



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Freshman Emilea Finley goes up for a shot against Flint Hills on Friday. The Lady Eagles hammered Flint Hills 79-9.

## Lady Eagles win tourney

By Andy Heintz

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The Colby High girls basketball team just keeps on winning. After losing 3 of their first 4 games the Lady Eagles have ticked off eight straight wins.

"We're finally meshing as a team," said senior Taylor Young.

The Lady Eagles eighth straight win did not come easily. Colby needed one overtime to defeat Pine Creek 48-39 in the finals of the Paul Wintz/Tom Bowen Orange and Black Basketball Classic.

Pine Creek was able to get some good looks inside early in the second quarter helping them gain a five point lead over Colby. A little later in the quarter Sophomore Kayla Hockersmith made a driving lay-up while being fouled. She knocked down the free throw to cut Pine Creek's lead to 13-11. Minutes later she made another bucket to give the Lady Eagles a 14-13 lead with less than five minutes remaining in the second quarter.

Freshman Morgan Bell gave the Lady Eagles some good minutes in the second quarter. She happened to be in the right place at the right time when a Pine Creek defender blocked a shot by sophomore Katherine Kaus. The ball deflected right into Bell's hands allowing her to make a short jumper from the baseline. Bell would score again moments later on a nice baseline drive that increased Colby's lead to 19-13.

Pine Creek began fast breaking on Colby late in the quarter. This led to them scoring several transition baskets. They went on a 10-0

run and led 23-19 at halftime.

The game remained neck and neck with only a few minutes left in the fourth quarter. Young was fouled with a little over a minute remaining and the game knotted at 34. She hit 1 of 2 free throws to give the Lady Eagles a one point lead. Pine Creek threw the ball away on their next possession. They quickly made up for their mistake by intercepting Colby's inbound pass and fast breaking down the court for a lay-up.

On the Lady Eagles next possession Bell was fouled while taking a shot below the free throw line. She would connect on 1 of 2 free throws to tie the game at 36. Pine Creek would commit another turnover giving the Eagles a chance to take the lead and win the game. Colby was able to get a few good looks at the basket, but both shots were off the mark and the contest headed into overtime.

Hockersmith nailed a mid-range jumper to give Colby a 38-36 lead to start the overtime. On the Lady Eagles next possession Young was fouled while trying to score off a missed shot. She hit both of her free throws to increase the team's lead to four. Pine Creek couldn't get anything going during the extra period and the Lady Eagles pulled out the victory.

Despite being a young team with four of their five starters being sophomores Colby has shown that they have a knack for winning close games.

"It shows the character of the girls and their willingness to work hard on every play," Coach Parker McKee said.

The win brings the team's record to 9-3 on the season. Sophomore Katrina Kaus had a team-high 12

and Katherine and Hockersmith added 11.

Colby pummeled Flint Hills 79-9 on Friday. The game was a monumental mismatch that left Colby fans cheering every time Flint Hills made a basket. The Lady Eagles scored the games first 37 points. The score at the half was 48-3.

It was almost impossible not to feel a little sorry for the other team who had trouble even getting a shot off against Colby's defense. The Lady Eagles stole the ball from Flint Hill's players countless times during the game. Charlite Carter scored all nine of Flint Hills points.

Sophomore Kylie Rietchick had a team-high 14 points and Katherine had 12.

The Lady Eagles will play Thomas More Prep-Marian High School at 6:15 p.m. on Thursday at the Community Building.

## Liberal guard has huge game, Colby loses in championship

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Liberal's fast breaking offense combined with the fabulous play of the Redskins Devin Livingston proved to be too much for the Colby High boys basketball team as the Eagles fell to Liberal 55-41 in the finals of the 24th annual Paul Wintz/Tom Bowen Orange and Black Basketball Classic.

The first quarter went back and forth with neither team gaining a clear advantage. Senior Levi Schlick looked sharp nailing a jumper and making some tough shots inside. The Redskins took advantage of their quickness advantage by fast breaking on the Eagles for some easy transition buckets. At the end of the first quarter Colby trailed Liberal 16-14.

The Eagles experienced a big scare in the second quarter when Schlick fell to the floor holding his chin. The game had to be temporarily stopped because Schlick's chin was bleeding. When the game resumed Schlick was relegated to bench while his chin was being patched up. Luckily for the Eagles he would return later in the quarter.

Senior Brent Arnberger banked in a lay-up to cut the Redskins'

lead to 21-20.

Liberal extended their lead thanks the playmaking skills of Livingston. He stripped the ball from senior Stephen Dinkel; pushed the ball down the court and hit Jade Cathey with a bounce pass who laid it in while being fouled to give Liberal a 27-23 lead.

Senior Cade Carter drove the ball down the lane and drew a foul with 2.7 seconds remaining in the second quarter. He knocked down both free throws to decrease Redskins' lead to 27-25.

The third quarter featured was shootout between Schlick and Livingston. Schlick scored 6 of the Eagles first 7 points and Livingston scored 10 of Liberals first 12 points. At the end of the quarter the Redskins had stretched their lead to 41-34.

Livingston continued to hurt the Eagles in the fourth quarter with short jump shots and shifty drives. Liberal's whole team was hitting in the second half making an improbable 72 percent of their shots. They led 45-35 with five minutes left in the game. The Eagles were unable to mount a rally and they fell to the Redskins.

Schlick finished with a team-high 19 points and 12 rebounds.

"It was a gutsy effort," said Coach Beau Sheets.

The Eagles started strong in their

game against Scott City on Friday scoring the games first six points. Later in the quarter junior Ryley Haas drilled a three pointer to give Colby an 11-7 lead. The Beavers rallied to take an 12-11 late in the quarter. Sophomore Corbin Stephens nailed a three at the buzzer to give the Eagles a 14-12 lead heading into the second quarter.

Senior Cade Carter and Sager both knocked down jump shots to increase Colby's lead to six. Cade Carter picked off a Beaver pass and shot a pass to Sager who laid it in with a little over a minute left in the third quarter. Stephens knocked down yet another three in the closing seconds of the quarter to give the Eagles a 28-18 lead.

Dinkel knocked down a couple jump shots to start the fourth quarter. Colby widened their lead to 12 with a little over a minute remaining and ending up winning the game 49-40.

Schlick, Arnberger and Stephens had nine points each. Dinkel added eight.

Colby will play against Thomas More Prep-Marian at 8 p.m. on Thursday at the Community building.



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## Jayhawks beat Cyclones

AMES (AP) — Things were getting tense for Kansas.

Iowa State's Craig Brackins buried a 3 with 6:34 left to cut the Jayhawks lead to six, thrilling a raucous crowd that believed the Cyclones were poised to finish a huge comeback.

That's when Kansas guard Sherron Collins shot a wink at teammate Tyrel Reed. No, Collins hadn't found the secret formula to stop Brackins — who scored a career-high 42 points and grabbed 14 rebounds — he just knew that he and Reed were about to quiet

the Cyclones and their crowd.

"I've got to keep my young fellows confident, especially the shooters," Collins said. "I just told him it was going to be all right, just hit a shot."

Reed did just that, burying an open 3 that Collins followed with a pull-up jumper as Kansas survived a monster effort from Brackins to beat Iowa State 82-67 for its fourth straight win.

Collins matched his career high with 26 points and Cole Aldrich added 16 points and 12 rebounds for the Jayhawks.

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