

# Colby High football team prepares for season

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press  
aheintz@nwkansas.com

The Colby High football team has been preparing for the fall season throughout the summer, both in the weight room and at camp.

This year's team will look a lot different than last year's Eagles, who finished with a 6-4 record. Many of last year's key offensive and defensive players graduated in May. This year's team will feature new linebackers, a new fullback and new quarterback.

But Coach Chris Gardner said he has been pleased with the effort and focus his team has displayed this summer.

"It helps as a coach when your kids are

ready to play," said Gardner. "They were ready for the season to start in June."

He said his players have been working hard in the weight room and he was happy with the way they performed at the Chadron State (Neb.) Football Camp from June 8 to 11.

Junior Kale Arnberger will be taking over the reins at quarterback this season, replacing the explosive Heath Stephens. Stephens was a key component in the Eagles' offensive arsenal last season, leading the team in scoring with 10 touchdowns.

Arnberger started one game last year when Stephens was sidelined with a dislocated shoulder. In that contest, the Eagles hammered Smokey Valley 40-0. He completed an impressive 11 of 15 passes overall while throwing for the varsity last

season.

"Kale had a good summer throwing the ball," said Gardner. "He makes great decisions and he does a great job at facilitating the offense."

Senior Ethan Stickel will need to have a good year at running back if the Eagles are going to be successful this season. He had a solid season last year, averaging about six yards per carry.

Stickel will be the only returning starting linebacker from last year's team. The linebacking crew this season will have big shoes to fill, particularly the inside linebackers, who will be replacing two leading tacklers in Tanner Kriss and Corey Sager.

Gardner said players competing for starting linebacker positions are seniors

Torey Taylor and Braden McKee and juniors Andrew Flanagin, Ryan Parker, Corbin Stephens, Dalton Snyder, Sam Kendrick and sophomore Justin Slavens. McKee will be brand new to the team this year. Gardner said he will also be competing for a starting position at defensive back.

There are also several players competing for wide receiver including juniors Troy Koon and Christian Wilson and sophomores Slavens and Caleb Carter.

Gardner said all positions will be up for grabs until a week before their first game against St. Francis on Friday, Sept. 4.

He named several players who will be switching positions this season, including Taylor, from tight end to guard; senior Adam Weber, from guard to fullback; and

Flanagin, from wide receiver to power back when the Eagles run a power set offense, as well as from free safety to linebacker on defense. A power set offense features two tight ends, a quarterback, running back, fullback and power back, said Gardner. This offense was used by the Eagles when they defeated Smokey Valley last season.

The players will be maxing out on bench press, power cling and squats this week from 6 to 9 a.m. in the morning and from 6 to 8 p.m. in the evening at the Colby High weight room. Gardner said the max outs will be open to the public.

The team officially starts practice at 6 a.m. Monday, Aug. 17, at the high school football fields. The boys will have another practice at 4 p.m. that day.

## Taking it to the hoop



Justin Tubbs drove hard to the hoop, while Ross Smiley watched on Saturday afternoon at Fike Park.

## Lady Eagles' tennis squad includes past state qualifiers

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Colby High girl's tennis coach Jennifer Rall says she will have three players with experience in state tournament play returning to her team this season.

Senior Barbara Bickner and juniors Caitlyn Wark and Kayla Hockersmith will provide experience and leadership for the team. Rall said Wark will be moving from doubles to singles competition.

Wark and graduate Lindsey Wilson won the Class 4A state tennis championship last season. They were the first players at the high school to win a state trophy since a singles player did it in 1981. The dynamic duo dominated their opponents all season, posting a record of 39-2.

Wark, the coach said, hopes to achieve the same degree of success in singles action.

"She's a very, very strong player," said Rall. Bickner will return for her final season. She qualified for state last season and went 27-13 in No. 1 singles action.

"She is really good at ground strokes and she's very consistent," said Rall.

Hockersmith finished 33-7 in No. 2 singles last year.

She said her goal is to place in the top five at state competition. She wants to improve her serves and her net play this season.

Rall described Hockersmith as "super quick."

The team will begin practice on Monday, Aug. 17, at Fike Park.

## Royals hand Tampa Bay a 4-1 defeat

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Kansas City's late offensive outburst cost James Shields more than a victory.

John Buck ended Shields' bid for a no-hitter with a leadoff single in the eighth inning, Mitch

Maier drove in three runs and the Royals beat the Tampa Bay 4-1 on Sunday.

Shields dominated the Royals before Buck's hit started a two-run inning. Pinch-runner Ryan Freel advanced all the way to

third when catcher Dioner Navarro made an errant throw to second on Alex Gordon's fielder's choice, and Maier drove him in with an infield single.

Gordon stole home later in the eighth.

## Rockies defeat Cincinnati 6-4

CINCINNATI (AP) — Colorado turned to an unlikely source to finally get a win in extra innings.

Slumping rookie Dexter Fowler's two-out RBI triple in the 11th inning off of Nick Masset helped Colorado beat the Cincinnati Reds 6-4 on Sunday and complete a three-game sweep.

"I was just looking for a pitch over the plate," said Fowler, who entered the game on defense in the seventh inning and struck out in the ninth. "He throws hard, and I'd never faced him before."

Garrett Atkins added a pinch-hit infield single to help Colorado earn its first win in five extra-inning games this season, all on the road.

The Rockies extended their winning streak to four games, their longest since winning four straight from July 6 through July 9, and sent the Reds to their sixth consecutive loss and 12th in their last 13 games.

"That was a great game to grind that out in the manner in which

we did," Colorado manager Jim Tracy said. "We win that game because of several little things that we pride ourselves in."

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