

# Lady Eagles blast Kingman

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press  
aheintz@nwkansas.com

Colby High junior Kayla Hockersmith led the Lady Eagles with 18 points to help the girls beat Kingman 44-27 in the first round of the Class 4A regional basketball tournament Monday at the Community Building.

"She played a really complete game," said coach Parker McKee. Hockersmith shot seven of 13 from the field, knocking down three of six three-pointers. She said the Colby post players were being guarded more than usual, so she had more open shots. Hockersmith also led the team in assists with four, and rebounds, five.

The girls' defense was tough throughout the game, holding Kingman to 29 percent field-goal shooting and forcing 22 turnovers. The Lady Eagles scored 21 points off of Kingman turnovers, using a full-court press for much of the game.

"I don't think they've seen pressure like ours," said Hockersmith.

She drained a three-pointer from the right corner to give Colby a 3-2 lead in the first quarter. Junior Katrina Kaus found her sister Katherine inside for a bucket to extend the lead to 5-2. A three-pointer from the top of the key by sophomore Morgan Bell upped Colby's lead to 8-2 with 1:44 left in the quarter.

Kingman's Hayley Mertens buried a three-pointer of her own to narrow the gap to 8-6. Moments later, Mertens drained another three to give her team a 9-8 lead. Bell said they knew Mertens could shoot based on the scouting reports.

McKee said he told Katrina Kaus not to let Merten take another shot after she hit her second three. Katrina and the rest of the

Lady Eagles didn't quite accomplish that, but they did limit her to just four more points.

"We made sure to have pressure on her," said Bell.

After the buzzer sounded to signal the end of the first quarter, the referees decided the clock had started early, so they put 0.4 seconds back. Hockersmith caught an inbound pass and banked a three-pointer off the backboard to give Colby an 11-9 lead.

A pair of baseline jumpers by Katherine Kaus and Hockersmith extended the lead to 15-9 in the second. The defense continued to force Kingman to turn the ball over.

Junior Kelsey Shields contributed to the stifling defense by taking a charge with 5:28 left. Later, Hockersmith buried another three to make it 18-11 with 1:38 left in the half. The girls led 20-12 at the half.

A baseline jumper by Shields, a dribble-drive bucket by Hockersmith and a layup by Katherine Kaus helped the Lady Trojans take a 28-15 lead into the fourth quarter.

Hockersmith found Shields inside for a bucket to give the girls a 33-17 advantage several minutes into the fourth. Then Hockersmith scored on a drive to the hoop while being hammered by Kingman's Amelia Govert. She made her free throw to make it 36-17.

Katherine Kaus found a cutting Alexa Haas with a beautiful pass for a layup that extended the Lady Eagles' lead to 42-20 with 1:30 to go. The Lady Eagles went on to win 44-27.

Katherine Kaus had 10 points and Bell and Haas added five each, Shields four and freshman Shelby Gardner two. Katherine Kaus had a team-high four rebounds.

With the win, the girls improved to 15-6 for the season.



Colby High junior Katherine Kaus went up for a layup during the Lady Eagles' game Monday at the Community Building.

ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

They will play Clearwater p.m. Thursday at Kingman High in the regional semifinals at 6 School.

# Colby boys team falls to Scott City

The Colby High boys' basketball season came to an end Tuesday night at Scott City, where a combination of the Beavers' offense and Eagles' turnovers led to a 76-57 Scott City win.

Senior Ryley Haas led the Eagles with 17 points on seven-of-10 shooting. He knocked down three of five three pointers.

The Beavers jumped out to a 7-0 lead in the first quarter. Scott City's Jordan Funk scored inside while being fouled by Tubbs. He made his free throw to extend the lead to 10-0. Haas drilled a three to cut the lead to 10-3. The Beavers' Robby Strube made a layup and Ron Baker of Scott City hit a three to make it 15-3.

Junior Corbin Stephens stole the ball and took it in for a layup to narrow the gap to 15-5. A basket by Haas cut the Beavers' lead to 15-7. The boys trailed 23-13 at the end of the first quarter.

