

Smash it over the net



ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press  
Colby High senior Jake Rose prepared to slam a tennis ball during practice Wednesday at Fike Park.

# Eagles' basketball coach won't return next season

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press  
aheintz@nwkansas.com

Jon McKee resigned as coach of the Colby High basketball team, Activities Director Larry Gabel told the school board at its meeting Monday in the administration building.

McKee coached the Eagles to a 7-14 record overall and a 5-2 record in the Northwest Kansas League this season, his first in the job.

"They need someone who can do this job for several years to create some continuity in the program," the coach said.

McKee said the job was taking too much from his family and his farming operation. In his year of coaching, McKee said, he enjoyed working with some new kids and coaching against big schools like Dodge City and Garden City. He said it was nice to

have enough quality players to be able to have competitive scrimmages in practice.

McKee said when he coached at Brewster High, while he had a lot of quality players, he didn't have enough to have good scrimmages.

The coach said he thought his team showed a lot of improvement as the season progressed. He said in a tape of the Eagles' game in the first round game of the substate tournament against Scott City on March 2, he enjoyed watching his team put some of the things they had been working on throughout the season into effect. He said if the team had started the season at the level they were playing at at the end of the season, they would have won three or four more games.

Gabel said he has talked to several people interested in the job from in and out of town. He said hiring a coach is hard right now because there are no teaching positions available at the high school.

# Junior athletes finish first in opener

Four athletes brought back the gold, with two girls winning two events each, as the Colby High junior varsity boys and girls started their track and field season Thursday in a meet at McCook, Neb. Two boys relay teams took first as well.

For the girls, freshman Lauren Bell and sophomore Julia Hutfles both took first in two events. Bell was first in the triple jump with a leap of 29 feet, 4 inches and in the high jump with 4' 8". Hutfles finished first in the 200 meters with 28.8 seconds and in the 100 meters with 13.9.

Sophomore Paige Roopchan took first in the 100-meter hurdles in 18.8 and junior Sara Martin finished first in the 3,200 meters with 17:01.

On the boys side, freshman Beau Brown took first in the 100 meters with 11.4 and Freshman Ryan Moore finished first in the triple jump with 38' 5".

Junior twin brothers Austin and Bryan Schneidman and freshmen Matthew Dickman and Brandon Gaede took first in the 4-by-800 relay with 10:07.2 and Moore, freshman Wyatt Binder, freshman Trek Keck and Brown finished first in the 4-by-100 with 48.1.

Coach Leslie Wagoner said Brown and Binder will eventually compete in varsity meets this season.

On the girls side, sophomore Skylar Barrett took second in the 100 meters with 14.2 and the team of sophomore Anna Taylor, Hutfles, Bell and freshman Kaitlyn Flanagan took second in the 4 by 100 with 1:00.2.

Martin finished third in the 1,600 meters with 7:55 and Barrett took third in the 200 meters with 29.5. Taylor finished fifth in the 200 meters with 30.1.

For the boys, Binder took second in the 200 meters with 24.2 and freshman John Faber finished

second with 12:46.9. Freshman Blake McNinch took third in the 3,200 meters with 14:12.7 and sophomore Marcus Colson snared fourth with 14:17.2. Binder took fourth in the 100 meters with 11.4 and Austin Schneidman finished sixth in the 800 meters with 2:35.4.

The teams will run again at 3:30 p.m Friday at Norton.

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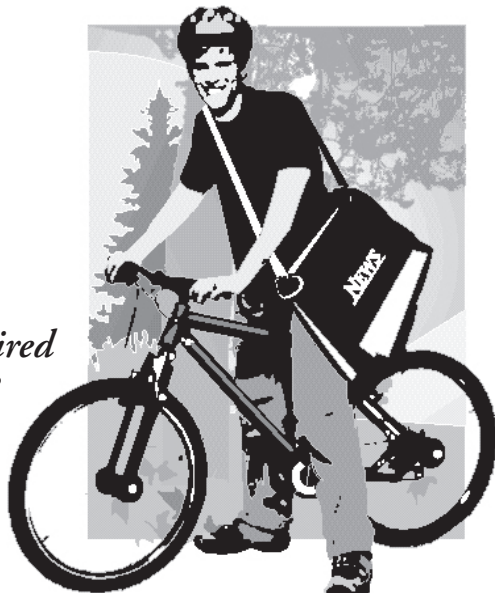
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# Colby High girls lose games to Dodge

By Andy Heintz

Colby Free Press  
aheintz@nwkansas.com

The Lady Eagles' softball team got swept by Dodge City in a road doubleheader on Tuesday.

The Colby High girl's team fell to the Lady Demons 9-2 in the first game, then lost a 7-6 nailbiter that took eight innings to complete.

Junior Skylar Mengel took the loss in the first game. She pitched five quality innings, but the Demons capitalized on Colby defensive errors in the bottom of the sixth, scoring six runs to go up 9-2. Coach Jack Elliot said only one of the runs was earned, since the girls committed four errors in the inning.

"We gave them seven outs," he said

The Lady Eagles had seven hits in the game.

Freshman Kenzie Curry took the loss in game two as the teams

battled back and forth. The Lady Eagles gained a 6-4 lead in the top of the sixth, but Dodge City scored one run each in the bottom of the sixth and seventh, tying the game at six.

The Lady Demons scored in the bottom of the eighth, giving them a 7-6 victory. Colby had nine hits in the game.

Elliot said he was happy with his pitchers, who both had solid games at the plate as well. Mengel went four for seven in the two games and Curry was three for five with three runs batted in for the second game. Junior Caitlyn Wark was four for nine, including a triple in game two.

The coach said he thought his team had better offense than they showed in their opener at Scott City on March 30. He said his defense didn't play as well as they had in their opener.

"Considering how our defense played against Scott City, I was

disappointed," he said.

The Colby junior varsity team split its games at Dodge City. The younger girls won the first game 8-2, but the Lady Demons escaped with a 10-9 win in game two.

Dodge City scored the winning run in the bottom of the seventh. Curry pitched the entire first game and freshman Bailey Terrell pitched the second.

"They continue to put points on the board," the coach said.

With the losses, the varsity record dropped to 1-3. The junior varsity is 3-1.

The Lady Eagles doubleheader against Goodland, originally scheduled for 4 p.m. today at the Colby Recreation fields, has been moved to Memorial Field in Goodland.

Colby will play Russell in a doubleheader at 4 p.m. Tuesday at the Colby Recreation Fields.


# Jayhawks' guard headed for pro draft

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Wiping away tears, Kansas freshman Xavier Henry said Wednesday he's headed for the NBA draft because his coaches have helped him get ready.

Averaging almost 14 points and five rebounds, the 6-foot-6 guard was the second-leading scorer for a team that won a sixth straight Big 12 championship and was ranked No. 1 most of the season,

before getting upset in the second round of the NCAA tournament by Northern Iowa.

"I think coach prepared me as well as he can," said Henry, flanked by his brother, C.J., and coach Bill Self. "He kept me confident throughout the whole season even when I went through slumps. He got my mindset ready to be able to play with anybody."



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