thwarts a plot to hijack a battleship.			Movie: Under Siege *** (1992) (CC)
HIST (48)	Modern Marvels Truck Stops (CC)					Quest for the Lost Ark (CC)			Cities of the Underworld (CC)	Cities of the Underworld (CC)	Quest for the Lost Ark (CC)	
NICK (55)	Drake & Josh	Drake & Josh	iCarly (CC)	Naked Brothers Dance	Dance	Drake & Josh	George Lopez	George Lopez	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Home Improve.
DISN (56)	Zack & Cody	Zack & Cody	Phineas and Ferb	Phineas and Ferb	Movie: The Adventures of Sharkboy and Lavagirl (2005)		Zack & Cody	Zack & Cody	Hannah Montana	That's-Raven	Phil of Future	
FAM (58)	(4:30) Movie: Charlie and...					Movie: Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban *** (2004, Fantasy) The young wizard confronts the fugitive Sirius Black.			Movie: Robin Hood: Prince of Thieves **½ (1991, Adventure) Kevin Costner.			
HALL (60)	(5:00) Movie: Stone Cold **½ (2005)					Movie: Final Approach (2007, Suspense) An FBI agent must thwart hijackers who have a nuclear device. Dean Cain. (CC)			Movie: Code 11-14 (2003) A serial killer stalks victims aboard an international jet.			

Solo performance



CHRISTINA HOYT/Contributed Photo

Brewster senior Melissa Baird is the Bulldog's lone representative at this weekend's state track meet in Wichita. Baird qualified for state in the shot put after tossing it a distance of 32-7.25 last weekend at regionals in Hays. Results from Baird and other Thomas County participants will be available in Wednesday's Free Press.



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