Tubbs hit a five-footer to narrow the gap to 26-15 a few minutes into the second. Moment later, he knocked down another shot to bring Colby within nine. Later in the quarter, Stephens rebounded a miss by senior Chaz Winger and laid it in to make it 28-19. Then senior Braden McKee drilled a jumper just inside the free-throw

line to narrow the gap to 28-21. The Beavers went on a 9-0 run and led 37-21 at the half.

Senior Brock Wagoner buried a baseline jumper, Winger made a layup and Haas nailed his first three of the game in the third. But Colby's defense was unable to slow down Scott City's offense and the Beavers extended their lead to 51-28 with 4:45 left in the third.

Tubbs knocked down a shot while being fouled. He made his free throw to cut the lead to 51-31. Then Stephens scored on a drive to the basket to make it 51-33. Junior Kale Arnberger buried a long three-pointer to narrow the gap to 55-38, but Scott City led 63-43 at the end of the third.

Haas made a layup off a steal, junior Christian Wilson made a basket and sophomore Justin Slavens hit a pair of free throws in the fourth. But Colby was unable to mount a comeback and the Beavers won the game 76-57.

Tubbs had 13 on six of 10 shooting and Stephens and McKee had six each. Winger and Wagoner both scored four, Arnberger three and Slavens and Wilson had two each.

With the loss, the Eagles ended their season with a 7-14 record.

# Brewster squad falls to powerhouse

By Bonnie Holm

Colby Free Press  
bholm@st-tel.net

The Brewster boys' basketball team gave the top-ranked team in the state a scare Saturday night, but the Bulldogs were unable to capitalize on a close halftime score, and Quinter beat them 57-31 in the Class 1A regional championship.

The Brewster team started out in a slow-down offense, trying to keep Quinter from scoring their season average of 67 points. The 'Dawgs' defense was strong, only allowing Quinter 14 points in the first quarter. But the boys struggled on offense, and scored only one point themselves.

The second quarter was a different story, as Coach Tom Stephens turned the Bulldogs loose. Brewster outscored Quinter 16-12 and trailed only by nine, 26-17, at

halftime.

Quinter had a strong second half, outscoring Brewster by 17 points. The 'Dawgs fell behind and were unable to rally, despite getting some great inside baskets by senior Troy Albers and a couple three-pointers by seniors Devan Selby and Seth Ackerman. Senior Spencer Holm was also strong inside, tipping in a missed shot for two points. Quinter ended up winning 57-31.

Holm led the scoring for the 'Dawgs with 11, Selby had eight, Albers six, Ackerman five and senior Ryan Allen one. The 'Dawgs scored more points against Quinter than any team had in its last five contests.

Despite the loss, the 'Dawgs will continue in post-season play. They face the Tribune Jackrabbits in substate action at 7:30 p.m. Thursday at the Colby Community Building.

# Colby girls face underdog in semifinals

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press  
aheintz@nwkansas.com

The Lady Eagles basketball team will take on the Clearwater Lady Indians at 6 p.m. Thursday in Kingman in the semifinals of the Class 4A regional tournament.

The No. 6-seeded Lady Indians upset No. 3 Scott City 56-52 on Monday. Tricia Vogel and Sara Hoover lead Clearwater in scoring and three-point field goals made.

Vogel averages about 16 points per game and Hoover a little over 12. Hoover is deadly from beyond the arc, hitting half her 46 three-pointers this season.

Vogel led Clearwater with 61 assists and 94 rebounds, 70 on defense. But while Vogel's statistics are impressive, she is also tied for

## How to find Kingman High

To get to Kingman High School, take I-70 east for 130.7 miles to the first Russell exit, Exit 184, the turn right on U.S. 281. Go south 27.3 miles to Hoisington, where you turn right and continue south on U.S.

281 for about 60 miles. In Pratt, turn left onto U.S. 54/400. Go east 34.3 miles to Main Street in Kingman. Turn left and go north to Kansas Avenue. Turn left. The school will be on the left.

Clearwater lost to Kingman 42-36 earlier this season, while Colby hammered Kingman 44-27 Monday at the Community Building.

