



Sophomore Andrew Flanagin dominated his opponent during the Eagles' dual against Goodland on Thursday. Colby defeated the Cowboys 49-12.

## Eagles hammer Goodland

By Andy Heintz

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The Colby High Eagles wrestling team whipped Goodland 49-12 on Thursday to maintain its perfect record in a dual that was a lot more competitive than the score implies.

Freshman Conner Kriss started the team out on the right note by winning the first match 6-0 in the 103 pound class. Nathan Reid won the evening's next match by forfeit at 112.

The Cowboys responded by winning the next two. Colby sophomore Dryden Baumfalk lost

9-7 in a hard-fought match at 119 pounds and junior Bob Schroeder went down 8-1 at 125.

Freshman Dalton Snyder won by forfeit at 130 pounds and senior Luke Schroeder suffered a 4-0 loss at 135.

Senior Heath Stephens got the Eagles back on the right track by pinning his opponent in the next match at 140. Senior Garrett Zwegardt scored a 7-5 victory in a competitive match at 145.

Colby's momentum came to a halt when junior Ethan Stickel was shut out 4-0 in his match at 152 pounds. Sophomore Andrew Flanagin restored the Eagles' confidence, dominating his opponent

15-3 in the 160-pound class.

In a fiercely competitive contest, senior Breck Arnberger prevailed over his opponent 3-2 at 171 pounds. Senior Treat Bugbee pinned his opponent in the second round at 189.

Senior Tanner Kriss was his usual dominant self, pinning his opponent in the second round at 215. Senior Adam Weber won by default at 285.

The team is on the road today for the Liberal Tournament, beginning at 11 a.m. The two-day tournament will start up again at 10 a.m. Saturday.

## Big 12 league games begin Saturday

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — They've spent two months pounding nonconference opponents at a .791 clip. Now almost everyone's winning percentage is about to start dropping because the time has come for Big 12 teams to beat up one another.

Everybody but Colorado and Kansas will launch conference play on Saturday, with the two highest-ranked teams both big favorites. No. 6 Oklahoma (14-1) is on the road at Kansas State (11-3) and No. 7 Texas (11-3) will be home against Iowa State (11-4).

Kansas (11-3), without a single starter back from its national championship team of 2007-08, plays a big road game on Saturday at No. 8 Michigan State before opening Big 12 play at home next

Tuesday against Kansas State. Colorado (8-6) begins its conference schedule next Wednesday at Missouri.

Kansas State will play the Big 12's last nonconference game on Feb. 17 against North Carolina Central, and the .791 win rate, if it holds up, will be a record for the Big 12. In a nonconference season to be proud of, the Big 12 rang up 136 victories, second only to the 153 of the Big East, which has four more teams. So is the Big 12 the best conference?

"Everybody's going to make a case for their league," said Texas coach Rick Barnes. "But I think your record speaks for itself." We're right around 80 percent.

Barnes figures there will be some Big East teams around .500

at the end of the regular-season who are tournament-worthy.

"Our league, I'm telling you, we're as good as any in the country year in and year out," he said. "I think it's probably too early to know who the best league is right now."

The Sooners (14-1) will throw at Kansas State (11-3) the Big 12's best player. Blake Griffin, the Sooners' 6-10 sophomore, leads the conference in both scoring (22.2 points per game) and rebounding (13.9) and looks like he could be the league's superstar of 2008-09.

"He keeps a level head. He keeps playing, and that's a credit to him and his family and (Oklahoma coach Jeff Capel)," said Kansas State coach Frank Martin.

## Quarterback rescues team; Gators defeat Sooners 24-14

MIAMI (AP) — The game defied expectations. Tim Tebow fulfilled them.

He rescued No. 1 Florida, running through and throwing over No. 2 Oklahoma for a 24-14 victory Thursday night.

It was hardly a high-wattage matchup of Heisman winners — more a sloppy, choppy affair that the rough-and-tumble Tebow took over at the end.

No matter to the Gators. They finished far ahead of the Utes in the final Associated Press poll Friday, receiving 48 of 65 first-place votes.

