



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby High sophomore Katherine Kaus looked for someone to pass to during the Lady Eagles' game Friday at Hoxie.

Lady Eagles win by 2 in low-scoring game

By Andy Heintz

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It may not have been pretty, but the Lady Eagles managed to win their sixth straight game Friday at Hoxie. The Colby girls had to overcome the Lady Indians' unconventional defense on their way to a 24-22 win.

Hoxie employed a man-to-man defense where all the Lady Indians played way off their people. This allowed the Lady Eagles to take uncontested three pointers, but it clogged up the lane. Colby was not willing to settle for too many three-point shots because no one would be in position to get a rebound if they missed.

"We really had to value every possession," said coach Parker McKee. "It's hard to get a rebound when their whole team is in the lane."

The game stayed close throughout the first half. Colby led 11-9 with 4:01 left in the second quarter, but the girls looked a little rattled near the end of the half. Both junior Kayla Hockersmith and sophomore Morgan Bell committed uncharacteristic turnovers.

Colby decided to call the Lady

Indians' bluff in the quarter's final minutes. Hockersmith picked up the ball way past the three-point line and held it in both hands waiting to see if the Lady Indians would come out of their defense. For several seconds nobody on either team moved as the crowd waited to see who would blink first. Would Colby try to score or would the Lady Indians finally come out and guard them? Finally, Hockersmith's defender came out and guarded her close and action resumed. Colby never scored on the play, however.

The Lady Eagles' continued to struggle on offense, but their solid defensive play was enough to give them a 14-12 halftime lead.

Sarah Farber scored for Hoxie to tie the game at 14 at the start of the third. Hockersmith knocked down a jumper to regain Colby's two-point lead. Colby led 18-16 at the end of the third. Farber scored the first bucket of the fourth to tie the game at 18. A Colby turnover led to a transition basket by Hoxie's Carman Hill to give the Lady Indians a 20-18 lead. Junior Katrina Kaus buried a huge three-pointer to regain the lead.

Hoxie's Shelby Heim was fouled by Katherine Kaus while

going up for a layup. She hit 1 here free throws to tie the game at 21. The Lady Indians' eventually took a 22-21 lead.

Later on, Katherine Kaus got fouled while attempting a reverse layup. She knocked down both free throws to give the Lady Eagles a 23-22 lead.

"Katherine has confidence in herself and she wants the ball at the end of the game," coach McKee said.

Hoxie failed to score on offense. The Lady Indians applied fierce pressure on defense, and they ended up fouling Katherine Kaus near the halfcourt line. She hit her first free-throw and missed her second, making the score 24-22.

The Lady Indians' Mackenzie Mense traveled with two seconds left and Colby picked up the win.

Katherine Kaus led the team in scoring with 9 and Katrina added 6. Sophomore Morgan Bell scored 4, junior Shelby Terrell 3 and Hockersmith 2.

With the win, the girls improved their record to 7-2. They will play Goodland at 6:30 p.m. Thursday at the Community Building in the first round of the 25th annual Paul Wintz/Tom Bowen Orange and Black Basketball Classic.

Colby High boys prevail in overtime

By Andy Heintz

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Junior Corbin Stephens scored a team-high 19 points at Hoxie on Friday, but Stephens' most important play was probably a pass. With less than a minute left in the second half, he found junior Spencer Tubbs near the basket for a layup to tie the game at 56.

The game went into overtime, and the Eagles eventually prevailing 68-63.

The Eagles took an early lead, though the game went back and forth in the first half. Senior Braden McKee missed a stick back, but he rebounded his own miss and scored to give Colby a 6-4 lead.

Moments later, Braden McKee took advantage of his height advantage by making two turnaround jumpers inside to tie the game at 8 with 4:32 left in the first. Later in the quarter with the score tied at 14, senior Ryley Haas buried a three-pointer to give Colby a 17-14 lead. Hoxie battled back and took a 23-21 lead with 5:34 left in the second quarter.

Later in the half, junior Spencer Tubbs missed a layup, but got his own rebound and stuck it back in while being fouled. His free throw was off the mark, but sophomore Braden Sager grabbed the rebound, shot and missed a stick back. Tubbs rebounded and stuck the ball back in on his second attempt to cut the Indians' lead to 33-31. This remained the score for the rest of the half.

"We have been trying to get Spencer to not play so laid back, and he played a lot more aggressive tonight," said coach John McKee.

Sager gave his team some quality minutes in the third, getting a layup inside and banking in a hook shot.

"He plays pretty aggressive and physical inside," said coach McKee.

Tubbs, junior Corbin Stephens and Braden McKee were also able to score inside in the third. Colby led 44-42 at the end of the quarter.

Senior Chaz Winger grabbed a rebound and scored in heavy traffic to make it 46-42. Hoxie's Taylor Rall picked off a Colby pass and took it down court for a layup, drawing contact from a defender. He made his free throw to cut the Eagles' lead to 46-45.

Stephens intercepted a Hoxie pass and jetted down court for a layup. Moments later, he drilled a three-pointer. Stephens remained hot in the fourth, hitting a beautiful fade-away jumper from the left baseline

to give Colby a 52-48 lead. Then Hoxie scored the next four points to tie the game at 52. The Indians went up 56-54 just a little later.

