

Eagles' team loses heartbreaker

By Andy Heintz

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A couple turnovers at inopportune times and two missed extra points led to the Eagles' heartbreaking 13-12 loss to Clay Center in the varsity football team's last home game this season.

While the Eagles made a few key mistakes that cost them the district game, Colby's defense had one of its better performances of the season.

Coach Chris Gardner said the defense was focused on shutting down quarterback Joe Weitharn and the Eagles did an admirable job of this, holding him to zero touchdowns.

"I think we did a pretty good job of shutting him down," senior linebacker Ryan Parker said.

Parker added that he thought it was one of his team's better games even though the scoreboard didn't show it.

Fellow senior linebacker Corbin Stephens said he thought Colby had played just as well as Clay Center, but small mistakes cost them.

The Tigers' only touchdowns came off a turnover and a rushed punt that left them with excellent field position. Colby's best chance of winning the game was erased when quarterback Kale Arnberger's pass to Stephens was intercepted and returned to Clay Center's 10-yard line. Moments before the interception, Arnberger had found Stephens for a 25-yard reception at the Tigers' 12-yard line.

The game was tied at 6 going into halftime. The Eagles' sole touchdown came when Arnberger hit Stephens with a 21-yard pass seconds before being hit by one of Clay Center's blitzing defenders. Sophomore Trek Keck missed the extra point.

The Tigers' sole touchdown in the first half occurred after the hurried punt led to Clay Center starting its possession at Colby's 12-yard line. The punt was short due to fierce pressure from the Tigers' blitzing defense, that forced the punter to dodge defenders and hurry his punt to avoid being blocked. A couple plays later, the Tigers' Zach Anderson scored a six-yard rushing touchdown. Other than the two touchdowns the first half mostly featured tenacious defense by both teams.

The Eagles forced a Tigers' fumble on the second play of the game that Colby recovered on Clay Center's 45-yard line. The Eagles' offense got to start one of their first half possessions at the Tigers' 23-yard line after a



A Colby High defender tackled the Clay Center ball carrier during the varsity team's second district game at Dennen Field on Friday.

snap sailed over the head of Clay Center's punter. But the Tigers' defense only allowed the boys to gain three yards on their next four plays.

The Eagles' defense was impressive throughout the game. Senior defensive end Rocque Russell and senior linebacker Logan Middleton tackled Weitharn for a seven-yard loss in the first half.

Later in the half, Russell tackled the Tigers' quarterback for a big loss on the Eagles' 46 with less than a minute left.

Clay Center's second touchdown came in the third quarter after Tigers' linebacker Anderson recovered a fumble on the Eagles' 30. Colton Easterberg eventually scored on a three-yard touchdown run.

Later in the third, Flanagan broke loose from the pack and motored 63 yards to the Tigers' three yard line. This set up a three yard touchdown run by fullback Parker, cutting the Tiger lead to 13-12. Keck missed the extra point.

With the loss Colby fell to 3-5 on the season. The Eagles play their last game of the season at 7 p.m. Thursday at Russell.

ANDY HEINTZ/Colby Free Press

Lady Trojans keep improving

Even though the Lady Trojans finished 10th place at the Fort Hays Invitational on Oct. 16 a second glance at the cross country team's performance shows how much they have improved this season.

The Lady Trojans' squad finished only eight points behind Garden City Community College, who beat them by 44 points in a meet earlier this season. The Lady Trojans had 284 and Garden City had 276.

Western State College of

Colorado, located in Gunnison; finished first with 15.

Colby freshman Erica Rapado doesn't look good on paper, a second glance at the cross country team's performance shows how much they have improved this season. Other Lady Trojan times included sophomore Jackie Robledo, 20:31; freshman Mikarla Swann, 21:05; freshman Kelsey Locke, 24 minutes; and freshman Shauntae Miller, 25:49.

The women's team will run at Regionals next Monday.

Colby High senior takes third at state

Colby senior Caitlyn Wark finished third out of 24 girls at the Class 4A state tennis tournament on Oct. 15 and 16 at Maize High School in Topeka.



Caitlyn Wark

Even though Wark was the only Lady Eagle who made it to state, her third place finish helped Colby place seventh overall as a

team with 14 points. Wellington took first with 40.

Wark beat Erianne Adams of Wellington 6-3, 6-1 in a consolation match for third place. She was swept by Bree Honer of St. James Academy, located in Lenexa, 6-2, 6-3 in the semifinals. Wark won her first two matches Colby place seventh overall as a 6-3, 6-0 and 6-4, 6-3.

