

Free Press Picks

Broncos vs. Chiefs:

"With Kyle Orton back at the helm the Broncos will be able to overcome all the mistakes they're bound to make. Josh McDaniels' profanity seemed to whip the Broncos in to shape mid-game, so here's hoping he curses

Texas vs. Nebraska: Texas 28-14 Florida vs. Alabama: Florida 35-28 Rams vs. Bears: Bears 31-7

Winner: Broncos 21-20

Accuracy: 63%



Kevin Bottrell, editor of the Colby Free Press.

"Every time I pick the Broncos to win they lose and the Chiefs have won two games that I predicted they wouldn't, so I'm going with the Chiefs in a tightly-contested game."

Texas vs. Nebraska: Texas 28-7 Florida vs. Alabama: Florida 28-21 Rams vs. Bears: Bears 28-14

Winner: Chiefs 21-18

Accuracy: 47%



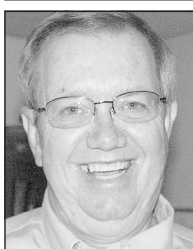
Andy Heintz, sports editor at the Colby Free Press.

"The Broncos will have trouble winning at Arrowhead stadium on a cold day."

Texas vs. Nebraska: Texas 31-14 Florida vs. Alabama: Florida 28-21 Rams vs. Bears: Bears 24-17

Winner: Chiefs 24-21

Accuracy: 53%



Rich Epp, sports broadcaster at KTCC.

"Denver is coming off a huge Thanksgiving night win over the Giants, breaking their mid-season funk. The Arrowhead crowd will keep this rivalry game close, but the Broncos have the edge."

Texas vs. Nebraska: Texas 24-13 Florida vs. Alabama: Florida 31-21 Rams vs. Bears: Bears 27-20

Winner: Broncos 30-27

Accuracy: 68%



Sacha Sanguinetti, general manager at KRQD/KXXX.

"Denver has regained momentum after a four-game losing streak. The Chiefs don't match up well with Denver, especially without receiver Dwayne Bowe."

Texas vs. Nebraska: Texas 31-14 Florida vs. Alabama: Alabama 24-21 Rams vs. Bears: Bears 28-10

Winner: Broncos 24-10

Accuracy: 63%



Trent Rose, sports info. director at Colby College.

"The Chiefs are slowly rebuilding, but they are getting it going. Ridding themselves of Larry Johnson changed the karma of the team."

Texas vs. Nebraska: Texas 34-17 Florida vs. Alabama: Alabama 21-17 Rams vs. Bears: Bears 35-17

Winner: Chiefs 27-24

Accuracy: 68%



Jimmy Chavez, sports broadcaster at KRQD.

Lady Eagles win first game

Colby High girls varsity basketball team scored 17 of the Lady Eagles 36 points to help lead her team to a 36-22 victory in their season opener against Riley County on Thursday.

Kaus was extremely efficient in the game making 6-of-8 shots. She was 1-of-2 from the three-point-line and 4-of-6 from the free-throw line. Sophomore Morgan Bell added 7. Colby junior Kayla Hockersmith led the team in rebounds and assists with 7 and 3 respectively.

Coach Parker McKee said Kaus was a hard matchup for the Lady Falcons because she was too fast for Riley County's bigger post players and she could use her size to post up Riley County's smaller players.

The girls led 16-11 at halftime. The Lady Falcons lost court press caused Colby to commit 11 turnovers in the first half. The Lady Eagles adapted to the press in the second and only turned the ball

over six more times.

"We found a way to be stronger with the ball," said McKee. "Riley County is so big and athletic that it was hard to simulate their press in practice."

McKee complimented his junior point guard Kayla Hockersmith's ability to deal with the pressure defense the Lady Falcons applied almost the whole game.

"She handled the trap well," said McKee.

Colby's defense and rebounding stifled Riley County's offense. The Lady Falcons only made 32 percent of their shots and they only got two offensive rebounds in the whole game.

"Defensively we contested a lot of shots and didn't give them many second chance opportunities," said McKee.

Colby plays its second tournament game against Newton High School tonight at Hays High School.



Charlene Kaus

Colby High sophomore girls varsity basketball player Morgan Bell drove the ball to the basket during the Lady Eagles season opener against Riley County High School on Thursday night.

