

# Smith Center Redmen dominate Eagles, 40-0

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press  
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The Colby Eagles four-game winning streak came to a screeching halt Friday night as the Smith Center Redmen whipped Colby 40-0.

The Eagles were never able to get much going on offense. They failed to get on the scoreboard in the first half despite some nice runs by senior Tanner Kriss.

The second half, the Eagles were unable to develop any sort of running attack. This left the defense on the field for long periods.

The Eagles' defense played fairly well in the first half, giving up only 14 points to the last year's state champions. Smith Center got to the end zone with 7:04 remaining in the third quarter to stretch the lead to 20-0. Colby senior cornerback Thomas Wieland made a nice tackle to stop a two-point conversion.

The defense seemed to run out of steam in the fourth quarter, though, and the Redmen were able to score three more touchdowns before the game ended.

"The defense had been on the

field a lot," Coach Chris Gardner said. "I think we were a little mentally and physically worn out."

The Eagles had a tough time stopping the Redmen's backfield, as junior running back Colt Rogers and senior running back Joe Osburn grabbed large chunks of yardage throughout the game.

Gardner said Rogers is the best back the team had faced so far this year.

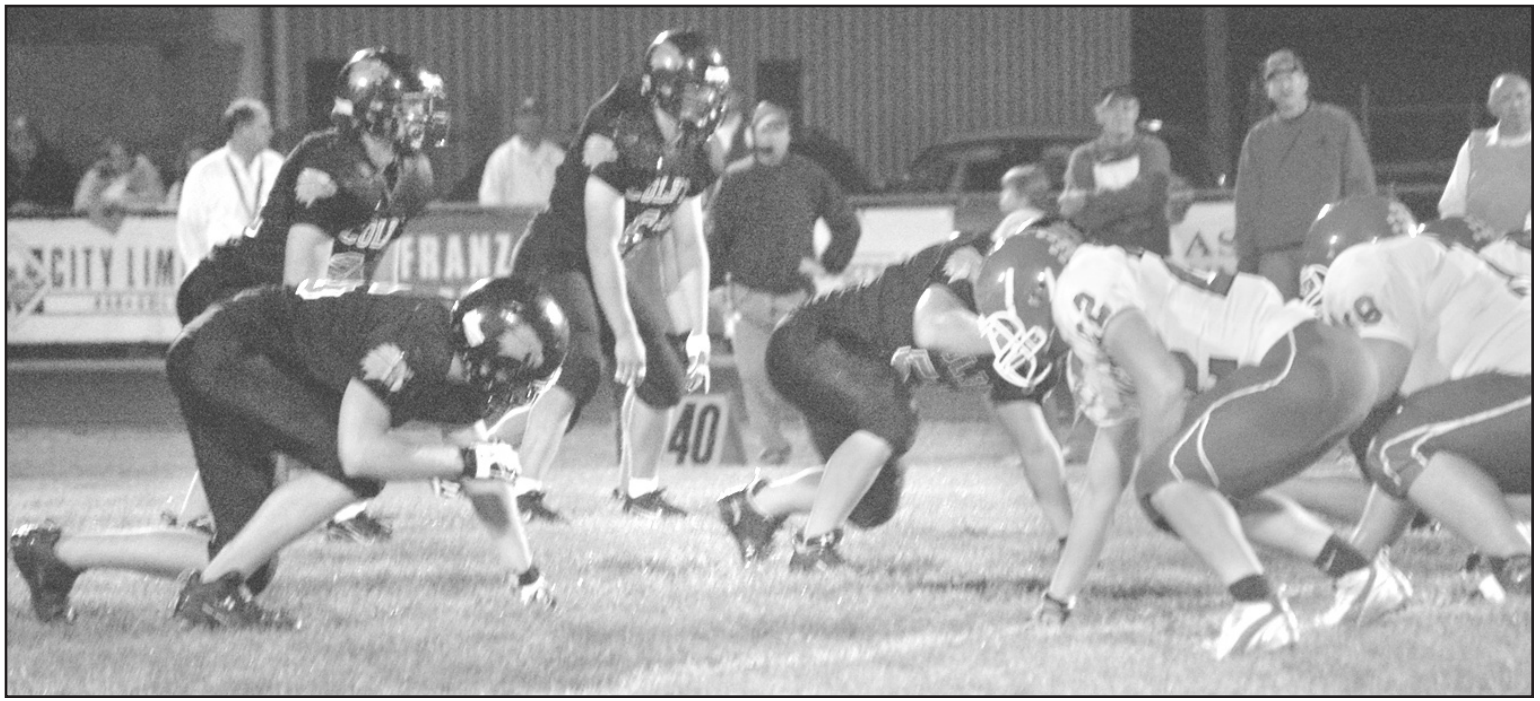
"The boys played with good effort, but our execution was a little off," Gardner said. "We need to be a little more consistent."