Chiefs hammer Jaguars

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) Another injured quarterback would be just about the last thing the Jacksonville Jaguars need, or even deserve.

So do they have one?

Todd Bouman, who played admirably in his first action since 2005, said he hurt a finger on his throwing hand while trying to make a tackle in the closing minutes of Kansas City's 42-20 victory Sunday afternoon. He wouldn't say how badly he was hurt.

"I have no idea at this point," he said. "I will wait and see what happens. I will find out tomorrow. I got it caught in a guy's jersey trying to make a tackle."

Coach Jack Del Rio said the only injury he was aware of was to tackle Eben Britton.

"I didn't hear anything about Todd," he said. "I don't have an update on anybody other than Eben. There is a concern with Eben and his shoulder."

Even though he threw two interceptions, Bouman also threw his first two touchdown passes since 2005, hitting 18 of 34 passes for 222 yards. If David Garrard does not recover from a concussion, Del Rio sounded as though he would have no problem giving the 38-year-old journeyman another start.

"Todd played great," said Del Rio. "He played above what we hoped and needed from him today. We would like to have back the pick six there when it was a tight ballgame."

All the pick six did was turn the game completely around. Bouman's 11-yard scoring pass to Mike Sims-Walker had pulled the Jaguars (3-4) to 21-20. But with about 5 minutes left in the third, linebacker Derrick Johnson "read his eyes" and stepped in front of Bouman's intended receiver. Johnson's 15-yard return for a

TD kicked off a 21-0 run for the Chiefs (4-2) to close the game.

"That was the turning point in the whole game," said Chiefs safety Jon McGraw. "That was the momentum-shifter."

In the first half, Johnson let a potential interception bounce off his hands.

"It hurt big time to drop that first one," he said. "But if you keep playing, you've got to have a short-term memory. I got that out of my system and tried to make a play for my team. I got the opportunity to read the quarterback's eyes. I jumped the route."

The Chiefs, with the league's top rushing attack, ran for 236 yards and Matt Cassel threw two touchdown passes, both to Dwayne Bowe. It was the second week in a row Bowe caught two scoring passes.

Thomas Jones had 125 yards and one TD on 20 carries.

Bowe had a 6-yard TD reception in the fourth quarter and gave the Chiefs a 21-13 lead on the second play of the second half when he caught a 53-yard scoring pass and exploited what's been Jacksonville's season-long weakness in the secondary.

Heartland dominates season finale

The Heartland Christian junior high six man football team hammered Greeley County 52-0 in its final game of the season on Wednesday at the football field behind the school.

Eighth grader Blaine Wertz rushed for almost 300 yards and

scored six rushing touchdowns. Eighth grade quarterback Brennan Ziegelmeier ran for a four-yard touchdown and eighth grader Brent Wilson caught a couple two-point conversion passes from Ziegelmeier and his twin brother Brook.

Seventh grader Gabriel Schrin ran for a couple two-point conversions and seventh grader Corey Wertz, Blaine's younger brother, ran for a two-point conversion.

"The kids had a fantastic season," said coach Steve Ziegelmeier, father of Brennan

and Brook. "These kids are very bright and that enabled us to run a wide-open offense."

The coach said he was thankful his team had an injury-free season and learned valuable life lessons from playing a demanding game.

Kansas State favored to win conference

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) - Instead of shirking from the pressure-causing favorite's label draped around his team, Kansas State coach Frank Martin is wearing it proudly.

"It's flattering. I'm telling you, the biggest compliment you can be paid is when your peers, the people you compete against, respect what you do," Martin said Thursday at Big 12 media day.

The Wildcats return only two starters from last year's team that won a school-record 29 games and advanced to an NCAA regional fi-

nal for the first time since 1988. But they include senior guard Jacob Pullen, the coaches' preseason pick for Big 12 player of the year. And also on hand are a number of experienced reserves who've seen plenty of action as Martin has taken the program from doormat to contender.

"You don't get picked preseason No. 1 by the coaches in this league because they like you," said Martin. "Or because you're a nice guy. No, sir. You get picked No. 1 in this league because the coaches respect your players and how they

play the game."

It's obvious the fourth-year coach and his program have earned respect.

"What isn't there to like?" said Texas A&M coach Mark Turgeon. "They've got great guard play, they've got unbelievable depth inside. And Frank's proven he can flat-out coach. I do think they're the preseason favorite. But that doesn't mean we can't win it, or Kansas can't win it, or Texas or Baylor. There are a lot of teams that can win the league this year." The Jayhawks lost two NBA lot-

tery picks as well as team leader Sherron Collins, but were picked second in the league they've won six seasons in a row.

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