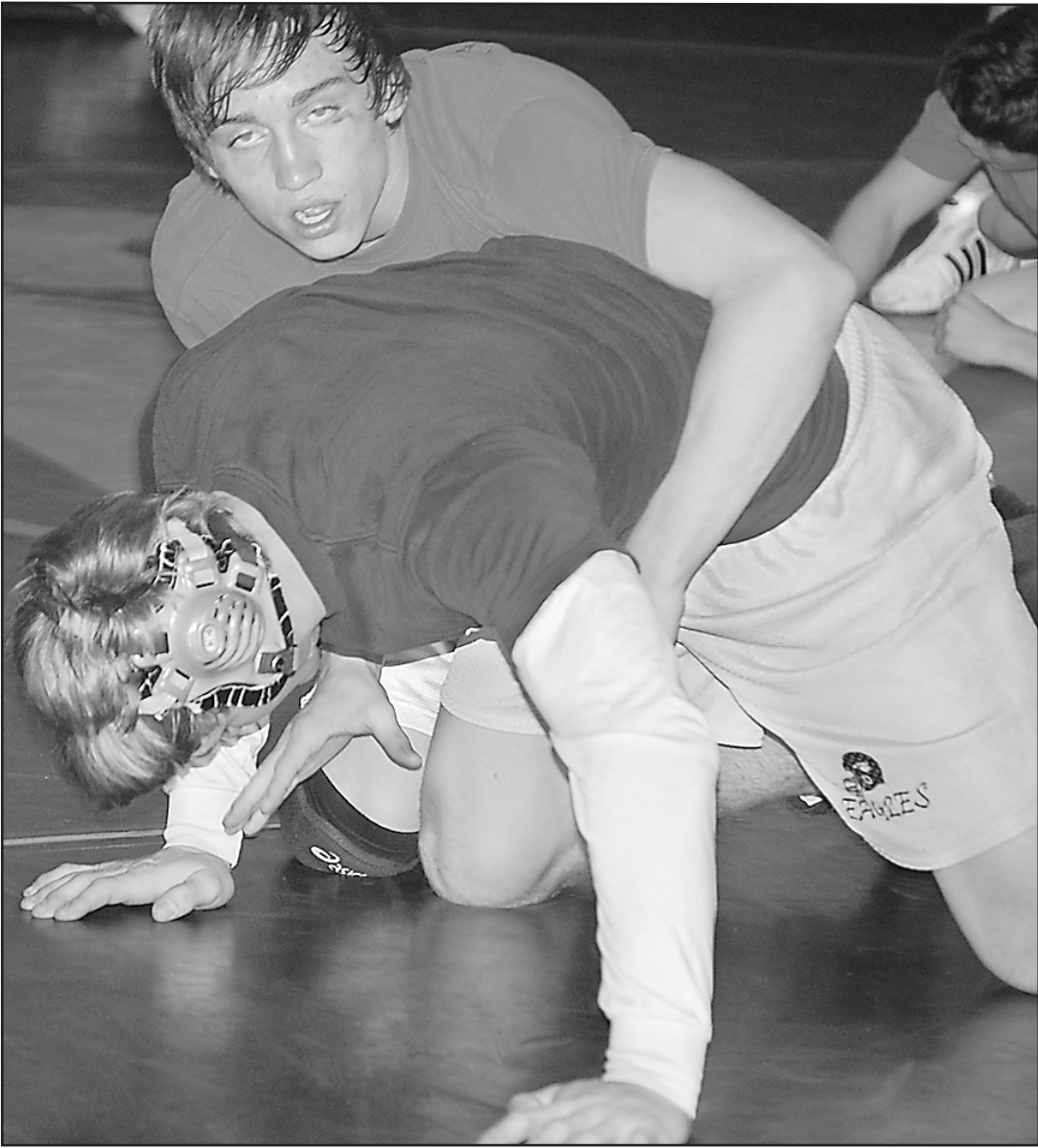




Taking it to the mat



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
Sophomore Andrew Flanagin grappled with senior Breck Arnberger at wrestling practice on Tuesday. The team's first match will be at 6 p.m. on Saturday against Burlington at the Colby High School gymnasium.

Jayhawks win ugly game at home

LAWRENCE, Kan. (AP) — Whistles rang out in Allen Fieldhouse throughout the second half, breaking the Kent State-Kansas game into 20-second segments, halting any rhythm either team might have had.

Sherron Collins scored 16 of his 19 points in the second half after early foul trouble and the Jayhawks made 32 of 36 free throws in a rugged 87-60 win over Kent State on Monday night.

“It was a great game for us because they muddled the game up,” Self said. “Those are the kinds of games you have to win in conference play on the road, in tournament play, games where we’re not in a lot of rhythm. It was good for us to play through that.”

