

Eagles football squad faces tough opponent

By Andy Heintz

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The Colby High varsity football team takes on Buhler at 6 p.m. on Tuesday at Dennen Field. The Crusaders are the No. 8 ranked team in Kansas.

The Crusaders went 8-1 in this season captured the Ark-Valley-Chisholm Trail Division 111 league championship. Buhler's only loss was against No. 6 ranked Andale Indians. They fell to the Indians 41-28. All of the Crusaders wins this season have been blowouts. They won the last three games by an average of about 58 points.

The Crusaders are a high scoring team, so Colby may want to keep its offense on the field as long as possible so it can keep the ball out of the hands of Buhler's offense. The Eagles will need its offensive line to consistently open holes for Colby's running backs in order to have long, sustained drives.

Senior fullback Adam Weber has been the Eagles' battering ram this year. The stocky and powerful Colby fullback's runs up the middle have worn down teams this season. Weber never goes down easily, and when he gets a full head of steam defenders know tackling him will not be a painless experience. Late in games defend-

ers you can see defenders making half-hearted attempts to arm tackle Weber because they aren't willing to pay the price that comes with a body to body collision. Hopefully the toll exacted on defenders who tackle Weber will soften up the Crusaders for significant gains later in the game.

Runs by Weber up the middle can get the opposing team's defense keyed in on plugging up the middle, allowing Eagles' running backs Andrew Flanagin and Ethan Stickle to rush the ball outside of the field.

Stickle's has been Colby's workhorse. He has run for 660 yards and seven touchdowns. He averages over five yards per carry and over 82 yards per game.

Flanagin has been a passing and running threat this season. He has run for four touchdowns and he scored his first receiving touchdown in last weeks 36-13 victory over Larned. When Flanagin is utilized as a dual threat, he makes the Eagles' offense much more dangerous and unpredictable.

Sophomore tight end Ryan Parker and sophomore wide receiver Dalton Snyder are Colby's other two passing threats. Both have caught a touchdowns this season. Parker had two big receptions against Smoky Valley and he caught a pass in the left side of the end zone for a successful

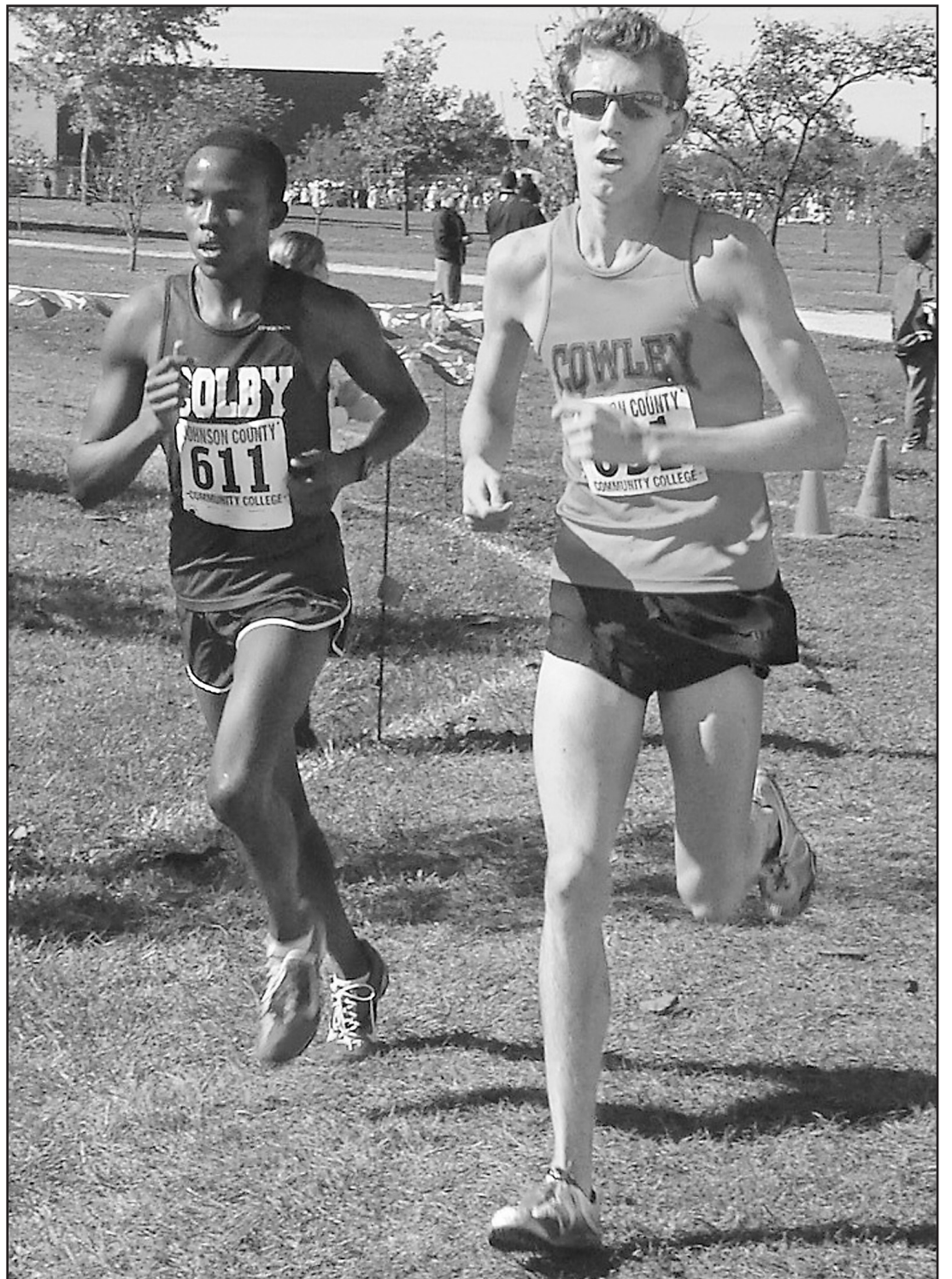
two-point conversion against the Larned Indians.

