



# Colby girls wins contest

By Andy Heintz  
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The Colby High girls basketball team picked up its third straight win on Friday, trouncing Holcomb 49-32.

“We played well collectively as a team,” said Coach Parker McKee.

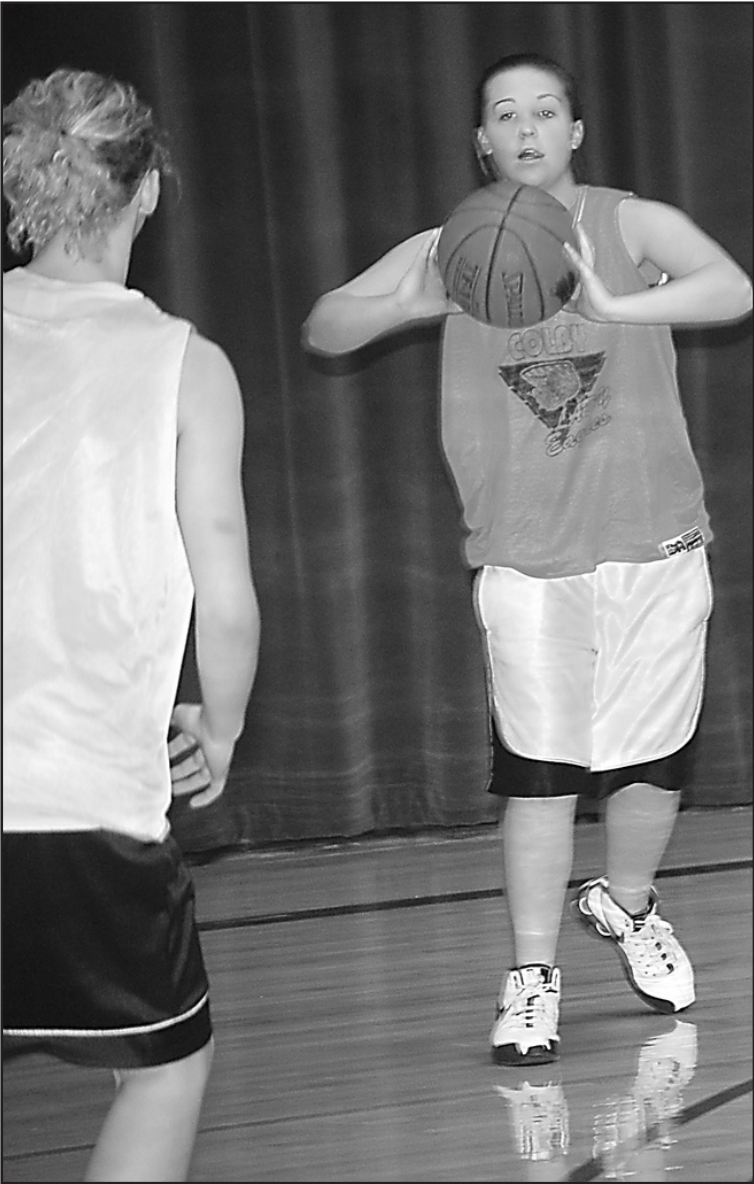
The Lady Eagles led by 10 points at half time and steadily increased their lead throughout the third quarter.

Colby spread the floor out in the third quarter, forcing the Longhorns to switch from zone to man to man. This allowed the Lady Eagles to take advantage of their quickness advantage over Holcomb. The Longhorns’ defenders had trouble guarding Colby players one on one.

Sophomore sisters Katherine and Katrina Kaus had 15 and 13 points respectively.

With the victory, the Lady Eagles improved their record to 4-3 for the year.

They will play again at 5:45 p.m. on Tuesday at McCook High in Nebraska.



Andy Heintz/Colby Free Press  
Skyler Mengel made a pass during a Lady Eagles’ practice last month. The team won their third straight game on Friday, stomping the Holcomb Longhorns 49-32 in a road game.

# K-State opens league play with loss

MANHATTAN, Kan. (AP) — Hoping to give his team a spark against a scrappy opponent in a testy atmosphere, Oklahoma coach Jeff Capel switched to a defense the Sooners hadn’t run all year.

It worked perfectly. Blake Griffin wasn’t bad, either.

Griffin had 29 points and 15 rebounds in a rare game against single coverage, and Capel’s defensive switch sparked a key run in the first half to give No. 6 Oklahoma a 61-53 win over Kansas State on Saturday in both teams’ Big 12 opener.

Capel’s switch came with about five minutes left in the first half. The Sooners were struggling to get shots off against Kansas State’s swarming defense, so Capel decided to try a 1-3-1 zone to create some easy baskets in transition.

Oklahoma (15-1) hadn’t started practicing the defense until Wednesday, but it worked flawlessly. The Sooners forced seven straight turnovers during a 10-0 run to close the first half and used it again after the break to pull away.

Oklahoma earned its first road win against a Big 12 North opponent since beating Kansas State 69-68 on Feb. 19, 2005.

Oklahoma was 9-7 and won just three road games in the Big 12 last season. The expectations are a bit higher now, particularly after the Sooners’ best nonconference record since 1987-88, when they went 15-1 on the way to the national championship game.