He said he didn't think this loss would hurt the team's confidence.

"These boys are very well focused," he said. "We will put this loss behind us."

The loss dropped the Eagles' record to 4-2 for the season.. They will go on the road against the Concordia Panthers at 7 p.m. Friday.

The next three games, against opponents in their Class 4A district, will decide if they will be eligible for the playoffs at the end of the season. Larned and Smoky Valley are the other two teams in the district.



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

The Colby High Eagles' defense got ready for a play in Friday nights game against Smith Center. The Redmen easily defeated the Eagles 40-0, but the defense held the Smith Center offense to only two touchdowns in first half.

## Broncos look for wide receiver options

DENVER (AP) — The Denver Broncos offense is starting to realize quarterback Jay Cutler needs

more than one target.

In a 24-17 loss to the Jacksonville Jaguars on Sunday, a slew of injuries at receiver forced Cutler to become too reliant on star receiver Brandon Marshall. The one-dimensional attack prevented the Broncos from taking control

and stalled a promising fourth-quarter comeback.

"It definitely makes our job hard as an offense because they're a big part of our offense," said Marshall, who caught nine passes for 98 yards. "But guys have to step up and make plays. It's not an

excuse for us."

The Broncos knew heading into Sunday they would be light at receiver. Rookie Eddie Royal practiced sparingly last week due to an injured ankle.

## Lady Eagles send four players to state tourney in Lawrence

By Andy Heintz

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All four Colby High girls' tennis players drew berths at the state tournament in Lawrence on Friday with victories in substate play Saturday in Lindsborg.

The No. 1 doubles team of senior Lindsey Wilson and sophomore Caitlyn Wark, who have led the Lady Eagles all season, finished first in the tournament with a 3-0 record.

They defeated Scott City in their first round game, and in their second-round game were able to best Chapman in three sets.

In the championship round, the dynamic duo squared off against a tough Hesston team. It was a long, hard-fought match, but Lady Eagles were able to pull out the victory, 6-3, 5-7, 6-3.

"Our doubles team was faced with two very tough teams today who took them to the limits," said Coach Jennifer Rall, "but they were able to come out ahead and stay on top mentally."

Junior Barbara Bickner was able to advance to state with a 2-1 record in No. 1 singles. She won her first game handily, defeating a player from Abilene 6-0, 6-2. The second game was pretty much



JENNIFER RALL/Colby High School

Senior Lindsey Wilson and sophomore Caitlyn Warick advanced to the state tournament in Lawrence by finishing first in No. 1 doubles at the substate tournament in Lindsborg on Saturday.

the same story, as she trounced a player from Hesston in two sets, 6-0, 6-2.

"Barbara proved to be the stronger player, and stayed in the game mentally," Rall said. "Perseverance was the name of the game in

this match."

Bickner would drop her next game to another player from Hesston, 6-1, 6-0, however.

Sophomore Kayla Hockersmith advanced to state in No. 2 singles, finishing fourth with a 1-2 record.

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