



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Senior Treat Bugbee locked up with a Burlington wrestler on Dec. 5. The Colby High wrestling team will be hosts for the Eagle Invitational today and Saturday, with matches at the Colby Grade School gym, the high school gym and the Community Building.

## Eagles hold tournament

By Andy Heintz

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The Colby High wrestling team will host the Eagle Invitational Tournament on Friday and Saturday, with matches set for three locations: the Colby Community Building, the grade school gym and the high school gym.

The 18 teams in the tournament will be split into three pools. Pool A will be at the high school gym, Pool B at the Community Building and Pool C at the elementary gym. Each will have two mats, so two matches will be taking place at the same time.

The wrestling begins at 2 p.m. Friday and resumes at 8 a.m. Saturday.

Teams in Pool A that will be competing against each other include Colby, Concordia, Chapar-

all, Hoxie, Hays and Hutchinson. The teams in Pool B will be Liberal, Oakley, Pine Creek from Colorado, Scott City, St. Francis and Wray, Colo. The teams in Pool C will include Garden City, Goodland, Oberlin, Phillipsburg, Plainville and Valley Center.

Placing-round dual matches will begin at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, based on the results of pool matches. The first-place winners from each pool will be competing for first, second and third place at the Community Building. The second place will square off at the Community Building for fourth, fifth and sixth place.

The third place winners from each pool will be wrestling at the high school gym to determine seventh, eighth and ninth place, while fourth-place teams will be competing for 10th, 11th, and 12th. Fifth-place finishers will wrestle

in the elementary gym for 13th, 14th and 15th; sixth-place finishers will face off to determine 16th, 17th and 18th place.

In that round, each team will have a match against two schools from the other pools. If there is no clear winner, said Coach Matt Simms said, places will be based on dual tiebreaker rules. The rules determine the winner by looking at things like what team had the most points, what team had the most pins, what team had the most technical falls, and what team won the most major decisions, he said.

Individual awards will be given to the most outstanding wrestler in each pool, the wrestler who had the most pins in each pool, and the wrestler who had the fastest pin in each pool, Simms said.

## Lady Trojans sign two players

Colby Community College men's cross country and track coach Lige Stewardson has signed two athletes for the 2009-2010 season.

Jacob Plata of La Vernia, Texas, and Daniel Whiteman of Colorado Springs have both signed letters of intent for next year, Stewardson said. Plata was a member of the La Vernia High School team, which took runner-up honors at

the Texas state meet.

"I saw Jacob run during a recruiting trip to the Texas state meet in November," Stewardson said. "He has great form, and after talking with him, I was very impressed with his attitude and desire to put in the work to be the best. I am looking forward to working with Jacob and I know he will be an important addition to the team."

Whiteman is the brother of current cross country and track runner Anthony Whiteman. Daniel was a key athlete for Harrison High School in Colorado Springs.

"I am excited about Daniel's decision to come to Colby and the contributions he will make to the teams bid for a top five finish in cross country and half marathon next season," Stewardson said.

## Wildcat scores career high, leads team to an easy victory

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — His weight up to 290 pounds, Luis Colon was unable to make more than three trips down the floor before fouling someone to stop the clock. Then came the shoulder injury, a torn labrum leaving him unable to lift his arm above his shoulders.

Appearing stiff and uncoordinated, Colon became comic relief for Kansas State's fans last season, mock cheers ringing out if he did anything remotely athletic.

Now, 25 pounds lighter and healthy after shoulder surgery, Big Lou is giving them something to really shout about this season.

Playing by far his best game in three years at Kansas State, Colon made all nine of his shots and set career highs with 18 points and 11 rebounds in a 74-55 win over Southern Mississippi at the Sprint Center on Thursday night.

"I've been working hard all summer after my surgery," Colon said. "I feel confidence on the court. It's three years — it's time already."

With his teammates looking for

him early, Colon overpowered Andre Stephens inside, using his 2-inch, 30-pound size advantage for easy baskets. He opened the scoring with a short turnaround and kept getting deep post position throughout the first half, flicking in short jump hooks and bank shots from close range.

Colon closed the half with a flying putback over two Southern Miss defenders — an unthinkable move a year ago — and left the court to a serenade of "LOUUUUUU!" after tying career highs with 12 points and nine rebounds in the first 20 minutes. He hit all six of his shots in the first half and opened the second with another short jump-hook, leaving to another serenade in the closing minutes.

Not bad for a player who scored 30 total points and shot 35 percent last season.

"He used to run back and forth three times, then find the first guy

he could find and just club him," Kansas State coach Frank Martin said. "Luis has grown and that's a credit to him."

Kansas State (6-3) had struggled putting teams away in its three previous games, losing to Kentucky, Iowa and Oregon by nine combined points. The Wildcats took care of Southern Miss (4-4) early, opening with an 11-2 run, overcoming a sloppy stretch midway through first half to start the rout.

Jacob Pullen added 17 points for Kansas State, which had a 15-1 advantage in second-chance points on 10 offensive rebounds.

"They were tough. They wanted it more than we did," Southern Miss guard Courtney Beasley said. "We knew everything they threw at us, but it was just the game broke us down — getting fatigued and not blocking out like we were supposed to. That's the big thing that hurt us."

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Joan Hartley

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