Kansas State (11-4) had an easy run through a relatively weak nonconference schedule, beating up on teams like Emporia State, Gardner-Webb and Idaho State. Oklahoma represented Kansas State’s first real test, a chance to

see where the team really stands with All-American Michael Beasley now playing in the NBA.

The Wildcats were ready for it early, not giving ground to the physical Sooners, overcoming sloppy mistakes to keep it close. Kansas State just didn’t have an answer for Oklahoma’s 1-3-1 zone and struggled with its shooting to see its 11-game home winning streak end.

The Wildcats shot 32 percent and were 3-for-14 from 3-point range in the second half — including five straight misses on one possession — after going 5-for-11 in the first. Denis Clemente led Kansas State with 18 points and Fred Brown added 12.

“We had good looks. They just kept rolling off the rim,” said Kansas State’s Jacob Pullen, who had eight points on 3-of-14 shooting.

Kansas State also had a tough time stopping Griffin.

The Wildcats opened with Luis Colon on the preseason All-American and rotated three others on him in the first five minutes. None of them could stop Griffin, who had 15 points and nine rebounds by halftime.

Kansas State did a much better job on everyone else.

Griffin and older brother Taylor combined for Oklahoma’s first 19 points, but the rest of the Sooners missed 13 straight shots before Willie Warren hit a 3-pointer with just over a minute left in the half. The Griffin brothers shot a combined 9-of-15 and the rest of the team was 2-for-15, allowing Kansas State to take a 26-19 lead late in the half.

“I told them that we have to do everything we can to make it hard on him (Griffin) defensively, yet not let the other guys get into a rhythm,” Kansas State coach

Frank Martin said. “And I thought we did a pretty good job of that.”

Turnovers hurt the Wildcats.

Kansas State had eight in the first eight minutes, most on ill-advised passes that went straight to the Sooners or sailed into the crowd. It got worse after Oklahoma switched to the 1-3-1 zone late in the first half, when the Wildcats were barely able to get the ball past midcourt against the long-armed, athletic Sooners.

“They hadn’t seen us do it this year so they probably weren’t prepared for it,” Capel said. “K-State looked a little confused.”

# Colby boys lose to Holcomb

By Andy Heintz  
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The Holcomb High boys basketball team whipped Colby 81-57 on Friday.

Colby trailed 37 to 27 at the break, and things would not get any better in the second half.

Holcomb sank an eye-opening 63 percent of their shots on 17-for-27 shooting. The Longhorns’ Jordan Wilcox and C.J. Brown were efficient throughout the game, shooting 10 of 16 and eight of 11 respectively.

Colby coach Beau Sheets com-

plimented Wilcox’s ability. He is really quick and he does a good job shooting and penetrating, said Sheets.

“They are a very good team,” he said, “by far the best team we have played all year.”

But the Eagles were also victims of their own mistakes. They turned the ball over 28 times and shot 8 of 21 from the foul line.

Colby also was hindered by injuries and foul trouble. Senior Stephen Dinkel picked up his third foul early in the second quarter. Senior Levi Schlick hurt his knee towards the end of the second half. Schlick did not start the third

quarter, but returned later.

Sheets said Schlick’s play just wasn’t the same after he suffered the injury. He only scored eight points all night on three-of-six shooting.

Sheets said the main factors in the loss were turnovers and the Longhorns’ high shooting percentage.

Dinkel led the team with 14 points and senior Brent Arnberger added 12. Senior Corey Sager had 10.

Colby will play again at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday in McCook, Neb.

# Kansas State women crush Kansas

MANHATTAN — The ball left Kelsey Nelson’s hand and Shalee Lehning took off. Didn’t matter her team was up 19 with under six minutes left, or that she was standing 80 feet away.

Lehning wasn’t about to let the ball roll out of bounds.

Of course she got it. That’s just the kind of player Lehning is.

Lehning had 14 points and 10 assists, and her never-give-up attitude helped No. 20 Kansas State open defense of its Big 12 title with a 72-39 victory over rival Kansas on Saturday night.

Lehning set the tone for the rout early with her slash-and-dish style and capped it with her nearly-fullcourt sprint to save a ball from rolling out of bounds.

“When I saw her throw it, I thought that I could get to the ball,” said Lehning, who was 6-for-10 from the floor. “As the

ball kept going, I was wishing she would have lofted it a little more, but I was just happy I got there.”

Kansas State (14-0) is off to the best start in school history and has matched its second-longest winning streak — three behind the record set in 1981-82 — with its ninth-straight home win.

Ashley Sweat scored 18, most coming on assists from Lehning, who also had six rebounds. Marlies Gipson anchored the defense, blocking five shots to give Kansas State its 15th win in 16 games against its in-state rival.

Lehning was at her do-it-all best early, knifing inside for shots under and around defenders’ arms, driving and dishing to 3-point shooters on the wings. The senior guard set up Gipson for an easy basket midway through the first half by wrapping a bounce pass around a Kansas defender and

later whipped a no-look pass to Sweat for another layup.

Lehning, the nation’s assists leader (9.2), had eight by halftime, including three straight to Sweat in the closing minutes to put the Wildcats up 39-21. She never gave up even with the game out of reach, racing past a Kansas player to save a ball with Kansas State up 63-34.

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