



Senior Stephen Dinkel drove to the basket during the Colby Eagles' game against Hesston on Saturday at Nickerson High School. Colby lost to the Swathers 57-42 in the substate finals.

## Colby loses to Hesston, finishing season at 17-6

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press  
aheintz@nwkansas.com

The Colby High boys basketball team ended its season Saturday with a 57-42 loss to Hesston in the substate tournament finals at Nickerson High School.

The Swathers' victory was a result of the poor shooting (27.3 percent) by the Eagles and Hesston's ability to neutralize Colby's two starting big men. The Swathers' zone defense held seniors Levi Schlick and Brent Arnberger to 6 and 4 points respectively.

Sophomore Corbin Stephens and senior Stephen Dinkel did all they could to keep the Eagles in the game, scoring a combined total of 26 points while hitting some crucial shots.

Things looked good for Colby early in the game. After Hesston scored the first basket, the Eagles went on an 8-0 run spearheaded by three-pointers by Stephens and Dinkel. Dinkel nailed the quarter three with 2:16 left in the quarter to give Colby a 11-6 lead.

The momentum shifted to the Swathers during the second quarter. Hesston took a 26-23 lead as one of its players knocked down a three-pointer. They were able to stretch that to 32-25 by halftime.

Hesston continued to expand its lead in the third quarter. Rob Moore of the Swathers made a basket to increase his team's lead to 38-27 with 4:30 left in the period. Dinkel nailed a three for Colby to cut Hesston's lead to 38-31 with a little over a minute left. This would remain the score for the duration of the quarter.

Stephens took a short jump shot

that rattled around the rim before finally falling through to decrease the Swather's lead to 38-33 early in the fourth. Moore responded by burying a three-pointer to give Hesston a 41-33 advantage.

Taylor Nebel of Hesston caught an inbound pass and took it in for a layup to make it 45-33 Swathers. Arnberger then scored inside to cut Hesston's lead to 10 with 2:26 left. On the ensuing play, Schlick stole the ball in the backcourt and took it in for a layup to decrease the Hesston lead to 45-37.

Dinkel knocked down a jumper to make it 46-39 Hesston with 1:45 left. Then Moore stymied the Eagles' momentum by taking the ball in for a layup to give the Swathers a 49-39 lead. Hesston

went on to pick up the victory.

Colby finished the season with a 17-6 record.

## Colby Middle School team finishes season with no losses

The Colby Middle School eighth-grade girls basketball team dominated the Northwest Kansas League tournament to end the season unbeaten with a 12-0 record.

This marks the second year in a row this Lady Eagles' team has gone undefeated. The girls finished 12-0 as seventh graders.

"The girls really came together as a team during the championship

game," said Coach Kristi Powell. "Hoxie came out with a good game plan, but the girls were patient and played well under pressure."

"This year, the girls were challenged to do new things and develop team unity, and by the end of the season, both were accomplished."

The girls won the League tournament by defeating Atwood, Quinter and Hoxie.

They crushed Atwood 51-24. Shelby Gardner had a team-high 16 points and Alexa Haas added 15. Lauren Bell scored 8, Baily Terrell had 6 and Kenzie Curry and Tomi Miller 2 each.

The Lady Eagles went on to pound Quinter 47-22 and whipped Hoxie 31-18 in the championship game on Feb. 16

## Bulldogs end season at 10-11, losing to Wallace County at tourney

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press  
aheintz@nwkansas.com

The Brewster Bulldogs' season came to an end on Friday as they lost 62-41 to Wallace County in the second round of the Class 1A Regional Basketball Tournament at the Community Building.

The Wildcats jumped ahead of

the Bulldogs early, and they led 20-8 by the end of the first quarter. Brewster rallied in the second quarter, cutting the Sharon Springs boys' lead to 34-31.

The Bulldogs struggled in the third quarter, scoring only five points. Wallace County took advantage by increasing their lead to 48-36 by the end of the quarter. The Bulldogs were outscored 14-5

in the fourth quarter as the Wildcats picked up the victory.

The loss dropped Brewster to 10-11 for the season.

Junior Devan Selby scored a team-high 21 and senior T.J. Preston added 8. Junior Seth Ackerman scored 7, senior Seth Carpenter had 3 and junior Spencer Holm chipped in 2.

## Jayhawks defeat Texas Longhorns

LAWRENCE (AP) — Told it was going to be a rebuilding year, that they were too young, too inexperienced to win another Big 12 title, the Kansas Jayhawks never listened.

The defending national champions were right — and, boy, does it feel good to prove everyone wrong.

Sherron Collins led a second-half comeback with 21 points and seven assists, helping No. 9 Kansas complete its improbable run to a fifth straight Big 12 title by beating Texas 83-73 on Saturday.

"We were underdogs a lot, but we didn't care," Collins said. "We

just wanted to come out and show everybody that we were capable of doing it. We responded well to everyone's doubts."

The Jayhawks felt they had backed into its share of the Big 12 title, finding out — by virtue of Missouri's win over Oklahoma — after a lackluster 84-65 drubbing at Texas Tech on Wednesday. It just didn't seem right to celebrate after playing the worst game of the season.

The Jayhawks left no doubt against Texas, overcoming a bad

stretch in the first half and pulling away in the closing minutes to extend the nation's longest home winning streak to 41 games.

Cole Aldrich helped lead the rally, overcoming a 1-for-6 first half to finish with 12 points and 10 rebounds for the Jayhawks, who won their 26th straight home finale and their ninth title in the 14-year history of the Big 12.

"The other times I've been here, I expected that we played poor if we didn't win the league," Kansas coach Bill Self said.

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