



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Sophomore Corbin Stephens scanned the court for someone to pass to on Monday during Colby's game against Smoky Valley. The Eagles defeated the Vikings 52-47. They play Concordia at

6 p.m. Thursday in Nickerson in the semifinal round of the substate tournament. The championship game will be at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday.

## Eagles rally to defeat Smoky Valley

By Andy Heintz

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The Colby High boys needed a second-half rally to defeat Smoky Valley on Monday in the first round of the substate tournament, erasing a 4-point half-time deficit on their way to picking up a 52-47 victory.

In a game played at the Community Building, Senior Levi Schlick caught a tough lob pass from senior Cade Carter with one hand and laid it off the glass for two points to give Colby an early lead. Senior Corey Sager knocked down a mid-range jumper to increase the Eagles' lead to 6-0 with 4:38 left in the first quarter.

Chase Dippel of Smoky Valley hit a three from the left baseline to cut Colby's lead to 6-3. Dippel would be a thorn in the Eagles' side throughout the night.

Schlick knocked down a tough turnaround jumper off the glass to

make it 10-5 Colby with 3:17 left in the quarter. The Vikings edged their way back into the game, though, and trailed 11-10 at the end of the first quarter.

The Lindsborg squad took the lead early in the second quarter when Dippel hit a long three to put the Vikings out front 13-11.

Colby got a little careless with the ball in the second quarter and made some ill-advised passes that led to turnovers. A combination of the Eagles' sloppy play and Dippel's lights-out shooting helped the Vikings gain an 18-15 lead.

Sager drained a mid-range jumper from the top of the key to cut Smoky Valley's lead to one. Erick Harding of Lindsborg launched a shot from way beyond the three-point line that banked off the glass and fell through the basket as the buzzer sounded to announce the end of the half. The heave gave the Vikings a 24-20 lead.

The Eagles took the lead back by the end of the third quarter.

Schlick made a layup to give Colby a 41-37 lead with 5:44 left in the game. He was able to score inside to increase the lead to 47-42 with 1:27 left.

The Vikings got a basket and cut Colby's lead to three. They fouled Carter on the Eagles' next possession with 48.5 seconds remaining. He sank both free throws to stretch Colby's lead to 49-44.

Smoky Valley failed to score on its next possession and fouled Carter after the Eagles got the ball. He drained both free throws to give Colby a 51-44 lead with a little over 32 seconds left.

"Those free throws were the difference in the game," said Coach Beau Sheets.

The Eagles held on to their lead and picked up the victory.

Schlick scored a team-high 18 points and senior Stephen Dinkel had 11.

With the victory, Colby improved to 16-5 for the season. They will take on Concordia at

## Girls' season ends with substate loss

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press  
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The Colby High girls' basketball season came to an end Wednesday as the Lady Eagles lost to Hesston 47-40 in the first round of their substate at Russell High School.

It was a tough way to end what had been a solid season for a young team, but the girls should only get better with age.

The Lady Swathers jumped out to a 7-0 lead to start the first quarter. Colby sophomore Katherine Kaus knocked down a three-pointer to cut Hesston's lead to 7-3. Later in the game, she hit a jumper from 15 feet to cut the Hesston lead to 2. Colby tightened up its defense, holding Hesston scoreless during the last four minutes of the quarter, and the Lady Eagles trailed 7-5.

Kaus hit another jump shot to tie the game at the beginning of the second quarter. Then the momentum shifted back to the Lady Swathers as they gained a 17-10 advantage. Colby responded by scoring the next five points and cutting Hesston's lead to 2. The Lady Swathers led 19-15 at the half.

The Lady Eagles struggled on offense to start the second half, failing to score during the first three minutes. To add to their troubles, senior Taylor Young was whistled for her third foul.

Freshman Morgan Bell ended the Lady Eagles' scoring drought by making a shot while being fouled to cut Hesston's lead to 24-

17. She missed her free throw.

Sophomore Kayla Hockersmith drained a jumper to make 24-19 Hesston.

Rachel Hageman of Hesston sank a three-pointer to extend the Lady Swathers' lead to 29-22. They led 29-23 at the end of the quarter.

Sophomore Shelby Terrell buried a jumper to cut lead to 29-25 early in the fourth quarter. Kaus fouled out with 6:45 left.

Young was fouled while shooting with 6:11 remaining. She sank both free throws to cut Hesston's lead to 31-27. A little later, Young picked up her fifth and final foul.

Bell buried a long three-pointer to bring the Lady Eagles within three with 3:18 left. Then the Lady Swathers went on a 4-0 run to stretch their lead to 37-30. Colby was unable rally in the game's final minutes.

Bell had a team-high 13 points, Kaus had 9, sophomores Kelsey Shields and Hockersmith each scored 6. The Lady Eagles finished their season with a 15-6 record.

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