

Eagles lose finalé to Norton

The Colby boy's fought hard against Norton County without junior Corbin Stephens, but the Bluejays came out on top 46-39.

Stephens, stayed home with an illness leaving the Eagles without one of their leading scorers and playmakers.

Senior Ryley Haas drilled a long three-pointer to give Colby a 3-2 lead in the first. Later on, the Bluejays' Terrell Lane hit a 10 footer to make it 6-3 Norton. Junior Spencer Tubbs rejected the Bluejays' Jacob Brooks on defense, and then he scored inside on offense to tie the game at six.

Senior Braden McKee grabbed a rebound and stuck it back in to give the Eagles an 8-6 lead. Jordan Wahlmeier of Norton grabbed a rebound of his own and laid it in to tie the game at eight. Lane drilled a long three-pointer to put the Bluejays on top 11-8. Another three-pointer by Lane upped Norton's lead to 14-9. The Bluejays led 17-9 at the half.

Colby had trouble taking care of the ball in the first half. They committed 16 turnovers. Norton scored 12 points off the Eagles' turnovers. This led to the Bluejays getting off a lot more shots than Colby. Norton went six of 32 in the first half, while Colby hit three of 15 shots.

Senior Chaz Winger made a finger roll in the lane to cut Norton's lead to 19-11 in the third. Moments later, a turnaround jumper by the Bluejays' JD Gall gave Norton a double-digit lead. Junior Kale Arnberger nailed a three-pointer with a defender in his face to narrow the gap to 21-14. The Bluejays got a bucket before Braden McKee made a five footer to make it 23-16.

Later in the quarter, Braden scored inside to narrow the gap to



Colby High senior Kale Arnberger (pictured here taking a free throw at practice on Wednesday) and the rest of the Eagles' basketball team lost 46-39 Tuesday at Norton.

29-24. But Lane knocked down a jumper just inside the three-point line at the buzzer to give the Bluejays a 31-24 lead at the end of the third.

Junior Andrew Ketchum stole the ball from Lane and took it in for a layup to make it 33-26. Lane scored on a drive to the bucket to give Norton a nine-point lead. Moments later, Braden McKee buried a jumper to narrow the gap to 35-28. The Bluejays led 37-30 with 4:03 remaining.

Arnberger drained his third three-pointer to make it 39-33 later in the quarter. Ketchum made a basket to cut the Bluejays' lead to 39-35 at the 2:21 mark. But Norton didn't allow Colby to get any closer and the Bluejays picked up a 46-39 win.

McKee had a team-high 19 and Arnberger added six. Ketchum and Tubbs had four each and Winger and Haas both had three. Tubbs had a team-high four blocks.

The Bluejays' Lane had 23 on 9 of 19 shooting.

Coach Jon McKee said Lane was a tough matchup for Colby because of his strength and athletic ability.

"We tried to put pressure on him, but he was athletic enough to get around it," said the coach.

Jon McKee said the Eagles' offense was stale in the first half, but they did a better job of passing in the second half.

"If you take away the turnovers, the rest of the game was pretty good," he said.

With the loss, the boys ended the season with a 7-13 record. They will play at 7 p.m. Tuesday at Scott City in the first round of substate. Colby is a six seed and Scott City is a three seed.

Colby wrestlers heading to Salina

Seven wrestlers from the Colby High team will compete at the Class 4A state championships starting at 10 a.m. Friday at the Bicentennial Center in Salina. Action will resume at 9 a.m. Saturday.

The wrestlers headed to state are freshman Dustin Reed at 103 pounds; sophomores Konnor Kriss, Michael Tubbs and Dalton Snyder at 119, 130 and

135; and seniors Nathan Reed, Ethan Stickel and Torey Taylor at 112, 152 and 160.

To get to the Bicentennial Center from Colby, go east on Interstate 70 for 199 miles to exit 253, Ohio Street. Turn right on Ohio and go South three miles to the Midway. Turn right on the Midway, and the center will be four tenths of a mile back to the west on your left.

Heartland Christian holds statewide tourney

Heartland Christian School is holding the Kansas Christian Athletic Association tournament in Colby this week.

The tournament will kick off at 6 p.m. tonight in the Heartland gymnasium when the Heartland boys take on Syracuse Christian Academy. The loser will be eliminated. The winner will earn a No. 4 seed in the tournament bracket and play Arkansas City Christian Academy at 1 p.m. Friday in the Crusaders' gym.

Whoever wins on Friday will play for first place at 3:30 p.m. Saturday in the Community

Building. The loser will play for third at 11:30 a.m. Saturday at the Community Building. The other two teams in the boys' tourney are Tyro Christian School from south of Wichita and Chanute Christian Academy.

The Lady Crusaders play their first-round game against Tyro at 11 a.m. Friday. The winner will play in the championship against the winner of a game between Arkansas City and Chanute at 1:30 p.m. Saturday at the Community Building. The loser will play for third at 9:30 a.m. that day at the Community Building.

Colorado slugger returns as a pinch hitter

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — In a perfect world, Jason Giambi would be reporting to spring training as a designated hitter for a contender in the American League.

Instead, Giambi returned to the Colorado Rockies in Tucson on Wednesday, where he will be an occasional fill-in for Todd Helton at first base and a pinch hitter.

Giambi signed a one-year deal for \$1.75 million in January after not being able to secure a job as an everyday DH.

Just because it was Plan B, doesn't make it any less desirable, Giambi said.

"Trust me, in a perfect world, I'd love to say I could still go out there every day at first base and still play," Giambi said after reporting to camp Wednesday. "I would've loved that opportunity to see what I could do (as a) DH day-in and out with a team that had an opportunity (to win). But I enjoy it here. I really had a great time, and I'm excited to be back."

