

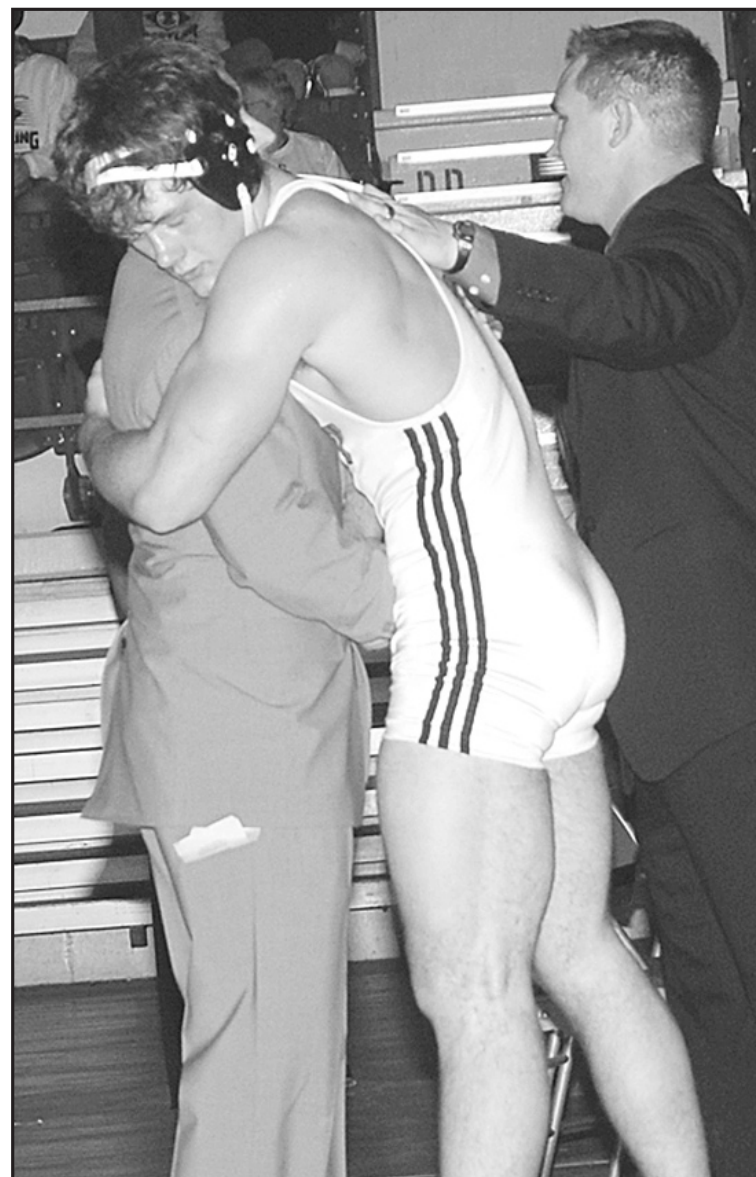


ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Eagles' wrestlers emerge victorious at state

Junior Adam Weber (above) tried to gain an advantage over his opponent at the Class 4A State Wrestling Tournament in Salina on Saturday. Senior Tanner Kriss (right) hugged Coach Matt

Simms after defeating Taylor Wuthnow of Abilene to take first place at 215 pounds. The Eagles finished first at the tournament with 129 points.



Colby Trojan wrestlers finish fourth at nationals

By Trent Rose

Colby Community College

The Colby Community College wrestling team finished fourth overall at junior college Division I nationals in Rochester, Minn., on Saturday, with four Trojans named as All-Americans.

Ganbayaar Sanjaa was the national champion at 149 pounds, defeating Bobby Ward from Nassau 9-8 in overtime.

Sanjaa received a bye in the first round, won with a pin in the second round over Nate Stedaker from Harper, won by injury default and won 10-3 in the semifinals over T.J. Moen of North Iowa. For the year, it was just his first loss to a junior college opponent.

Bekzod Abdurakhmonov finished second at 157 pounds, losing 8-6 in the finals against Carington Banks from Iowa Central. It was his first loss of the season in a junior college match.

Bekzod advanced to the finals by defeating YoAndy Cruz of Waubensee Community College from Illinois with a pin in the first round, winning by a pin in the second round over Anthony Almanza of Meramac, winning 7-4 over Karon Reid of Iowa Lakes in the quarterfinals and winning 6-0 over Eduardo Delgado of Nassau in the semifinals.

Ronnie Tetreault finished third at 165 pounds. After advancing to the quarterfinals, Tetreault lost 6-3 to eventual national champion

Brad Lower of Iowa Central. Tetreault responded by winning his next four matches, including a 6-5 decision over David Dwyer of Lincoln in the third-place match.

Jernato Harris was the Trojans final All-American at 141 pounds, finishing seventh. Jernato won his first match 2-0 before falling in the third round to Tim McGoldrick of North Idaho. Harris defeated McCade Ford of Northwest Wyoming 10-8 in the sixth-place match.

Other wrestlers for Colby were Justin Gardner, who went 1-2 at 125 pounds, and Apollo Harris, who was 0-2 at 133 pounds. Jaksen Cottorell was 1-2 at 174 pounds, losing a controversial 4-3 decision in the consolation bracket to Tom LaCombe of Ellsworth. Cottorell,

according to radio broadcasters, was awarded a takedown that was later nullified, resulting in the one-point loss.

Brennan Ward won his first match at 184 pounds 9-3 over Chauncey Smith of Meramac, then lost his next two matches.

Colby native Nick Kriss also won his first match, 13-4, before losing to eventual national champion Phil Hawes of Iowa Central. Kriss won his next match 6-0 in the consolation bracket over Dan Hopkins of Middlesex, but lost 4-3 to Damonte Stogner of Ells-

worth. Julian Hightower lost his first match in the heavyweight division only to rebound by winning a 9-5 decision over Jason Fonzi of Middlesex. He lost his next match 2-1 to Matt McGlaughlin of Rend Lake.

Eagles to begin substate competition

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press
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It's make or break time for the Colby High boys and girls basketball teams this week, as both squads will compete at substate to win a spot in the Class 4A state tournaments.

The boys face Smoky Valley at 6 p.m. tonight at the Community Building. The Eagles (15-5) are ranked second in their substate, snaring the home-court advantage in the first round. If they defeat the Vikings, they will face the winner of the Concordia/Haven game on Thursday in Nickerson.

The girls will be competing in an challenging substate. The Lady Eagles are ranked just fourth in their substate despite winning the Northwest Kansas League and posting a 15-5 record. They will play Hesston (15-5) at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday in Russell.

If Colby wins tonight's game, the girls will face the winner of the game between top-seeded Concordia (20-0) and Russell on Friday in Nickerson.

Each substate features eight

teams. Both the boys and the girls will need to win three games to earn a spot in the state bracket. Substate tournaments are single elimination, so if either team loses, its season will come to an end.

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