

Eagles' squad overwhelms Atwood 59-38

Sophomore Justin Slavens' layup with less than a minute to go Friday was the perfect way to end Colby's game against Atwood at the Community Building on senior recognition night.

The Eagles would have won easily with or without the basket, but Colby's 59-38 romp over the Buffaloes wouldn't have been nearly as sweet if Slavens hadn't made his layup.

Coach Jon McKee said Friday's game was Slavens' last home basketball game as an Eagle. His family is moving to Utah in next couple months and junior Corbin Stephens gave up his starting spot to let Justin start on Friday.

"That was big on Corbin's part to give him that opportunity," Coach McKee said.

The Eagles jumped out to a 4-0 lead early in the first quarter. Senior Braden McKee rebounded a Stephens miss and laid it in to extend Colby's lead to 6-0.

Atwood scored the game's next three points to cut the boy's lead to three, but a reverse layup by Stephens upped the Eagles' lead to 8-3. Less than a minute later, Stephens scored on a tough drive to the hoop to give his team a seven-point lead. Wagoner drained a jumper inside the lane to extend Colby's lead to 12-3, and the boys led 12-6 at the end of the first quarter.

The Buffaloes' Marcus Portschy drained a three-pointer to cut the Eagles' lead to 12-9 in the second period. Later on, junior Kale Arnberger stole the ball in the Buffaloes' backcourt and took it in for a layup to give Colby a 16-9 lead.

Junior Andrew Ketchum gave the Eagles a boost on defense by taking a charge. Junior Spencer Tubbs made a pretty hook shot from the right baseline to give Colby a 24-11 lead with 2:52 left in the quarter. The boys led 26-17

at the half.

Senior Chaz Winger knocked down a jumper to start the second half. The Eagles' defense really clamped down on the Buffaloes, holding them to only four points in the third quarter. Arnberger got a layup off a turnover, Stephens made another reverse layup and Braden McKee scored inside to help give Colby a 41-21 lead at the end of the third.

Tubbs got a big block early in the fourth and Winger banked a shot off the glass from close range to give the Eagles a 45-27 lead. A fast-break layup by Braden McKee upped Colby's lead to 57-34. Slavens made his layup with less than a minute remaining and Colby picked up a 59-38 win.

"Our defense played really good," said Jon McKee.

The coach said his team put good pressure on the ball in the first half when they were playing man-to-man defense. He said they applied an "amoeba" zone defense in the second half.

"Kale Arnberger and Andrew Ketchum were effective at the top of the zone," said McKee, adding that his team had done a good job of making the extra pass in the game.

Braden McKee led all scorers with 19 points on 7-for-14 shooting. Stephens added 11, Wagoner seven, Winger six, Tubbs and Arnberger four each and Slavens, Ketchum and sophomore Braden Sager two.

Tubbs had a team-high seven rebounds and Wagoner and Ketchum had six each. Arnberger led the team in steals with three and Braden McKee had a team-high three blocks.

With the win, the boys improved to 7-12. They will play their final regular-season game 8 p.m. Tuesday at Norton.

Golden Plains boys beat Weskan Coyotes

By Alyssa Babcock
Golden Plains High School

The Golden Plains boys' basketball team got the best of Weskan on Feb. 12, handing the Coyotes a 61-52 loss.

The boys came out strong with a close first quarter. The Bulldogs scored 13 points and the Coyotes ended with 11.

After a time out, both teams came back out and made it a close quarter once again. Golden Plains gained 16 points and Weskan 14.