The Eagles' defense is coming off two solid performances against Indians and Smoky Valley. The starting defense has only given up 14 points in the last two games. Larned's second touchdown was against younger players who rarely had seen little action in varsity games.

The biggest problem with Colby's defense over the last four weeks has been starting out strong. While Smoky Valley's first touchdown a couple weeks ago can be partly blamed on good field position, this can't be said about the other three games. Colby can't afford to get too far behind a team as tough as Buhler. There is no doubt the Eagles defense has played well this season, but they need to come out strong at the start of game to make sure Buhler doesn't run away with the game early.

Colby can win on Tuesday, but they will need to be at the top of their game and they can't be intimidated by their opponents. They need to be the aggressors in the games opening minutes. The Crusaders have only played in one close game this season, so if the Eagles can stay with their opponents, Buhler will have to compete in an atmosphere they are not used to.

Going the distance



JAMES ORTIZ/Colby Community College
Colby Community College sophomore cross country runner Albert Mong'ony took sixth place at the Jayhawk West/Region VI Championships on Oct. 24 in Overland Park with a time of 26 minutes, 13 seconds. The Trojans will be running in the National Junior College Athletic Association Championship at 10 a.m. next Monday in East Peoria, Ill.

Titans defeat Stockton in huge comeback victory

By Bonnie Holm

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The Triplains-Brewster Titans never gave up Friday night, overcoming a second-quarter deficit of 30 points to beat the visiting Stockton Tigers 48-42 in overtime.

The Stockton team started strong, racking up a 22-0 lead at the end of the first quarter. Despite some defensive highlights, including a quarterback sack by senior Clay Rogge, the Titans were unable to stop the Tigers' running game.

The second was a little better for the home team, as senior quarterback Brett Gfeller completed passes to senior Devan Selby for two consecutive first downs. The Titans had the ball on the Tigers one-yard line when Gfeller fumbled. Senior Lane Ochs picked the ball up for the Titans and ran into the end zone for a touchdown. The extra point attempt failed, and the Tigers led 22-6. Stockton scored on the next series of plays, increasing their lead to 28-6.

The Titans tried to get things going with a lateral from Gfeller to senior Devan Selby, but the ball sailed over Selby's head and Stockton recovered. The Tigers scored again, and the Titans found themselves trailing 36-6.

Things were looking dim, but the game was about to change.

