



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press
Colby High freshman Karly Kriss tried to protect the ball from sophomore Skyler Barrett at practice Wednesday at the Community Building.

Lady Eagles junior varsity avenges sole loss of season

The Colby girls junior varsity avenged their only loss this season on Tuesday, beating Garden City 41-37 to take the championship of a junior varsity tournament at the high school.

The win left the younger girls with an 11-1 record for the season.

The Lady Buffaloes took a 7-6 lead at the end of the first quarter. Colby controlled the second and led 19-14 at the half. Garden City fought back and tied the game at 27 at the end of third. The Lady Eagles outscored the Lady Buffaloes in the fourth and won the game 41-37.

Freshman Shelby Gardner led the team in scoring with 12, making six of six free throws. Freshman Karly Kriss added nine and senior Rhett Martin and

freshmen Lauren Bell and Alexa Haas all had five. Sophomore Emilea Finley scored three and junior Shelby Terrell two.

The girls pounded Oberlin 44-9 last Friday. Colby jumped out to an 11-4 lead. The Lady Eagles' stifling defense shut out the Lady Red Devils in the second. Colby only allowed five points in the second half and cruised to an easy win.

Gardner scored a team-high seven and sophomore Brenna McKee and freshman Bailey Terrell each had five. Martin, Haas and Kriss all scored four and freshman Kenzie Curry and Bell and sophomores Rachel Juennemann and Skylar Barret each had two.

The girls will play at 8 p.m. Thursday at Dodge City and at 8 p.m. Friday at Quinter.

Heartland girls continue to improve

For the Heartland Christian School girls basketball team, improvement can't always be measured in wins and losses.

While the Lady Crusaders are 0-13 this season, coach Reneé Smesser says the team has shown a lot of improvement.

"We've come a long way since last season," said Smesser. "So many of our girls have really improved this year."

The Lady Crusaders have come

close to winning in their last couple of games. They lost to Plainview High from Sheridan Lake, Colo., 37-28 on Tuesday. Freshman Alexi Regier led the team in scoring with nine.

The girls lost a nail-biter to Winona-Triplains 44-42 in overtime last Friday. Regier had a team-high 14 points and junior Rachel Myers added nine. On Jan. 29, the girls fell to St. Francis 58-33. Sophomore Rebekah Grace posted

a double-double, scoring 12 points and grabbing 14 rebounds.

Schmeiser said her seniors were doing a good job leading by example. She said the girls are looking forward to holding the Kansas Christian Athletic Association tournament on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 26 and 27.

The Lady Crusaders' junior varsity has had a solid season. The girls record now stands at 4-2.

Colby sophomore runner breaks personal best time

Colby Community College sophomore Scarla Nero ran the second fastest 5,000-meter time in the National Junior College Athletic Association last weekend at the Frank Sevigne Invitational in Lincoln, Neb.

Nero finished fifth in the race with a time of 18 minutes, 1.72 seconds.

Her time set a personal best and was 18 seconds faster than her sister Tonya's best time.

"She gives a hundred percent everyday," said coach Crystal Berndt.

Sophomore Hifiti Kahssay finished the 5,000 meters in 19.24. Berndt said Kahssay was just a few seconds away from qualifying for nationals. The team of sophomores Breana Yost, Kahssay, Scarlo Nero and AnnaKay Dennis finished seventh in the women's distance medley with 13.28.58. Berndt said they are the eighth-

fastest distant medley team in the nation.

On the men's side, freshman Freddy Arellano finished 14th in the 1,000-meter run with 2:39.50 and the team of sophomores Arellano, Charmant Ollivierre and Stevorn Richards and freshman Robert Robledo placed second out of three teams in the distance medley with 10:56.41.

"I told our guys that we got punched in the nose," said men's coach James Ortiz. "Now we know we have to do better. It was an eye opener."

Berndt said it's hard to qualify for the Sevigne race, which takes about 40 teams. Only the top athletes from those teams get to participate. Berndt said some of the competitors competed in the Olympics in Beijing.