Stephens applied intense pressure on Rall, causing him to get called for an over-and-back with 56 seconds left. Colby was unable to score on its next two possessions, however. Fortunately for the Eagles, the third time was a charm. Stephens penetrated inside the lane and went up like he was going to shoot, but instead fed an open Tubbs near the basket, who laid it in to tie the game at 56 with 18 seconds left. Neither team scored again and the game went into overtime.

Stephens was fouled on a drive early in the overtime. He hit 1 of 2 free throws to give the boys a 57-56 lead. Then Stephens scored a transition layup off a turnover to extend the Eagles' lead to 59-56. Hoxie fought back and tied the game at 59. Tubbs got fouled while attempting a layup. He knocked down one of his free throws to give Colby a one-point lead. The Indians then scored to make it 61-60.

Tubbs scored on a short jumper to take the lead back 62-61. A Hoxie player seemed to have a wide-open layup, but Stephens came out of nowhere and blocked the shot. Later, Winger was called for his fifth foul. Luke Friess of Hoxie hit both of his free throws to give the Indians a 63-62 lead.

Stephens hung in the air and drilled a jumper with 21 seconds left to make it 64-63, giving the Eagles a lead they would only enlarge. Rall missed a running layup and Stephens grabbed the rebound, but immediately got fouled. He knocked down both his free throws to make it 66-63.

Hoxie missed a shot on its next possession. Tubbs pulled down the rebound and got fouled with one second left. He made both free throws to extend Colby's lead to 68-63 and nail down the win.

"We are getting a little better offensively," said coach McKee.

Stephens scored a team-high 17 on 8 of 13 shooting. Braden McKee scored 15 and Tubbs added 13. McKee made 7 of 13 shots and Tubbs hit 6 of 9. Haas had 7, Winger scored 8, Sager added 4 and senior Kale Arnberger chipped in 2. Colby made 30 of 59 shots in the game.

With the win, the team improved to 2-7. They will play Ulysses at 8:15 p.m. Thursday at the Community Building in the first round of the 25th annual Paul Wintz/Tom Bowen Orange and Black Basketball Classic.

Lady Bulldogs lose a nail-biter

By Bonnie Holm

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The Brewster girls' basketball team lost a heartbreaker to the Wheatland/Grinnell Thunderhawks 63-59 at Sharon Springs in the first round of the Western Kansas Liberty League tournament Tuesday.

The Lady Bulldogs started off strong, with senior Nichelle Erskine scoring 8 points in the first quarter. The Bulldogs led the Thunderhawks 14-12 to start the

second quarter. Wheatland made some adjustments on defense and outscored the 'Dawgs to take a 33-28 halftime lead.

Brewster came out strong in the third, as sophomore Kasey Hoyt hit a three-pointer to narrow the gap to two. Erskine charged down the court for an easy layup to tie the game at 47. Freshman Amber Barrie sank a short jumper to give the Lady 'Dawgs a 49-47 lead. Senior Rose Bear made free throws to extend Brewster's lead to 52-49 at the end of the third.

The Bulldogs' offense faltered

in the fourth quarter, with the girls only scoring 7 points. Erskine made all 7 points. The Thunderhawks took advantage of the girls' foul trouble and regained the lead. With just seconds remaining, the 'Dawgs were forced to foul. The 'Hawks used superb free-throw shooting to put the game out of reach.

Erskine led the team with 29 points. Bear had 9, junior Nicole Connell 8, Hoyt 7 and Barrie scored a career-high 6.

Kansas Jayhawks pound Texas Tech

LAWRENCE (AP) — Marcus Morris has heard the same things almost since the day he arrived at Kansas: you're too soft, you're not competing, you're not playing hard enough. It wasn't just the coaches, either. Teammates, even friends and family were getting on him and his twin brother, Markieff.

More and more, it seems he's listening.

Active and aggressive for the second straight game, Morris had 20 points and eight rebounds to help No. 3 Kansas overcome a sloppy start for an 89-63 rout of Texas Tech on Saturday.

"They said I wasn't playing hard, I wasn't competing," said Morris, who had five offensive rebounds.

"I made it my goal to come out and play as hard as I can."

Kansas (16-1, 2-0 Big 12) wasn't sharp at the start of its conference home opener, flinging passes and airballs all over the building. The Jayhawks straightened out just before halftime, working the ball inside to start the rout and extend their nation-best home winning streak to 52 straight.

Xavier Henry and Cole Aldrich had 14 points each and Kansas dominated inside in the first half, outscoring the Red Raiders 16-4 in the paint to build a commanding lead.

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8:30 p.m. — Wednesday and Saturday
8:30 a.m. — Sunday Morning meeting

Downtown:
Basement of City Hall
8:30 p.m. — Monday and Thursday

Sisters in Sobriety:
Basement of City Hall
5:00 p.m. — Sunday

Narcotics Anonymous:
Basement of City Hall
8:00 p.m. — Tuesday, Friday and Sunday

Alanon:
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ACOA:
Basement of City Hall
7:00 p.m. — Monday