Out of The Associated Press Top 25 for the first time in 47

weeks — dating to the 2005-06 season — Kansas (5-1) responded with a gritty win over a physical opponent, using pressure defense to build a big first-half lead, hitting 24 of 26 free throws in the second half to maintain it.

The Jayhawks scored 31 points off 20 Kent State turnovers and fought through a game that featured 46 fouls to extend their home winning streak to 28 games.

Cole Aldrich had 10 points, 13 rebounds and blocked four shots, and Marcus Morris added 14 points and 10 rebounds.

“It’s hard to get in a rhythm like that, but that’s just a regular tournament game,” said Collins, who played 10 minutes in the first half due to foul trouble. “It’s just helping to prepare us later on in the season.”

Little Eagles off to hot start, win their first eight contests

By Andy Heintz
Colby Free Press
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Colby’s seventh-grade boys basketball has been red-hot this season winning their first eight games.

“There working hard and trying to get better,” Coach Brad Wildeman said.

The Eagles beat Rawlins County 39-21 on Nov. 1. Spencer Barnes and Andrew Taylor led the team and scoring with 10 points each

one game, and another guy will score 12 or 15 the next game,” he said.

The Eagles defeated Burlington 49-31 on Oct. 27. Marc Bremenkamp scored a team high 23 points. Colby trounced Burlington again on Nov. 10 in a 47-18 rout. Luke Cox led the team in scoring with 18 points.

The Bulldogs scored again with 2:20 left in the quarter. Dighton ended up winning the game 26-12.

Colby handed Hoxie a 54-15 defeat and outlasted Goodland 27-24 on Oct. 13 and Oct. 18.

The Eagles pounded Oakley 42-14 on Nov. 20. Cox scored a team high of 17 points. Colby went on to handily defeat Quinter 39-21 on Nov. 24. Cox led the team in scoring with 10 and Bremenkamp added 8. The Eagles hammered St. Francis 50-17 on Nov. 24. Cox scored a team high of 16 and Spencer Barnes had 10.

The Bulldogs will play at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday at Scott City.

Middle school teams struggle, lose season openers to Dighton

By Ivonn Vargas and Andy Heintz
Colby Free Press
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The Golden Plains Middle school boys basketball teams lost their first two games 26-12 and 45-12 to Dighton at home just before Thanksgiving.

The first quarter was a tough one for the B-team as it struggled and Kain Priess scored the only basket for the Bulldogs. Dighton led 7-2 at the end of the first quarter.

Dighton kept pushing the ball down the floor but the Bulldog defense stayed tough in the second quarter. Benny Martinez, the only Bulldog to score in the second, hit two baskets. Dighton led 11-6

when the buzzer sounded the signal the end of the half.

Jose Bermudez and Brad Korte both chipped in two points for the Bulldogs during the third quarter. But Dighton doubled Golden Plains point scoring output with eight points and increased its lead to 19-10.

The Bulldogs seemed to lose their momentum in the last quarter and were only able to score one more basket. Dighton ended up winning the game 26-12.

The A-team boys had an even tougher time against Dighton. Its tough defense kept the Bulldogs off the scoreboard in the first quarter.

The second quarter began with the Dighton leading 12-0.

Tristan Schwarz hit the team’s first and only points in the second quarter and Dighton led 24-2 at halftime.

With 4:25 remaining in the third, Grant Spresser pitched in two points. And the Bulldogs finally seemed to get some momentum going as Jorge Monge got a steal and a lay-up with a little over three minutes remaining in the quarter. Spresser scored again with 2:20 left in the quarter. Dighton led 34-8 at the end of three.

Haydyn Best went into the game and almost immediately scored two points for the Bulldogs in the fourth. Derek Sandoval added Golden Plains last two points with less than four minutes remaining. Dighton ended up winning 45-12.

League honors Red Raiders coach

LUBBOCK, Texas (AP) — Mike Leach can look back on this season and know he led Texas Tech to its best one yet.

The coach and his No. 8 Red Raiders did it by getting their first win over a top-ranked team, garnering their highest national ranking and capturing their first Big 12 South trophy — the latter a shared prize due to a three-way

tie.

Now Leach can add another first. The Associated Press on Tuesday named him Big 12 coach of the year. In balloting by a panel of conference media, Leach got 16 votes to four for Texas’ Mack Brown.

Since the conference began in 1996 it is the first time Texas Tech’s coach has won the honor.

We had a good year, and I had something to do with it, too, you know.”

Tech has for years been considered a good team, but the Red Raiders’ pass-happy offense was mostly written off as a gimmicky outfit that put up gaudy numbers in Leach’s spread offense.

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\$ goes toward community projects!

