

Colby boys beat main rival

By Andy Heintz
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After dropping their first game in the 25th annual Paul Wintz/Tom Bowen Orange and Black Basketball Classic, the Colby High Eagles split their last two tournament games.

The boys overcame a five-point halftime deficit and beat rival Goodland 51-48 on Saturday but couldn't get over a bad first quarter Friday and lost to Scott City 69-51.

Colby's win over Goodland snapped a three-game losing streak. The Eagles got off to a strong start against the Cowboys. Senior Ryley Haas knocked down a three-pointer and senior Chaz Winger scored on a tough drive to the basket to give Colby an early 5-0 advantage. The Eagles' offense stagnated after that, however, and the pendulum swung in the direction of the Cowboys.

Ryan Hillmer of Goodland drilled a three-pointer and scored on a tough drive to help give the Cowboys a 9-5 lead at the end of the first quarter.

The Cowboys extended their lead to 13-5 before Colby junior Corbin Stephens buried a three-pointer to cut the lead to 13-8. Later, Stephens was double-teamed at the top of the key but still managed to find junior Spencer Tubbs near the basket for a layup.

Tubbs was active on defense, blocking several shots in the first half. Stephens hit a pretty fall-away jumper off the backboard to cut the Cowboys' lead to 17-12. Colby trailed 23-18 at halftime.

Hillmer hit a three pointer to extend Goodland's lead to 26-18 early in the third. The Cowboys extended their lead to 28-18 before Stephens drilled a jumper from the right baseline to make it 28-20. Later on, senior Braden McKee, coach John McKee's son, entered the game for the first time and nailed a jumper to cut Goodland's lead to 28-25. Coach McKee said Braden sat out the first half to rest a right knee he injured earlier in the season.

Stephens drilled a midrange jumper to narrow the gap to 32-30 with 3:15 left in the third. Winger escaped with the ball during a scuffle on defense. He passed it to Haas, who pushed the ball down-court before firing a pass to Tubbs for a layup to tie the game at 32. Braden McKee scored to give Colby a 34-32 lead with 2:12 left in the third. Then Winger got a rebound and stuck it back in to give the Eagles a four-point lead.

The Cowboys scored the first five points of the fourth to take a 37-36 lead. Winger rebounded a Haas miss and laid it in to recapture the lead for the Eagles. Haas

nailed a three-pointer to extend Colby's lead to 41-37. Later on, Winger was able to split two defenders and make a layup to put Colby out in front 45-38. Winger was all over the place on both ends of the court in the fourth quarter.

"It was his best games overall," said coach McKee.

McKee complimented Winger for guarding Hillmer tough in the fourth. Braden McKee hit a cutting Winger, who laid it over the rim to give Colby a 47-38 lead. Goodland came storming back in the fourth, though, trimming the Eagles' lead to 47-46.

Stephens traveled while being pressured in the backcourt with 1:11 left. The Cowboys were unable to score on offense and Braden McKee pulled down the rebound. But one of Goodland's player grabbed the ball, forcing a tie-up.

The possession arrow was in Goodland's favor. Stephens ripped the ball away from the person he was guarding, then got fouled. He hit both his free throws to give Colby a 49-46 lead. The Cowboys' Kevin Amfor scored inside after managing to get away from his defender inside to cut Colby's lead back to 49-48. Stephens got to an errant pass by Haas and took it to the hoop for a layup with only a few seconds left to make the final score 51-48.

Winger scored a team-high 17 points and Stephens added 16. Haas had 8, Tubbs 6 and Braden McKee 4.

"Offensively, everyone was looking for each other more," said coach McKee.

Colby might have beaten Scott City if it wasn't for the slow first quarter. With Stephens and Winger sitting on the bench at the beginning of the game, the Beavers jumped out to a 20-0 lead.

Senior Brock Wagoner finally got Colby on the scoreboard near the end of the quarter when he scored inside.

Haas caught fire from behind the arc in the second quarter. He knocked down his first three-pointer to cut Scott City's lead to 29-12. Moments later, Haas hit another three to make it 29-15. The Beavers' Ron Baker drilled a three of his own to extend his team's lead to 32-15.

Later in the quarter, Haas buried a third three pointer with a hand right in his face to make it 34-22 Scott City. Haas ended up 4 for 7 from behind the arc. Later in the quarter, Haas got fouled while trying to score a transition layup. He buried both free throws to cut the Beavers' lead to 34-22. Haas said he had a hurt wrist going into the game, but he said he didn't let it bother him.

"We came out flat early," Haas said, "then I went on a run that



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
Colby High senior Braden McKee took a jump shot during the Eagles' game against Scott City on Friday at the high school in the Orange and Black Basketball Classic.

kind of got the team going." "That's the way he can shoot the ball," McKee said.

Scott City scored the last five points of the half and took a 39-22 lead into the locker room.

The Eagles got off to good start in the third. Wagoner fed a nice pass inside to Winger, who laid it in to make the score 39-22. Later in the third, sophomore Braden Sager hit Winger with a short one-hand pass that he laid in to make it 43-33. The Beavers scored the game's next eight points to make it 51-33 at the end of the third.

