

College wrestlers compete in open

Colby Community College wrestling coach Steve Lampe took six freshman wrestlers to the University of Nebraska-Kearney Loper Open last weekend.

Lampe said he makes wrestling in the open optional for his wrestlers. They can choose to stay in Colby and start studying for finals if they want.

Other wrestlers came from Dana College in Blair, Neb.; Hastings College; the University of Nebraska, Omaha; Chadron State College; the University of Oklahoma, the University of Nebraska, Lincoln; Labette County Community College; Baker University; Dakota Wesleyan University; Western State College from Gunnison, Colo.; Utah Valley University from Salt Lake City; Missouri Baptist College from St. Louis; Central Missouri State University; Iowa Central Community College; Truman State University from Kirksville, Mo.; and a club wrestling team from Waynesville, Neb.

Colby's Cody Wark went 1-2 at 125 pounds and Brent Luedke went 2-2 at 133. Wark pinned one

opponent, got pinned and lost a 13-4 decision. Luedke pinned an opponent and won a 8-6 decision. He was also pinned twice.

Jerad Shroeder and Everett Urban went 0-2 at 141 and 149 respectively. Schroeder lost 15-4 and 11-7 and Urban lost 4-3 and 4-1.

Pat Fletcher went 2-2 at 285. He pinned two of his opponents, got pinned and lost 7-5. R.K. Rockhill also went 0-2 at 285. He was pinned in his first match and lost his second match by a decision.

"We're a little inconsistent, but we have a lot of potential," said Lampe.

The coach said he thought he had some wrestlers besides sophomore standouts Bekzod Abdurakhmanov and Ganbayar Sanjaa who could place in state competition this year.

The Trojans won't wrestle again until the National Duals on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 9 and 10 in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

The college recently agreed to have two more duals at the Community Building this season.

Middle school coach starts basketball league

Matt Ludwick, assistant eighth-grade basketball coach at Colby Middle School, says he plans to start a Colby Area Youth Basketball League for Thomas County kids in first through sixth grade this January.

The league will run through early March. Cost will be \$15 per person to join. This includes a T-shirt and an award, Ludwick said.

Both boys and girls can join the league. The league is being sponsored by First United Method-

ist Church. Games and practices will be at the Colby Grade School Gym. A parent-coach meeting will be held at 7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 4, at the church. Ludwick said he encourages parents to pay the \$15 before the meeting.

"I want to invest my time to make sure these kids can play basketball," said Ludwick. Anyone who has questions about the league can contact the church at (785) 460-2761 or call Ludwick at (785) 462-2271.

Raiders upset Broncos

DENVER (AP) — JaMarcus Russell found redemption and Chaz Schilens together in the end zone.

Schilens caught a 10-yard touchdown pass from Russell with 35 seconds left that gave the Raiders a 20-19 scrum-filled win on Sunday that dealt a serious blow to the Broncos' playoff hopes.

"They're all special, but this one's pretty high," said Russell, who was benched a month ago and passed by Charlie Frye on the depth chart this week.

The former No. 1 overall draft pick entered when Frye was knocked out of the game early in the fourth quarter when he struck his head on the ground after a hard hit from linebacker Andra Davis.