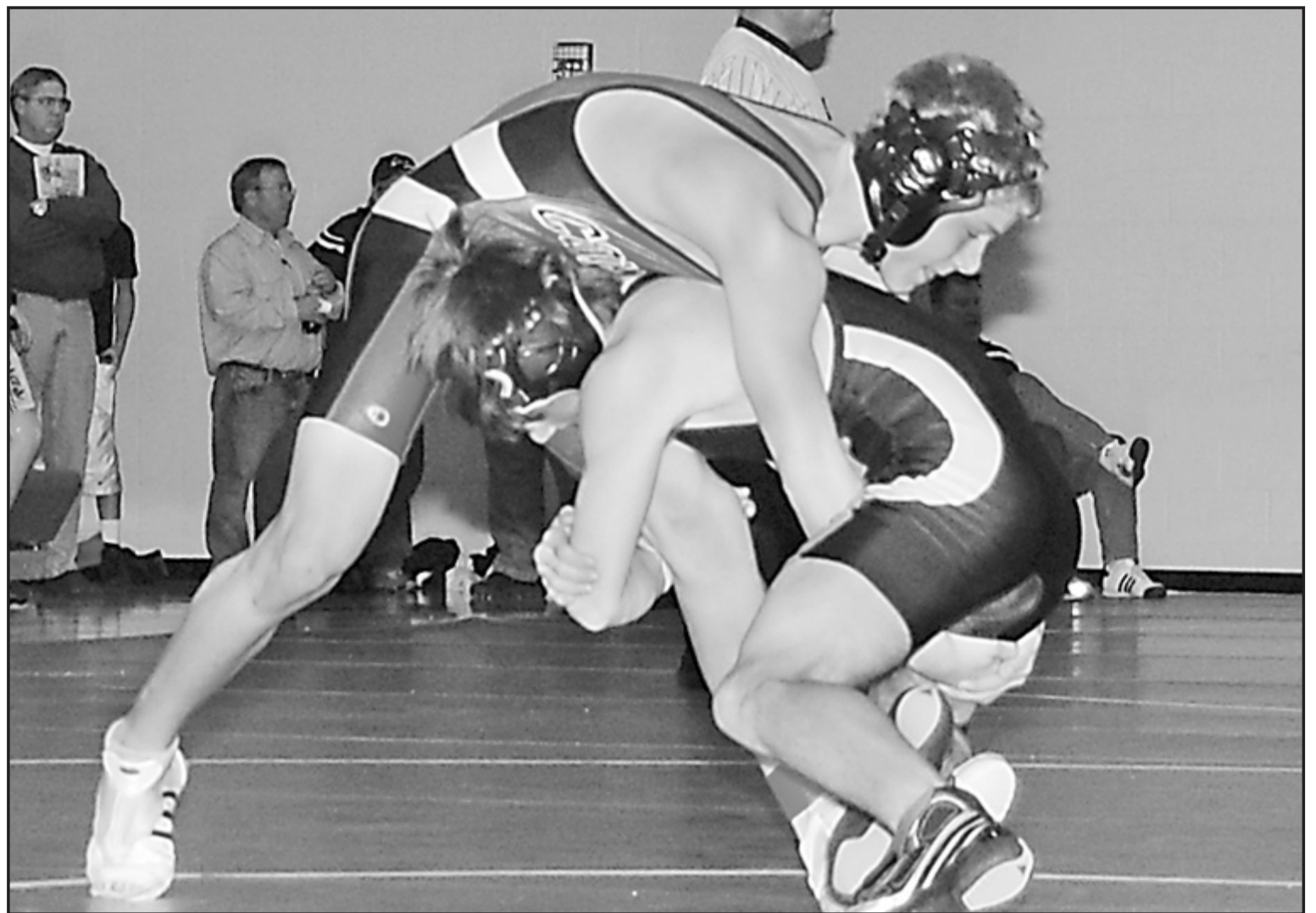
After the half, the Bulldogs worked hard to outscore Weskan

in the third, posting 15 points and only giving up 10. Even though both teams scored 17 points in the fourth, the 'Dogs worked hard enough in the first three quarters to pick up the 61-52 win.

Jordan Spresser led the boys in points with 17.

Corey Shaw followed closely behind him with 16, Cole Christensen added nine, Dylan Moss and Rilee Spresser had six-points apiece, Tate Preston five and Aaron Emigh two.

"We played hard as a team during this game and that was a big part of our win," said Shaw.



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby High sophomore Konnor Kriss grappled with an opponent at Pratt High School. The Eagles took third out of 15 teams with 133.5 points overall; Kriss took third at 119 pounds.

Seven Colby High wrestlers qualify for state championship

By Andy Heintz
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The Colby High Eagles' wrestling team had seven wrestlers qualify for the state tournament during the Class 4A regionals at Pratt High School this weekend.

Senior Nathan Reed and his brother, freshman Dustin Reed, both took first in their weights. The team took third out of 15 at the tournament with 133.5 points overall.

Nathan went 3-0 in the 112-pound class and Dustin finished 3-0 at 103. Nathan pinned his first opponent and won his second match 2-1. He took first place with a 7-3 victory.

Dustin won his first match by pinning his opponent, and beat his second man 9-4. He finished first with a 7-3 win in the championship round.

Other wrestlers who qualified for state were Senior Torey Taylor, second, 160; sophomore Konnor Kriss, third, 119; and senior Ethan Stickel, 152, sophomore Michael Tubbs, 130,

and sophomore Dalton Snyder, 135, all took fourth.

Taylor won his first match 10-5 and took his second contest by default when his opponent was injured. He lost 10-5 in the championship.

Kriss won his first match by a fall and lost his second 3-2. He won his next two matches 6-0 and 5-1 to take third.

Stickel won his opening match 9-0 and lost his second by a technical fall. He won his third match 10-3 to qualify for state but lost his fourth 9-2.

