

Colby boys lose 64-54

By Andy Heintz

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A strong fourth quarter for Holcomb High proved to be too much for the Colby Eagles, who fell to the Longhorns on Friday in their first game after the Christmas break.

The Longhorns defeated the Eagles 64-54 at the Community Building.

The teams were evenly matched, and the game's momentum switched back and forth several times.

Holcomb scored the game's first two buckets before Colby senior Braden McKee drilled a baseline jumper to cut the lead to 4-2. A few minutes later, Eagles' senior Chaz Winger stuck in a basket from the left side to make it 9-8 Longhorns.

Holcomb led 11-9 when Colby Senior Ryley Haas went on a 7-0 tear that gave Colby a 16-11 lead. Haas managed to slip past the entire Longhorns defense unnoticed, and drove in for a layup after receiving a long inbound pass from the other side of the court to tie the game at 11. Moments later, he sank a three-pointer to make it 14-11. Then he made another driving layup to give the Eagles a five-point advantage. The Longhorns made the last two baskets of the quarter, which ended with Colby clinging to a 16-15 lead.

Holcomb scored the first basket of the second quarter, giving the Longhorns a one-point lead. Senior Brock Wagoner shot a three-pointer from the right corner that rattled around the rim and fell in to make it 19-17 Colby. Moments later, the boys would provide a textbook example of how to break a press. While being double-teamed, junior Corbin Stephens found Wagoner with a pass that he caught a little past half court and immediately fired to an open Spencer Tubbs, who laid it in.

Stephens hit a long jumper to give the Eagles a 23-18 lead with 2:45 remaining in the half. Winger made an acrobatic layup to make it 25-20 Colby a little later. The Longhorns controlled the last couple

minutes of the half and led 30-27 at the break.

Holcomb went on an 8-0 run to start the third. Trey DeLaRosa scored the Longhorns' first three buckets.

Stephens carried the Eagles on offense in the third, scoring 9 of his team's 12 points in the quarter. During the third, he hit a pretty turnaround fall-away jumper, a midrange jump shot, a driving layup and a three-pointer. Colby trailed 41-39 at the end of the quarter.

DeLaRosa once again came up big for the Longhorns in the fourth. He made a layup while being fouled and he sank his free throw to complete the three-point play. Then he hit a long jumper from the left corner to give his team a 52-43 lead. Holcomb scored the next basket to increase its lead to 11.

While posting up on his defender, Winger dished it to a cutting Haas, who swooped in for a layup to cut the Longhorns' lead to 54-45. Moments later, Winger hit two foul shots to make it 54-47. But DeLaRosa managed to get open near the bucket, where he made a layup to extend his team's lead to 9. The Longhorns increased their lead to 61-49 with a minute remaining and went on to pick up the victory.

Stephens had a team-high 15 points and Haas and Winger each had 11. Braden McKee scored 9, Wagoner had 4 and junior Andrew Ketchum and Tubbs both had 2.

Despite the loss, coach Jon McKee said he thought the game was a step in the right direction.

"They looked for each other and they got the ball inside," he said.

McKee made some changes in game, inserting junior Andrew Ketchum and junior Kale Arberger in the starting lineup for the first time this season.

He said the five starters were the best defenders on the team.

With the loss, the team's record dropped to 1-6. They play McCook High from Nebraska at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday at the Community Building. The girls game starts at 6 p.m.



Colby High senior Braden McKee went up for a shot during the Eagles' game against Holcomb on Friday at the Community Building. Colby fell to the Longhorns 64-54.

Lady Eagles dominate game, end opponents' perfect season

By Andy Heintz

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The Colby High Lady Eagles spoiled another team's perfect season for the second game in the row Friday, and they made it look like a walk in the park.

Three weeks after ending Oakley's undefeated season, the girls overwhelmed the 5-0 Holcomb Lady Longhorns 55-36 on Friday at the Colby Community Building.

"We did a better job reversing the ball on offense and making the extra pass," said coach Parker McKee.