The Lady Eagles will be taking a five-game winning streak into Thursday's game. Colby won those game by an average of about 22 points, with their closest game a 45-30 victory over rival Goodland on Feb. 16.

The Lady Eagles have been playing solid, with a mi of accurate passing and stifling defense.

Their press has caused opposing defenses a lot of misery, leading to a lot of baskets off turnovers. When the girls have struggled this season, it has been due to bad shooting.

If they win on Thursday, they will most likely face No. 1 seed Cheney on Saturday. The Lady Cardinals are undefeated at 21-0.

# Bulldogs give Cheylin 50-37 thumping

By Judy Rogers

Golden Plains High School  
sjrogers@ruraltel.net

The Golden Plains Lady Bulldogs won their sixth game of the season by defeating Cheylin 50-37 on Feb. 19.

The Cougars jumped ahead early in the first as the Lady Bulldogs struggled to put four points on the boards. With an 11-4 deficit going

into the second, the girls started hitting their shots and making free throws, including four in a row from senior Aisha Walter to tie the game at 17 by halftime.

"We got off to a bad start in the first, but we stepped up our game in the second half," junior Jacy Moss said.

Continuing their strong offense and aggressive defense, the Lady Bulldogs pulled ahead 33-25 by

the end of the third and continued to extend their lead with 17 additional points in the fourth to secure a 50-37 victory.

"It felt good to get a win," said Moss. "We played as a team."

The Bulldogs demonstrated their teamwork with three girls in double figures. Melissa Ritter led in scoring with 13, followed closely by Moss and Walter, who both had 12. Angela Ritter contributed

seven and Jessica Luna rounded out the scoring with six.

The win increased the Lady Bulldogs' record to 6-15 as they enter the regional tournament where they will play Cheylin in the first round.

"We have to come out ready to play Tuesday if we want to win," Moss said. "We can't underestimate them if we want to continue in regionals."

# Coach prepares Wildcats for Jayhawks

MANHATTAN (AP) — Frank Martin doesn't mince words. Even if it's sometimes to his detriment, the Kansas State coach is going to tell the truth as he sees it.

So not long after the Wildcats wrapped up a physically draining win over Missouri, Martin turned his attention to Wednesday's titanic game against rival Kansas and gave his players this blunt assessment: "Kansas becomes the biggest game we've ever played at K-State."

Faced with one of the biggest games in program history, most coaches would try to downplay the significance, worried how the added pressure would come down on 18-to-22-year-old players.

Not Martin. The volcanic coach wants his players to understand exactly

what they're facing. Wants them embrace the pressure. Wants them to be ready for the reward on the other side.

Martin has, after all, prepared them for this moment since the day they arrived in the Little Apple, through all those demanding practices, the screaming, those against-the-world speeches.

Martin told his players the truth about Wednesday's game because he knows they can handle it.

"Telling them this is the biggest game they've played, why is that negative pressure?" Martin said. "I look at it as great pressure, that their hard work has paid off, that they've put themselves in that conversation that something great can happen to this basketball team."

It should be a great game either way, maybe one of the best in the

113-year history of the Sunflower Showdown.

The buildup was the same for their last meeting on Jan. 30, when Kansas pulled out a 81-79 overtime win in a well-played game at rowdy Bramlage Coliseum.

The stakes will be even higher this time at Allen Fieldhouse in

Lawrence.

Kansas (27-2, 13-1) is ranked second and Kansas State (24-4, 11-3) is No. 5, marking the first time since 1958 — when coach Tex Winter led the Wildcats and Wilt Chamberlain played center for the Jayhawks — the teams are both in the top 5.

## WE HAVE MOVED

FLIPSE LAW OFFICE

HAS MOVED TO

390 NORTH FRANKLIN AVE., SUITE 300

(LOCATED IN THE STOCK REALTY BUILDING)



• Mitten's is your full line fuel and lubricant distributor in Western Kansas.

• Check with us for your spring lubricant and fuel needs, large or small.

• Check with us for fuel contracting this spring.

Contact Jerry Schaput at 785-672-3062 ext. 14.