

Eagles will need to play well to beat battle-tested Panthers

By Andy Heintz

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The Colby Eagles football team, now 3-1, will try to extend their winning streak to four when they go on the road to face the Phillipsburg Panthers (1-3) at 7 p.m. tonight.

This should be the Eagles' toughest game since their season-opening loss against St. Francis.

Colby shouldn't be fooled by the Panthers unimpressive record — Phillipsburg has had a tough schedule, and their three losses have come against teams with a combined record of 11-1. Their losses have been against Norton (3-1), Smith Center (4-0) and St. Francis (4-0). The Eagles' last three games have been against relatively weak teams with a combined record of 1-11.

This game could be close. To win, the Panthers will have the tough task of stopping the Eagles'

senior quarterback Heath Stephens. Stephens has lit up the scoreboard this year with seven touchdowns. He is fourth in the league in rushing. If he can have another solid game, the Eagles are likely to pull out a victory.

Senior Tanner Kriss and junior Ethan Stickel both had solid games last week and they should carry that momentum into this week's game. Stickel is fifth in league in rushing.

The defense just needs to keep doing what it's been doing for the last three weeks, giving up only 12 points since the season opener.

Senior linebackers Kriss and Corey Sager have been spectacular; they are tied for the league lead in tackles with 59 tackles each. Senior Breck Arnbarger and Stickel are also having a good year defensively with 52 and 50 tackles respectively.

The Eagles have a challenging game tonight, but if they play up to their potential, they should be able to pick up a victory.

Jayhawks hope to improve their running game this week

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Kansas has a running game?

The 16th-ranked Jayhawks do, in fact, run the football.

Their ground game just seems invisible so far.

Kansas (3-1) is averaging just 119 yards rushing a game, on a paltry 3.4 yards per carry. The Jayhawks have been able to make do so far by relying largely on star quarterback Todd Reesing, but even teams in the high-flying Big 12 must show some semblance of a running attack.

That's why the Jayhawks, who open Big 12 play at Iowa State (2-2) on Saturday, spent their bye week trying to shore up a lagging ground game.

"Practices were long and they were tough. We pushed ourselves to the limits and tried to do whatever we could to get the running game going," Kansas running back Angus Quigley said. "We knew we had to get better. We are nowhere near where we need to be."

Kansas's ground attack played a critical role in its storybook run to the Orange Bowl last sea-

son. The Jayhawks ran the ball more than they threw it, and averaged 4.8 yards a carry doing so. Since-departed tailback Brandon McAnderson took much-needed pressure off of Reesing, rushing for 1,135 yards, and the Jayhawks are still looking for someone to fill that void.

That role now belongs to Quigley, who started in place of Jake Sharp last week and will do so again Saturday.

Of course, a strong running game is as much a product of the offensive line as anything else, and coach Mark Mangino believes the extra week of practice helped

there as well. "I feel good about our backs. I feel that they have a better understanding of what is going on. I think we have cleaned some things up here and there to help them out," Mangino said. "But more than anything, the offensive line has improved and has to continue to improve."

Kansas likely won't have a better chance to get their running game going than against the Cyclones, who rank 10th in the Big 12 in rushing defense and are allowing a league-high 5.3 yards per carry.

Texas Tech team determined not to let chances slip away

MANHATTAN (AP) — Emboldened by its highest ranking in 32 years, No. 7 Texas Tech (4-0) heads to Manhattan on Saturday to face Kansas State (3-1), determined not to let another opportunity wash away in disappointment.

"We haven't proved anything yet," Tech running back Baron Batch said. "Coach (Mike) Leach says the same thing: We win games, but there's always a big game we won't win. We can't look at the games we think might be big because if we don't win the week at hand, those other games won't be so big."

The Red Raiders know a thing or two about losing big games.

There was the shootout loss to Oklahoma State after a 3-0 start

last year, the 35-point embarrassment at Texas after winning six straight games in 2005.

A good start in 2000 ended with a disheartening loss to Texas A&M, and a six-game winning streak to open the 1998 season ended with a two-point loss to Colorado.

It isn't just a recent trend, either.


Way back in 1938, the Red Raiders went through the regular season undefeated, only to lose to St. Mary's (Calif.) in the Cotton Bowl, taking them out of a national title discussion that eventually ended with Texas Christian.

With a history that includes no trips to the Big 12 title game, much less a national championship, Texas Tech isn't about to let up on anyone — particularly

after watching top-ranked Southern California fall to Oregon State and three other top-10 teams lose last weekend.

"We talked about just like John Wooden says, it's important to respect everyone and fear no one," Leach said.

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Sisters fourth and sixth at Oberlin Invitational

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The Kaus sisters turned in another solid performance for Colby High at the cross country meet in Oberlin on Tuesday. Katrina finished fourth with a time of 15 minutes, 53 seconds and Katherine ran sixth with 16:27.

Amy Schroeder finished 26th with a time of 18:02.

The Lady Eagles cross country girls' ran fourth out of five teams, with 78 points overall. McCook finished first with 41 and Norton second with 43.

The Colby High boys' finished fourth out of six teams. Levi Schlick took fifth overall with a time of 20:8. Jordan Rasmusen came in 19th with 21:25 and Preston Kryzcki placed 20th with 21:34.

Norton took first with 37 points overall and McCook finished second with 60.

"Although we had some good individual performances at this meet," said Coach Bob Mannebach, "we did not have the team performance that we need."


The team will compete again at 10 a.m. next Friday in Lakin.

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