Sophomore Morgan Bell hit a short jump shot off the backboard to give Colby an early 2-0 lead. Breanna Gottschalk of Holcomb pushed the ball down court for what looked to be a wide open layup, but a hustling Kayla Hockersmith was able to catch her from behind and knock the ball out of bounds. Bell then made a mid-range jumper to extend the Lady Eagles' lead to 5-2 a little later

on. "Morgan Bell came out ready to play," said the coach.

The girls continued to play well defensively in the first half. Junior Katherine Kaus took a charge with two minutes remaining in the first quarter. Gottschalk hit a three-pointer to tie the game at seven with only a few seconds remaining in the first quarter.

Freshman Alexa Haas buried a short jumper to make it 9-7 Colby early in the second. The Longhorns' Ashley Baier scored on drive to tie the game at 9. Bell drilled a three-pointer to recapture the lead for the Lady Eagles.

Junior Katrina Kaus scored on driving layup down the left baseline while being fouled to extend Colby's lead to 14-9. Her free-throw attempt was off the mark, but she was able to get her own rebound and stick it in to make it 16-9. Haas nailed a three-pointer to give the girls their first double-digit lead of the night. Moments later, she stole the ball and jetted down court for a layup to extend the lead to 21-9.

"I think our quickness really affected them," said McKee.

Colby led 22-12 at the half. Hockersmith started the third by hitting a long jumper from near the top of the key to stretch the Lady Eagles' lead to 12.

Colby continued to give the Lady Longhorns trouble on defense. Hockersmith stole the ball about midcourt, sped down and fired a pass to Katrina Kaus, who banked in a left-handed layup.

"Katrina runs the floor very well," said McKee.

Katherine Kaus muscled in a layup late in the third while being fouled, then made her free throw to complete play.

The girls continued to control the tone of the game, and led 45-26 with 3:38 left in the fourth. Near the end of the game, freshman Lauren Bell fired a beautiful cross-court pass to her sister Morgan, who laid it in to make it 51-28.

Morgan Bell led the team in scoring with 14, Haas had 11 and Katrina Kaus added 10. Katherine Kaus had 9 and Lauren Bell and

Jayhawks upset by Tennessee

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — The loss of four key players helped Tennessee come together as a team. Now No. 1 Kansas is looking to do the same after failing to survive the second of two close games.

Scotty Hopson had 17 points and No. 16 Tennessee, with a lineup thinned by suspensions, dismissals and injuries, handed Kansas its first loss of the season, 76-68 on Sunday night.

"It's pretty amazing what chemistry can do when guys put their minds to something and know their backs are up against the wall a little bit and they rally, and they don't quit and they believe in themselves," Tennessee coach Bruce Pearl said.

Kansas' loss leaves No. 2 Texas and No. 3 Kentucky as the only unbeaten in Division I, and it was the fourth this weekend by a Top Ten team, joining No. 4 Purdue, No. 5 Duke and No. 8 West Virginia.

"The thing I will tell you is this: I don't know if Tennessee was a team until this past week. I don't know if Kansas is a team yet," Kansas coach Bill Self said.

Kansas' Tyshawn Taylor stole the ball and dished it to Brady Morningstar, who hit a 3-pointer with 1:14 left to cut Tennessee's lead to 71-68.

Skylar McBee, one of three walk-ons who saw playing time for Tennessee, answered with his own 3 as the shot clock expired.

"McBee's shot was worth how many hours in the gym?" Pearl said. "When other kids were doing everything else, you could see McBee in the gym practicing all night long. It paid off — the beautiful thing about sports."

Sherron Collins, who bailed the Jayhawks (14-1) out of a near loss to Cornell on Wednesday with a career-high 33 points, couldn't help this time, missing three shots before time expired. Collins led Kansas with 22 points.

Kansas couldn't find its composure in front of 21,936 screaming Tennessee fans at a sold-out Thompson-Boling Arena, which was hosting a No. 1 team for the first time. The Jayhawks turned the ball over 16 times, while Tennessee (12-2) had only eight turnovers.

It was the Vols' first game after Pearl dismissed Tyler Smith on Friday, a week after the senior was arrested on misdemeanor gun and drug charges. Tennessee was also playing without Cameron Tatum, Melvin Goins and Brian Williams, who were arrested Jan. 1 with Smith.

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