On the next possession, Selby ran down the left side for a first down. This was followed by senior Tad Sheets scrambling for another first down to the Stockton

39. Gfeller sprinted the remaining yards on the next play, and scored a Titan touchdown to narrow the gap to 36-12.

With Stockton in possession of the ball, Sheets intercepted a pass and ran it to the Tigers' 36. Senior Spencer Holm made a diving catch for a Titans first down. The Stockton defense held, and the Titans were forced to punt. With time running out in the first half, Holm recovered a Tigers fumble, and advanced the ball to the Stockton 15-yard line. Gfeller scored on the next play to cut the Tigers' lead to 36-18.

Stockton fumbled the ball on the ensuing kick off, and the Titans recovered. With Sheets now at quarterback, freshman Ethan Plummer caught a pass for a first down. Sheets completed a pass to Holm on the Stockton two, but time expired and the Titans headed to the locker room at half-time trailing 36-18.

The Titans came out strong in the third quarter, advancing the ball down the field on successful pass completions to Holm and rushing yardage by Plummer and Sheets. Another pass to Holm on a slant pattern set the Titans up on at the 2, where Gfeller ran it in for the score.

Gfeller also ran in the two-point conversion to make it 36-26 with 6:59 left in the third. The Tigers scored on their next possession, but their two-point conversion failed. At the end of the third quarter, the score was 42-26.

The Titans' passing game continued to dominate their offense, as Rogge caught a pass over the

middle for a touchdown, narrowing the Tigers' lead to 42-32. Rogge scored on the same play for a successful two-point conversion. With the entire student bodies of Brewster and Triplains yelling "defense," the Titans stepped up and held the Tigers on downs. Crucial tackles in the backfield by Plummer, Gfeller and Rogge energized the team.

With Sheets in as quarterback, the Titans marched the ball down the field. A pass to Selby was intercepted by Stockton, but called back on a pass interference penalty. The Titans scored on a pass to Plummer, and followed with a successful two-point conversion by Gfeller to tie the score at 42.

In overtime, Stockton took possession first on the 10. The Tigers fumbled, and Holm recovered. On the next play, Gfeller scrambled and eluded defenders as he ran into the end zone for the win. The Titans' fans rushed the field to congratulate their team on a great come-from-behind victory.

Leading stats for the Titans were Gfeller with 149 yards passing, 126 yards rushing, and 21 tackles, Sheets with 92 yards passing and 60 yards rushing, Holm with 102 yards receiving and 21 yards rushing, Rogge with 34 yards receiving and 15 tackles, Selby with 19 yards rushing and 52 yards receiving, and Plummer with 49 yards receiving and nine tackles.

Five Trojans wrestlers take first at opening meet

By Trent Rose

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Colby Community College wrestler Bekzad Abdurakhmonov finished first at 165 pounds and was named Outstanding Wrestler of the tournament at the second annual Daniel Cormier Open on Saturday at the Community Building.

Cormier is a two-time Olympian and former Trojans wrestler.

The Trojans had five wrestlers win their weight class in its home opener.

The open saw fewer participants, mainly due to the weather. Several Wyoming and Colorado teams had to cancel due to road closings. Colby, Fort Hays State and the University of Nebraska-Kearney were the only schools to have wrestlers.

Abdurakhmonov defeated Drew Comito of the Kearney Lopers and also defeated teammates Donovan Prince and John Hill in exhibition

matches.

Brent Luedke finished first at 133 pounds, finishing 2-1 for the day. Luedke won by a pin over Rory Wilkinson of Fort Hays State. He was listed as unattached, meaning the wrestler is not on the varsity team. Since the event was an open, anyone could participate.

Luedke also defeated Jarek Patterson (Lopers-unattached) by a 8-4 decision, and lost 2-1 to Tim Crocker (Lopers-unattached).

The other Colby wrestlers who took first were Nick Kriss, 197

pounds; Donovan Prince (wrestling unattached), 174; and Patrick Fletcher at heavyweight.

Luis Camacho finished second at 141, defeating Jesse Gantz of the Tigers and losing to Nebraska Kearney's Kazuhiro Fujinawa.

James Hirsch took third at 149 pounds, finishing the tournament with a 2-2 record. Jonathon Hill took second at 174.

The Trojans were without starters Ganbayer Sanjaa at 157 pounds and Everett Urban at 149 pounds.

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