

# Feisty Eagles move ball, can't end streak

If a few plays had gone differently, the Colby High Eagles might have broken Smith Center's storied winning streak Friday night.

Colby's offense was able to move the ball against the Redmen, and the Eagles' defense played solid throughout the game.

But the Redmen showed why they had won 72 straight games going into last Friday's contest. Every time the Eagles seemed to have taken the momentum, Smith Center would make a big play that prevented Colby from taking control.

Much to the Eagles' credit, they never allowed any of these plays crush their spirit. At one point in the fourth quarter, Colby trailed 24-6 with no real chance of making a comeback, but instead of packing it in for the night, the team strung together an impressive drive that ended with a touch-

down run by junior running back Andrew Flanagin.

Friday just wasn't the Eagles night, but the team showed it had the potential to not only play with high-caliber teams, but to beat them.

The beginning of the game didn't go well for Colby. After winning the coin toss, the Eagles decided they wanted to kick off to Smith Center. The Redmen's offense then marched downfield on Colby's defense. Senior Colt Rogers capped off the drive with a 9-yard touchdown run to give Smith Center a 6-0 lead. Junior Timur Shubart's kick was good, making the score 7-0.

The Eagles' offense couldn't get much going on its first two possessions, but the defense adjusted after giving up the touchdown on the opening drive. Smith Center was forced to punt on two of its next three possessions. On

the third, junior Kale Arnberger picked off a pass from the Smith Center quarterback deep in Colby territory and made it to the 25-yard line before he was tackled. The Eagles' offense was unable to keep the momentum, however, and had to punt the ball back to the Redmen.

Colby finally got some things going on offense in the second quarter. Senior fullback Adam Weber and the Eagles' offensive line jump-started the drive. Weber gained two first downs on five straight handoffs, leaving the Eagles inside Smith Center's 40.

Colby's offense wasn't able to move the ball on their next three plays and ended up facing a facing a fourth-and-11 situation. Coach Chris Gardner decided to go for it. That decision paid off when Arnberger connected with junior Corbin Stephens on a 30-yard reception that left Colby on the Red-

men's 10.

It looked like the Eagles were on their way to scoring a touchdown, but Smith Center had other plans. The Redmen managed to keep Colby from getting in the end zone on four straight downs. The Eagles' drive ended when Adam Weber was tackled just short of the goal line on fourth down. The Redmen took over with 51 seconds left in the half. They were unable to put any more points on the board, and the half ended with Smith Center leading 7-0.

Smith Center drew first blood in the second half when Rogers took a handoff and ran it 40 yards for a touchdown to make it 13-0. Shubart booted the extra point between the uprights to extend his team's lead to 14.

The Eagles' offense started their next drive on their own 22 after a short kickoff return by senior Ethan Stickel. Arnberger found Stephens

with a short sideline pass that Stephens turned into a 30-yard gain. Moments later, Arnberger hooked up with Stephens again, this time on a 39-yard touchdown reception to cut the Redmen's lead to 14-6. The two-point conversion attempt failed.

Rogers wasted no time responding. On Smith Center's next possession, he took a handoff and ran 44 yards for a touchdown to increase the lead to 20-6. Shubart kicked the extra point to make it 21-6.

The Colby offense was unable to score on their next series despite advancing the ball deep into Redmen territory.

A series of runs by Flanagin, Stickel and Weber advanced the ball to about midfield. Arnberger hit sophomore tight end Ryan Parker for a 40-yard reception on Smith Center's 11-yard line.

The Eagles gained seven yards

on their next three downs. The third quarter ended with Colby facing a fourth-and-three on Smith Center's 6. An Arnberger pass to start the fourth quarter was deflected, allowing the Redmen to take over on offense.

Shubart booted a 28-yard field goal later in the quarter to increase his team's lead to 24-6. The Eagles were able to put together a successful offensive drive before the game ended. A first-down run by Weber and a reception by Stephens advanced the ball inside Smith Center's 10. Flanagin took the handoff and ran for a touchdown to make it 24-12. The Eagles two-point conversion attempt failed when Arnberger threw an incomplete pass.

The loss dropped the Eagles' record to 4-2. They will play Concordia in a home game at 7 p.m. Friday at Dennen Field.

## Ready, aim, fire



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Junior Tyler Bear threw a pass to a teammate during the Heartland Christian School football team's practice on Friday on the field behind the school. The Crusaders are 3-0 this season. They play at Healy today.

## Colby Lady Trojans runners set personal bests on chilly day

The Colby Community College girls cross country team finished fifth out of seven teams on Saturday at the Fort Hays State Invitational.

Sophomore Scarla Nero led the Lady Trojans, finishing fourth with a time of 18 minutes, 34 seconds. Coach Crystal Berndt said she beat her time at last year's meet by 37 seconds.

Sophomore Breana Yost had the team's second-best time, coming in 26th in 19:29. Sophomore Hifti Kahssay finished 28th with 19:43 and Caroline Masai came in 34th at 20:42.

Other Lady Trojan scores include sophomore Tatiana Bartruff, 21:33; freshman Nicole Boucher, 21:51; sophomore Reba Schiesser, 21:54; freshman Jackie Robledo, 22:40; sophomore Autumn Preston,

23:07; and freshman Lindsay Hoff, 24:57. Berndt said Schiesser's time was 15 seconds better than last years.

"It was very cold with freezing rain, but the ladies stuck with it and ran like like troupers," said Berndt. "Everyone ran their fastest times ever except for Caroline and Hella (Kahssay). They both are not used to the cold weather here quite yet."

Berndt said there were supposed to be 10 teams running in the invitational, but three dropped out due to the cold.

The Lady Trojans will run in the Ollie Invitational at 4 p.m. on Friday, put on by Butler County Community College in in El Dorado.

## Golf regional moved to Thursday

A Class 4A regional gold tournament set for today at the Meadow Lake Golf Course in Colby had to be rescheduled due to the wet, cold weather.

The event has been rescheduled for 11 a.m. Thursday at Meadow Lake, said Larry Gable, activities

director at Colby High. The state tournament will be played Monday at Highlands Golf Club in Hutchinson.

This year's Lady Eagles team has gotten solid performances from some new faces, and expects some good play at regionals. Ju-

nior Abby Miller and Bailey Korperich have both been pleasant surprises and freshman Karly Kriss has also been a positive addition to the team.

Sophomore Kaylee Keck has been the Lady Eagles best player and has consistently won medals.

## Questionable call by umpire plays role in Rockies 6-5 loss

DENVER (AP) — No blown save this time for Brad Lidge. Just another blown call by the umpires.

The Philadelphia Phillies are on the verge of winning their NL playoff series with the Colorado Rockies after their 6-5 win that ended in the early morning hours Monday after a four-hour game

played mostly with temperatures in the mid-20s.

They can wrap it up this afternoon when they send Game 1 winner Cliff Lee against Rockies ace Ubaldo Jimenez.

Lidge, who struggled all season, recorded his first save since Sept. 20 when Troy Tulowitzki got underneath his last pitch and flied

out to left, giving the Phillies a 2-1 lead in this best-of-five series.

Ryan Howard's sacrifice fly off Huston Street in the top of the ninth broke a 5-5 tie but came after Chase Utley's check-swing infield single that should have been ruled a foul ball because it hit him while he was in the batter's box before rolling fair.

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