"I'll tell you, we're going to enjoy a big win, we're going to enjoy the national championship," coach Urban Meyer said. "Let someone else worry about that. Gators are No. 1."

The Associated Press will release its final poll early Friday morning.

Beaten out for the Heisman this season by Oklahoma quarterback Sam Bradford, Tebow outplayed him and was picked the game's most outstanding player.

"I wanted to do whatever I could to help my team win this game, and if I was trying to run and run some people over, to get the crowd into it, to get the momentum, then that was what I was going to try to do," Tebow said.

"They were doing a good job of getting to me and trying to get some licks, but I felt my body was able to withstand it," he said.

Percy Harvin ran wild and Florida made two goal line stands against the highest-scoring team in modern history.

National champs, indeed!

Tebow shook off a career-high two interceptions and drove the Gators (13-1) to the clinching score. He took two hard steps toward the line, jumped and zipped a 4-yard touchdown pass to David Nelson with 3:07 left to make it 24-14.

Tebow carried the ball on the Gators' final six plays, smashing

into the line five times. He also drew an unsportsmanlike penalty for woofing at the Sooners and doing the Gator chomp.

"I was already motivated for a national championship game. But you know, there was some trash talking going on, and it just gets me going during the game," said Tebow, who ran for 109 yards.

His passing wasn't so precise — 18-for-30 — yet it was his sheer will that kept the Gators going.

Tebow finished third in this year's Heisman voting behind Bradford and Texas' Colt McCoy, and kept that in mind.

"I try to use everything as motivation," he said.

Tebow added to the title he helped the Gators win in 2006 with a rout of Ohio State and, one season after winning the Heisman, brought home another trophy. He figures to soon decide whether he'll come back for his senior season or enter the NFL draft.

Harvin returned from an ankle injury and dashed for 122 yards on only nine carries for the Gators. His 52-yard gallop set up Jonathan Phillips' 27-yard field goal early in the fourth quarter for a 17-14 lead.

It was Florida's third national title overall, and the third straight for a team from the Southeastern Conference, and it was the Sooners' fifth straight loss in a BCS game. Oklahoma (12-2) set a modern record for scoring with 702 points this season and put up at least 60 points in its last five games, yet never found its rhythm.

"In the end, I'll be glad to try again next year," Sooners coach Bob Stoops said. "If that's the biggest burden I have to bear in my life, I'm a pretty lucky guy."

Bradford was a disappointing 26-for-41 with two interceptions. Like Tebow, he's going to explore his potential for the NFL draft — not exactly off the performance he wanted.

"Obviously, they're a great de-

fense. I think just a couple times we got ourselves in trouble," Bradford said.

These teams totaled an average of 99 points per game, but wound up with a scoreless first quarter. In the second quarter, Florida's defense made a pair of goal line stands that left it 7-all at halftime.

By then, college football fans around the country were certainly wondering whether these were indeed the two best teams. And it surely gave steam to the suggestion by President-elect Barack Obama and others that a playoff system is needed.

Cheered on by a flock of rooters who made the five-hour drive from The Swamp in Gainesville, the Gators became the second team in the 11-year history of the BCS to win two titles.

Nicknamed "Big Game Bob" for his early success, Stoops lost for the third time with a national championship on the line. This was the first time Florida and Oklahoma played — Stoops was the Gators' defensive coordinator when Steve Spurrier led them to the 1996 title.

Tebow struggled throughout the first half, his lone highlight a 20-yard touchdown pass to Louis Murphy for a 7-0 lead early in the second quarter. Bradford came right back with a swift 65-yard drive, capped by his 6-yard TD toss to Jermaine Gresham.

Florida's defense, rather than Tebow, Harvin and its speedsters on the other side of the ball, kept the Gators close.

Poised to break the tie midway through the second quarter, Oklahoma owned a first-and-goal at the 9.

Chris Brown carried four straight times and the Gators stood up the 1,100-yard rusher, twice stuffing him from the 1.

Rarely turned back in the red zone this season, the Sooners let it happen to them again in the final minute before halftime.

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