Despite the large deficit, Colby

continued to hustle in the fourth, with Winger and Stephens both diving for loose balls.

Tubbs went on a scoring spree at the end. He made a short turnaround jumper while being fouled, but missed his free throw. Moments later, he scored on an alley-oop inbounds pass. He added several more buckets before the game ended.

Haas had a season-high 20 points and Tubbs added 13. Winger scored 9, junior Kale Arberger 3 and Stephens, Braden McKee and Wagoner all had 2.

Lady Eagles take fourth in classic

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Colby High junior Shelby Terrell has seen her role on the Lady Eagles basketball squad shrink this year thanks to a super-talented freshman class.

But Saturday, Terrell proved she can still play a big role as her three consecutive three-pointers in the third quarter propelled Colby to a 45-27 victory over Scott City at the Community Building.

"I guess I was on," said Terrell. "When I get in, I do the best I can, and that's all I can do."

With the win, the Lady Eagles took fourth place in the Paul Wintz/Tom Bowen Orange and Black Basketball Classic.

The Lady Eagle and the Lady Beavers battled back and forth in the first quarter. Scott City's Carrissa Chelemedos made the first two baskets of the game to give the Lady Beavers a 4-0 lead. Junior Katherine Kaus banked a shot off the glass and her sister Katrina Kaus sped down court and made a layup to cut Scott City's lead to 6-4. Moments later, Katherine knocked down a three-pointer to give Colby a 7-6 lead. Then Katherine scored on a reverse layup to make it 9-6. Katherine made another bucket to give Colby an 11-6 lead at the end of the first.

Scott City went on a mini-rally and took a 14-13 lead in the second quarter. Junior Kayla Hockersmith momentarily stopped the bleeding by knocking down a jumper to put Colby out in front 15-14. Chelemedos hit a turnaround jumper to recapture the lead for the Lady Beavers. Katherine Kaus buried a three pointer in the final seconds of the half to give Colby an 18-16 lead at the break.

Both teams went ice cold in the third. Colby didn't score a single point until freshman Shelby Gardner made a short jump shot inside the lane to tie the game at 20 with less than a minute left. With the Lady Eagles' offense looking half asleep, Terrell drilled a three-pointer to give her team a 23-20 lead with less than 30 seconds left.

"Shelby gave us the spark that we needed at the end of the third quarter," said coach Parker McKee.

Neither team scored for the rest of the quarter.

Terrell started the fourth by burying another three-pointer to extend the Lady Eagles' lead to 26-20. Colby's press defense forced Scott City to throw the ball away, then Terrell hit yet another three-pointer to make it 29-20. Moments later, Hockersmith drilled a three-pointer of her own to give Colby a 32-20 lead.

The Lady Beavers scored the game's next four points to cut the

Colby lead to 8. Later on, Hockersmith fired a pass to junior Katherine Kaus for a layup to extend the girls' lead to 35-24. Colby widened its lead in the closing minutes and cruised to a victory.

Katherine Kaus led the team in scoring with 17 while grabbing 8 rebounds. Hockersmith had 10, Terrell scored 9, Katrina Kaus had 5 and Haas and Gardner scored 2 each.

Colby bounced back from a first-round loss to Goodland by winning their next game in convincing fashion. The Lady Eagles pounded the Wichita South High School Lady Titans 46-25 on Friday at the high school gym.

The game started rather slowly, with neither team having much success on offense. The Lady Titans led 3-2 with 3:14 left in the quarter. Colby responded by scoring 6 of next 8 points to make it 8-5. Freshman Alexa Haas buried a jumper from the right baseline to make it 10-5, and the girls led 10-6 at the end of the quarter.

Colby widened its lead in the second period. Haas dribbled past two Wichita South defenders and fired a pass to Katherine Kaus, who was fouled while making a layup to extend the girls' lead to 14-6. She hit her free throw to complete the play.

The Lady Titans' Daniella Almonte drove to the hole and scored while drawing contact to cut Colby's lead to 15-8. Her free throw was off the mark. Later, junior Kelsey Shields hit a pair of free throws to make it 18-8 Colby. Hockersmith sank a short jump shot in the final seconds of the first half to give the Lady Eagles a 20-8 lead.

Colby continued to build on its lead in the second half. Haas buried a jumper from the right baseline to make it 29-10. The Lady Eagles led 29-13 at the end of the third.

Hockersmith buried a midrange jumper to give her team a 31-33 lead. Haas took her third charge of the game with 6:03 left in the fourth. The force of the collision knocked the freshman guard flying and the back of her head slammed against the floor. She left the game, but was ready to play on Saturday.

"Alexa is a fearless player who will sacrifice her body for the team," said McKee.

The Lady Eagles went on to win 46-25.

Katherine Kaus had a team-high 12 and Hockersmith and Terrell both had 7 each. Shields scored 6, Katrina Kaus and Haas both had 4, and Gardner and sisters sophomore Morgan Bell and freshman Lauren Bell each scored 2.

With the win, the girls improved to 9-3. They will play at 6:15 p.m. Thursday at Thomas More Prep-Marian High in Hays.

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