The 38-year-old Giambi spoke over the winter with Ken Griffey Jr., who returned to Seattle last year at age 39. He served primarily as the DH for the Mariners and told Giambi how much he enjoyed that role.

Giambi found no takers on that front, and after Helton and Rockies manager Jim Tracy called him and urged him to come on back.

It's a familiar setting. The Rockies signed Giambi, who was released earlier in the summer by Oakland, to a minor-

league contract on Aug. 24. In 19 games with the Rockies, Giambi hit .292 with two homers and 11 RBIs. As a pinch hitter, Giambi went 4 for 10 with one homer, seven RBIs and more walks (4) than strikeouts (3). The Rockies went 13-6 with Giambi and won the National League wild card.

"We were a different team when he got here, and that was no coincidence," Helton said. "We were starting to roll, but when he got here, it was just the reassurance that we're in this thing for real."

Giambi could get even more playing time this season.

The 36-year-old Helton admitted to wearing down at the end of last season. He told Tracy that he was amenable to more rest this season, which would open up at-bats for Giambi. And Giambi's presence bolsters the bench and gives Tracy another left-handed bat to go with outfielder Seth Smith.

Helton said Giambi, a lifetime .282 hitter with 409 home runs and .527 slugging percentage, brings "intimidation" at the plate and a "clubhouse presence" to the Rockies. One of Giambi's strengths, Helton said, is his ability to discuss hitting and do it with a calming influence.

"When he talks to you, you're just one little thing away from getting it right back on track again," Helton said.

Giambi has had success pinch hitting, albeit with a small sample size.

Junior college wrestlers off to nationals

Colby Community College sophomores Ganbayar Sanjaa, Bekzod Abdurakhmanov, Nick Kriss and freshmen Pat Fletcher, Luis Camacho and Brent Luedke will wrestle in the 2010 National Junior College Athletic Association championships on Friday and Saturday in Des Moines.

The tournament will start at 9:30 a.m. Friday at Veterans Memorial Stadium and resume at 10:30 a.m. Saturday.

Sanjaa and Abdurakhmanov are both defending champions.

Luedke will face Craig Chiles from St. Louis Community College-Meramec in the first round at 133 pounds. Chiles enters with an 18-5 record and ranked 12th. He qualified by placing third at the central regional. Luedke enters with a 13-10 overall record, and took fourth in the west central regionals.

Camacho will face Anthony Owens of Yakima Community College from Washington at 141. Camacho, who enters the tournament with an 11-13 record, qualified for nationals by defeating Cameron Jessep of Labette County Community College for fourth place at the regional qualifier. Owens finished third in the western regional qualifier.

Sanjaa will face McKray Jones of North Idaho from Coeur d'Alene at 149. Jones earned the wildcard bid in the western regional. Sanjaa, 21-1 for the season, enters the tournament as the favorite at his weight.

Abdurakhmanov, ranked No. 1 at 165, has a bye in the first-round and will face the winner of a match between Jesse Nielsen of North Idaho and Byron Sanchez of Waubesa from Sugar Grove, Ill., at 165. Nielsen will be Bekzod's likely opponent in the second round. He

is 28-14 and ranked ninth. Abdurakhmanov is 21-1.

Kriss will face Chris Krasses of Bergen Community College from Paramus, N.J., at 197. Neither wrestler is ranked, and Kriss enters the national tournament with a record of 8-5.

Fletcher has a bye at 285. He will face the winner of a match between Chase Stevens of Jamestown Community College in New York and Jesse Rey of Spartanburg Community College in South Carolina. Stevens, ranked sixth, placed first at the east region. Fletcher enters the tournament with a 16-1 record.

The brackets for the championships are available at www.njcaa.org. For questions, contact the Iowa Community College Athletic Conference at (515) 460-8082 or e-iccac@jccac.org.

Missouri Tigers clobbers Colorado by 29 points

COLUMBIA, Mo. (AP) — Marcus Denmon scored 21 points as Missouri defeated Colorado 92-63 Wednesday night.

Keith Ramsey added 13 points on 6-for-6 shooting from the field for the Tigers (21-7, 9-4 Big 12), who beat Colorado for the eighth straight time. Missouri has won three straight overall, its longest winning streak in conference play this season.

J.T. Tiller came close to a triple-double, finishing with 10 points, a career-high nine assists and seven rebounds before being removed

from the game with just under four minutes remaining.

Missouri coach Mike Anderson praised Tiller's efforts and blamed himself for denying his guard a statistical milestone.

"Since the (first) Colorado game you can see his imprint on this team," Anderson said. "He should have had the double-double, I'll take the blame for that, pulling him out with 3:45 not knowing that he had nine assists."

Cory Higgins scored 21 points to lead the Buffaloes (12-15, 3-10), who suffered their most lopsided

loss of the season. Colorado has lost 38 of 45 Big 12 games under coach Jeff Bzdelik and 36 straight conference road games, a skid which dates back to Jan. 21, 2006, a victory at Oklahoma State.

"Before we can win we have to play better basketball," Bzdelik said. "That has to happen on Saturday."

The Tigers shot 58 percent from the field including a season-high

64 percent (9-of-14) from 3-point range.

The Buffaloes committed 19 turnovers and were 5 for 20 from 3-point range.

"I'm very disappointed in our effort defensively, and I addressed that," Bzdelik said. "We turned it over several times and it was unforgotten."

Missouri, which never trailed, jumped out to a 13-2 lead and

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