The Broncos (8-6) are still in the AFC wild-card hunt but they were

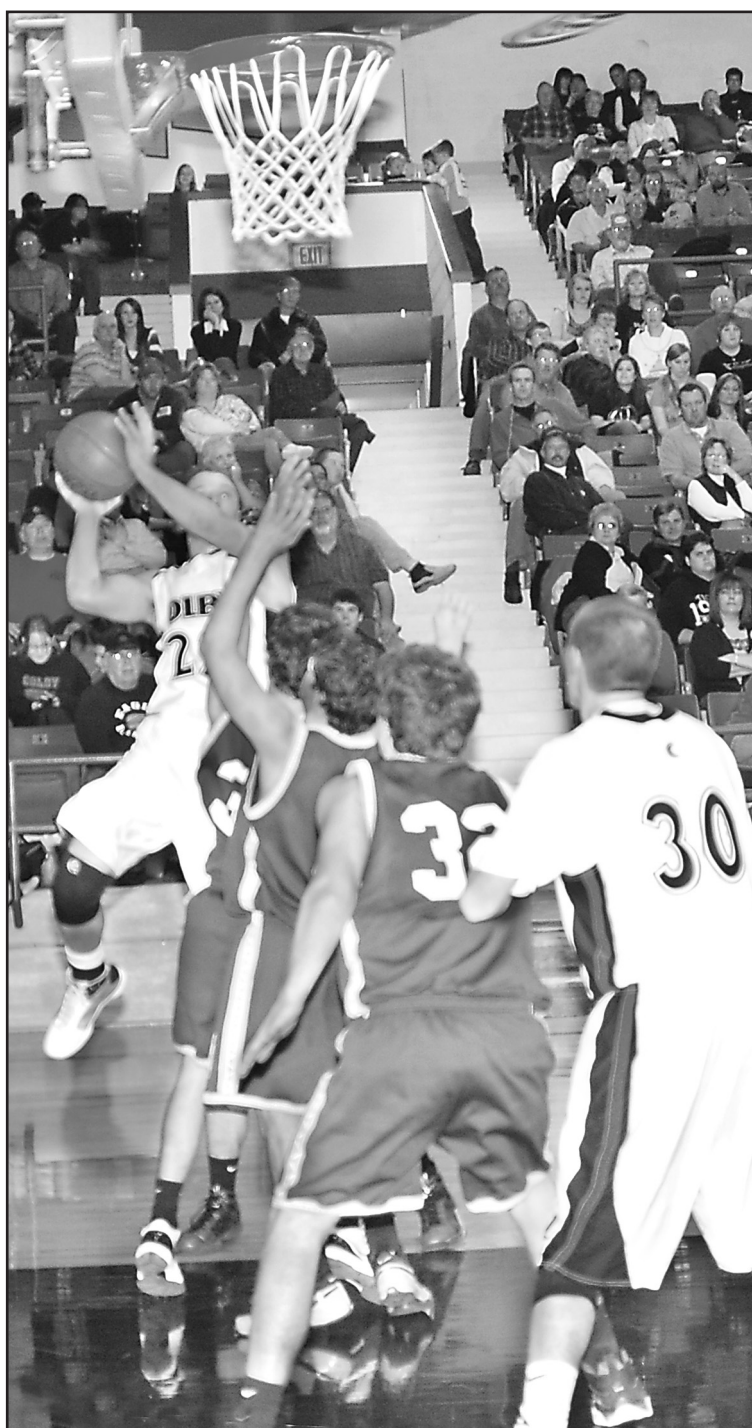
expecting a win over Oakland (5-9), who won at Invesco Field for the second straight season thanks to Russell. Now, they'll likely have to win at Philadelphia and beat Kansas City at home to end their three-year playoff drought.

Although Russell and Schilens delivered the knockout, it was a heads-up play by Raiders cornerback Stanford Routt that enabled Oakland to pull off the upset.

With the Broncos ahead 16-13 in the closing minutes, Brandon Stokley hauled in a pass from Kyle Orton and raced 63 yards before being horse-collared by Routt at the Oakland 4.

The penalty saved the game-clinching touchdown and gave the Broncos the ball at the 2.

Once again, the Broncos couldn't punch it in from close.



Senior Corbin Stephens took driving layup during the Colby High basketball team's game against St. Francis on Friday at the Community Building. The Eagles lost to Oakley 41-29.

Colby boys' team struggles in loss

By Andy Heintz
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The Colby High boys struggled in a 41-29 loss to Oakley on Friday night at the Colby Community Building.

The Eagles had trouble taking care of the ball in the first half. Colby turned the ball over without a score on 16 of its 31 possessions in the half. The team ended up with 26 turnovers in the game.

Coach Jon McKee said his players were telegraphing too many of their passes.

Oakley led the Eagles 17-12 at the half. The Plainsmen outscored Colby 24-17 in the second half and picked up the victory.

Coach McKee said sometimes his team didn't want to execute the offense.

"We have too many guys trying to do their own thing, and it hurts the flow of the offense," he said.

Colby shot a little under 32 percent from the field, connecting on 12 of 38 shots and making 4 of 8 free throws. They also cold from beyond the arc, making only 1 of 10 three-pointers.

One positive aspect of the game is that the Eagles outscored Oakley 12-2 on points in the paint.

McKee said he was disappointed with his team's performance. "We didn't play with any intensity," he said.

Senior Braden McKee, the coaches' son, scored a team-high 8 points and senior Corbin Stephens added 7, junior Andrew Ketchum and senior Chaz Winger had 2 each and senior Ryley Hass, junior Spencer Tubbs and sophomores Jordan Rasmussen, Justin Slavens and Braden Sager all had 1. With the loss, the team's record dropped to 1-5. After New Year's, they will take on Holcomb at 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8, at the Community Building.