Tubbs won his first match 7-4 and lost his second 5-2. He won his third match 3-1 in overtime to qualify for state. He lost his fourth match 3-2.

Snyder won his first match 6-3. He got pinned in his second match but won his third match by a technical fall to qualify for state. He was pinned in his final match, finishing fourth.

Senior Adam Weber pinned his first two opponents at 285. Weber lost his third match in

a 5-3 decision and he lost his next match 6-4, good enough for fourth.

Junior George Smollock went 2-2 at 189. He was pinned in his first match but turned around and won his second match by a fall. Smollock won his third match 5-0 and lost his last match 6-0.

Sophomore Nathan Quagliano went 1-2 at 215 and sophomore Quade Woofter went 1-2 at 125. Quagliano's win was by a pinfall, and Woofter's victory was by technical fall. Sophomore Clayton Appelhans went 1-2 in at 171. He won his first match 6-4, but he was pinned by his next two opponents.

Senior Bob Schroeder's sole win was by pin and his two losses were by falls at 145. Brandon Leth lost his first match 8-7 at 140 and his second match 6-4.

The seven Eagles will wrestle at state this weekend at the Bicentennial Center in Salina. The event will start at 10 a.m. Friday and resume at 9 a.m. Saturday.

Senior guard scores 27 points in Wildcats victory

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — If Denis Clemente isn't playing fast and pushing the pace, he doesn't feel like he's doing his job.

Clemente scored 27 points and led a 3-point barrage by No. 7 Kansas State, propelling the Wildcats to an 83-68 victory against the spiraling Sooners on Saturday.

"I think Clemente is the fastest guy in college basketball from end to end, especially with the ball in his hands," coach Jeff Capel said. "When he's making his jump shot, which he's been doing, he's awfully, awfully tough to guard."

Clemente hit five of his first seven 3-pointers, including a pair that he bracketed around another 3 by Jamar Samuels during a quick 9-0 burst that put Kansas State up

by double digits for the first time at 59-49 with 12:41 to play.

Dominique Sutton added another 3-pointer to finish an eight-point run that extended K-State's advantage to 71-55 with 8:05 remaining. At that point, the Wildcats (22-4, 9-3 Big 12) had hit 10 of their first 17 shots from 3-point range against an Oklahoma team with the worst 3-point defense in the Big 12. They finished 10-for-20.

"It felt good. When you make a couple 3s, you want to keep shooting," said Clemente, who has hit at least five 3-pointers in three of his last five games. "What can you do? You just keep shooting."

Capel said Clemente, who also had six assists, merits consid-

eration as perhaps the top point guard in the country other than Kentucky's John Wall.

"The main thing is that he's older," Capel said. "He has such a confidence out there and such control of the game, and that's something that the really, really elite point guards have."

Clemente, who transferred to Kansas State after two seasons

at Miami (Fla.), regularly used his acceleration to beat defenders up the floor or lose them around screens. When he wasn't creating his own shot, he was getting others open.

"That's my job, to control the game, control what we do," said Clemente, a Puerto Rico native and a second cousin of baseball great Roberto Clemente.

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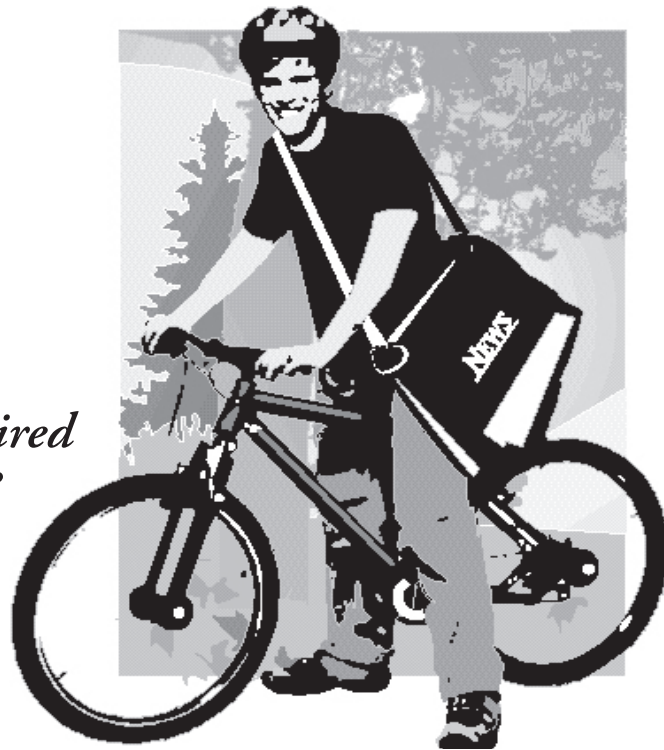
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