Colby varsity team loses season opener

By Andy Heintz Colby Free Press aheintz@nwkansas.com

The Colby High School boys varsity basketball team lost its season opener 61-38 to Riley County High School in the first round of the Hays City Shoot Out tournament at Hays High School on Thursday.

The game was a tale of two halves. Unfortunately for the Eagles their turnover-heavy first half left them with a 24-point deficit they couldn't erase in the second.

Things started out well for Colby as they jumped out to a 7-0 lead, but the complexion of the game changed after Riley County began applying a full-court press on the Eagles.

Coach Jon McKee said the boy's half-court defense was good in the first half, but the Falcons were able to get a lot of uncontested layups off the turnovers. The Falcons ended up scoring 34 points off Colby turnovers in the game.

The Eagles were able to settle down and play much better in the second half. They actually won the second half 23-22. But it didn't matter much, because they were trailing 39-15 to start

the half. Even though Colby was too far behind to mount much of a comeback, they showed they had the ability to handle the press in the second half.

"They started attacking the pressure and getting easy points in the second half," McKee said.

The Eagles' half-court defense remained solid in the second half and the decrease in turnovers on offense led to the Falcons getting fewer easy baskets. Colby held Riley County to 28 percent shooting in the second.

The boys struggled from the three-point line going 0-9 in the game. They were also outscored 28-18 inside the paint. McKee said the Falcons were even trapping Colby's post players and the pressure caused the Eagles to struggle offensively.

Colby senior Chaz Winger scored a team-high 18 points. Junior Corbin Stephens added 7 and senior Brock Wagoner chipped in with 6.

The Eagles will play their second tournament game against Newton High School tonight at Felton Middle School in Hays.

Nebraska faces Texas

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska is looking to mess with Texas and get a little payback for its Cornhusker brethren who lost to the Longhorns in the first Big 12 championship game.

If the two-touchdown underdog Huskers happen to win Saturday night, they'll ruin unbeaten and third-ranked Texas' chance to play for the national championship.

Such an upset would be hard-pressed to match the magnitude of the 1996 game in St. Louis, where 20-point-underdog Texas stunned the Huskers 37-27 and ended their hopes of winning a third straight national title.

Jason Peter, who played defensive tackle on Nebraska's 1994-95 and '97 national championship teams, said he remembers that loss to Texas more than any of the 49 wins he was part of during the Huskers' domination of college football in the mid 1990s.

"There was a big emptiness in everyone's stomach knowing what we just let slip from our fingers, our grasp," Peter recalled. "You can chalk it up to a bunch of things — looking ahead, guys coming off the flu after that Colorado game in the

snow — or you can chalk it up to Texas having our number. We just couldn't get the job done."

The setup for Saturday's game at Cowboys Stadium in Arlington, Texas, is similar to the situation in '96.

The Longhorns (12-0), led by Heisman Trophy front-runner Colt McCoy, have a quick-strike offense averaging 43 points a game and a defense and special teams that rank among the nation's best. All they need is a win over Nebraska to play in the national championship game in Pasadena, Calif., against Florida or Alabama.

The 21st-ranked Huskers (9-3), like the Longhorns in '96, are playing their best football late in the season and have nothing to lose. If they win, they will have overachieved by earning a BCS bowl bid. If they lose, they'll likely play in the Holiday Bowl and meet preseason expectations for coach Bo Pelini's second year.

Texas entered the 1996 Big 12 championship game 7-4 and unranked.

The Longhorns had gotten off to a 3-4 start but won their last four regular-season games to take the South Division.

Lady Jayhawks squad slips by Bruins 54-49

LAWRENCE (AP) — In the final minutes of Kansas' game against UCLA, both teams committed turnovers and miscues, botching chances to finally take complete control of the game.

The Jayhawks (5-2) struggled to simply attempt a shot. The Bruins (4-3) struggled to convert turn-

overs and layups into points. Kansas got 15 points from Danielle McCray and managed to do enough to sneak past UCLA, 54-49, Thursday night.

"About the only goal we accomplished is to play poorly and win," Jayhawks coach Bonnie Henrickson said.

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