Lady Eagles beat undefeated team

By Andy Heintz
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The Colby High girls made the then-undefeated Oakley Lady Plainsmen look, well, plain on Friday night. The Lady Eagles left no doubt who was the superior team that night, crushing Oakley 39-19.

The Colby girl's nearly flawless offensive execution and stifling defense left Oakley looking off-balance and vulnerable. Oakley had been averaging over 60 points a contest going into Friday's game. The team had beaten its last two opponents by an average of 37.5 points, but Colby held them to only five points in the first half.

"Our defense made them run their offense from farther out than they wanted to," said coach Parker McKee.

The Eagles led 15-5 at the half. Opening the third quarter, junior Kayla Hockersmith got a rebound in amongst the trees and somehow managed to stick it back in to give Colby a 17-5 lead. Moments later, junior Katrina Kaus was fouled while trying to score inside. She drained both her free throws to extend the lead to 19-5. Oakley scored the game's next three points to cut the Colby lead to 19-8.

Later, Katherine Kaus, Katrina twin, missed a shot inside, but junior Kelsey Shields grabbed the

rebound and stuck it back in to make it 21-8. Katrina Kaus found her sister down low with a beautiful pass and Katherine laid it in to increase the Lady Eagles' lead to 23-10.

Colby continued to shut down the Lady Plainsmen's defense as the game wore on. They also continued to get high percentage shots from their offense. Shields fired a pass to a cutting Katherine Kaus, who laid it off the backboard seconds before buzzer went off to end of the third quarter.

Katherine hit a three-pointer from the left corner to make it 29-13 in the fourth. Later, she sank a jumper from the free-throw line. Hockersmith faked like she was heading for the three-point line and cut hard to the basket, where she took a picture-perfect pass from Shields for an easy layup. Freshman Alexa Haas hit 1 of 2 free throws to give the team a 37-18 lead. The Lady Eagles went on to win handily.

"They played relaxed," said Parker McKee. "They played within themselves."

McKee said the tough competition his team faced in the Hays City Shoot-Out earlier this season helped prepare the girls for Oakley.

With the win, the girls improved their record to 4-2. After the holiday break, they will play Holcomb at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8, at the Community Building.

Cats hammer Alabama

MOBILE, Ala. (AP) — Final exams and a tiring travel schedule didn't cool off Jacob Pullen and No. 17 Kansas State.

Pullen hit six 3-pointers and scored a season-high 30 points, leading the Wildcats to an 87-74 victory over Alabama on Saturday night a day after finishing finals.

"I was ecstatic with the fact that our guys continue to build on the success that we've been kind of building here, especially away from home," Kansas State coach Frank Martin said. "Our practice schedule was just crazy all week. Having to travel after taking our last set of finals (Friday), then turn around and fly here and play against a team that I know is going to compete, I was proud of how our guys zoned in and came out ready to play tonight."

The Wildcats (10-1) dominated most of the game, shrugging off the Crimson Tide's only second-half rally after building an 18-point lead against a team guided by Martin's high school teammate and longtime friend,

Anthony Grant. The two clasped hands and embraced as the final seconds ticked off.

Wally Judge added 15 points for Kansas State, which has won seven straight for the first time in Martin's two-plus seasons. Denis Clemente scored 11 and dished out four assists.

Mikhail Torrance led Alabama (7-4) with 20 points and JaMychal Green added 17 before fouling out with 5:26 left. Senario Hillman added 11 points for the Tide.

They couldn't keep up with Pullen, though, who stayed hot even after a weeklong layoff for finals. At one point, he and Alabama were tied at 20-all. He made half of the game's 12 3-pointers and accounted for all of the Wildcats' makes.

Pullen also had four assists and three steals while committing six of the Wildcats' 22 turnovers against Alabama's full-court press.

Pullen's previous season-best was a 28-point performance last weekend against UNLV.

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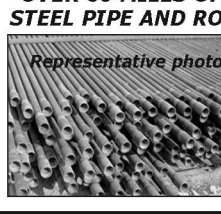
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Hope you have a
wonderful
holiday season!


Our office will be closing Thursday, December 24th at Noon and we will be closed all day on Thursday and Friday to observe the holiday.

THERE WILL BE NO PAPER ON
DECEMBER 24TH OR 25TH!

Deadlines: Country Advocate ads for 12/30/09
Wednesday, December 23rd at Noon. Colby Free Press:
12/23/09 paper deadline is Monday, December 21st by Noon.
12/28/09 paper deadline is Wednesday, December 23rd by Noon.

We will be back to serve you on Monday, December 28th!

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