Arellano qualified for nationals in the 1,000-meter run at the Jayhawk Classic on Jan. 29 in Law-

rence. He finished second with 2:34.2.

The team of Arellano, Robledo, Richards and Ollivierre took ninth in the distance medley with 11:15.68.

Sophomore Colby Elliot finished 13th in the high jump with a leap of 1.79 meters and sophomore Spencer Chisom took 13th in the long jump with 6.43 meters.

Sophomore Lendon Hartshorn took 11th in the 3,000 meters with 9:24.8 and freshman Trey Dunsim finished 15th with 9:43.1.

On the women's side, Scarla Nero finished 10th in the 3,000 meters with 10:40.8.

Sophomore Lisa Faimon took first in the high jump in the pentathlon with a leap of 1.61 meters. Faimon finished sixth overall in the pentathlon with 2,560 points and sophomore Riley Sickels was seventh with 1,508 points.

Bulldogs lose exciting game as championship team returns

By Judy Rogers

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The Golden Plains High boy's basketball team played an exciting game in a packed house on Jan. 29, losing by three to the Dighton Hornets.

It was an exciting night for the Bulldogs as they honored the undefeated 1985 Class 1A State Championship team just prior to the tipoff.

The varsity boys game was a touch-and-go, back and forth, contest all night as both teams worked hard to gain a lead. By the end of

the first quarter, they were tied at 9. Dighton pulled ahead 21-20 by the half and extended its lead to 40-37 by the end of the third quarter.

The Bulldogs continued to work hard and tied the score, gained a lead, then fell back. The crowd was constantly on its feet cheering as the game fluctuated between buckets. However, in the end, Dighton pulled out a 57-54 win.

Junior Rilee Spresser, playing his first game since recovering from a football injury last fall, scored 12 points. Senior Jordan Spresser had a team-high 14.

"I've been practicing a little the

last two weeks and I finally got to play," said Rilee Spresser. "I was really excited to get back in the game."

Dylan Moss scored seven, Jonathan Broeckelman had six, Tate Preston added five, Cole Christensen and Corey Shaw scored four each and Issac Broeckelman chipped in two.

"We've been working in fundamentals this week," said Rilee Spresser. "We need to hustle more on defense and be more fundamentally sound."

The boys will play Weskan at 8 p.m. Friday at Rexford.

Trojans selected for academic team

By Debbie Schwanke

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Twenty Colby Community College student athletes have been named to the 2009 Kansas Jayhawk Community College Conference All-Academic Fall team.

To be selected for the team, players must have a grade average in the A or A- range, 3.5 or higher.

Lady Trojans volleyball players Kadee Arensdorf, Ulrike Beige, Danielle Harris, Emily Lubbers, Jessica Merino and Cassie Smatana were selected for the honor.

The women's cross country runners who made the team include Lindsey Hoff, Scarla Nero, Autumn Preston and Breana Yost.

Nero, Preston and Yost were also selected as members of the women's half marathon team.

Mens cross country members include Ryan Baalman, Trey Dunsim, Garrett Jones and Albert Mon'gony.

Baalman, Dunsim and Mon'gony were also selected for the half marathon.

The Lady Trojans' volleyball team is coached by Carrie Jones. Crystal Berndt is the coach for women's cross country team and the women's half marathon. James Ortiz coaches the men's running teams.

Lady Jayhawks nearly beat Nebraska

LAWRENCE (AP) — Kansas' hot shooting streak was enough to throw a big scare into No. 3 Nebraska. It wasn't enough to knock-off the unbeaten Cornhuskers.

Kelsey Griffin had 17 points and 13 rebounds and helped Nebraska blunt a stunning comeback attempt with a 67-60 victory Wednesday night, extending the

best start in school history.

The injury-depleted Jayhawks made only one of their last 11 shots in the first half and trailed 30-20 at intermission.

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