

Get in the hole



Colby High senior Ryley Haas watched his putt as it curved towards the hole on Monday during the Eagles' golf practice at Meadow Lake Golf Course. Haas had the lowest overall score in six meets last season. He and the rest of the Eagles' first meet will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday, April 13 at Goodland.

ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Colby wrestlers have solid season

By Andy Heintz

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The Colby High wrestling team has several good young wrestlers returning to next year's team.

Many of these wrestlers have experience in state competition including junior Andrew Flanagin and sophomores Michael Tubbs, Konnor Kriss, Dalton Snyder, Dryden Baumfalk and freshman Dustin Reed. Kriss and Snyder are both two-time state qualifiers and Kriss placed third in both his state appearances.

Baumfalk and Flanagin both qualified for state two years ago, but they didn't make it this year due to injuries. Freshman Zell Bieberle also had an injury cut his season short. Bieberle was having a solid season wrestling in the 285 pound weight class before he broke his leg. He had a 6-2 record at the varsity level before he was injured.

The one good thing that can be gleaned from Colby's injury-plagued season is it gave some junior varsity wrestlers the chance to get experience at the varsity level. Juniors Kaid Wark, 145; and George Smollock, 189; sophomore Clayton Appelhans, 171; and Nathan Quagliano, 285; freshman Quade Woofler, 125; Macen Shull, 112; and Bieberle all saw varsity action for the first time this season.

"They can build on that experience," said Coach Matt Sims.

"The junior varsity wrestlers are a hard working bunch."

Colby's wrestlers accomplished several things on the mat this season.

The Eagles had three of their wrestlers place in the top three at the Class 4A wrestling tournament on Feb. 26 and 27 in Salina at the

Bicentennial Center.

Dustin Reed took second place in the 103 pound class, his older brother Nathan Reed finished third at 112 and sophomore Konnor Kriss snared third at 119.

The Reed brothers also both took first at the Regionals tournament at Pratt High School in late February, while Kriss took third and senior Torey Taylor took second at 160.

Colby had seven wrestlers qualify for the state tournament including senior Ethan Stickel, 152; senior Taylor, 160; and sophomore Dalton Snyder, 135; and sophomore Michael Tubbs, 130.

The Eagles' team finished fifth out of 72 teams at state with 68 points overall and they finished third out of 15 teams at regionals.

Colby also finished first in the Northwest Kansas League tournament with 186 overall points, 64 points better than their nearest competitor. The huge point margin accomplished the team's goal of winning the tournament by more than 52 points, the amount the previous year's team won by, said Sims.

Other accomplishments by the wrestling squad included taking first at both the Gabel/Jenkins tournament at St. Francis and the tourney in Liberal. They also took second in the Eagle Invitational and the Beloit tournament.

Unfortunately several Eagles' wrestlers will graduate this year including Nathan Reed, Stickel, Taylor, Bob Schroeder, 145; and Adam Weber, 215.

"They've been a big part of wrestling for the last two years," said coach Sims.

But with all the talented varsity-tested wrestlers returning, the Eagles should have another solid season next year.

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